

THE STRATHALLIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

VOLUME ONE

NUMBER SIX

Editorial

WE would thank all those who have forwarded contributions to this number, and we regret that not even by doubling the size of the magazine were we able to publish all we would have wished. Many are unavoidably held over till a future issue—Stop! What is this?

We beg our readers' pardon: we were dreaming, and thought for a moment our fairy godmother had worked the trick again. We dreamt the class representatives had been busy coercing and compelling their companions to write: we dreamt that the newly elected Editorial Staff had been worked to death, that one by one they had succumbed to the strain of working from nine till one each night, and had been carried off to Sani. in a sleep of pure exhaustion: we dreamt that the Christmas number was complete at last and we were about to write our prayer of thanksgiving before going on our way to enjoy a well earned Christmas.

Such was the dream. The reality, by comparison, savours too much of the nightmare. This term it was decided that an attempt should be made to have the magazine ready for publication as soon as term was over, that events which happened late in the term should be despatched to the printers, who were to stand by to complete the number, to everyone's satisfaction. The Editorial Board has done its share in making these arrangements possible; we believe that the class representatives have fulfilled their promise and done what they could to solicit contributions. We even believe that several people have even gone so far as to say they will write something—to-morrow. But we cannot believe that so much time has been devoted to study that there has been no time

to write anything: the results of that study, if this were so, do not justify the time expended thereon. And to-morrow, unfortunately, never comes; and even if it did, it would be too late for us. Contributions must come in early, and although this term has certainly seen some new contributors, which is a good sign, some of our tried friends, among whom we would say are several F.P.s, seem to be resting on their oars.

Our recollections of the Bible are somewhat hazy, but we seem to remember a certain Old Testament story of slaves doomed by their tyrannical masters to make bricks; and we recollect the story goes that the masters refused to supply the straw necessary for good brick making. It is unnecessary, perhaps, to develop the parallelism far, because we invariably make the same complaint on this page, but we would emphasise that the Editorial Board is the slave of the reader, that in this case the reader is the master supplying the straw, and that it is just as impossible for us to produce a good magazine without material as it was for the Israelites to produce good bricks without straw.

The opening lines of this Editorial need be no dream: so little is required to make them a reality. An average of one contribution from every two boys would ensure a good magazine: only each boy should take care that he is one who sends in a contribution. Paradoxical though it may seem, the more work we have to do the easier becomes our task. A copy of the magazine will reach many we hope at, or near, the New Year: may we urge that a contribution to "The Strathallian" shall be one of each boy's New Year resolutions, to be accomplished before there is time to break the resolution?

School Notes and Notices

THE beginning of the term saw all the bedrooms in Simpson House open, and Sinclair, captain of the new House with fifty boys under his charge, from which he was able to pick strong sports' teams. The Common Room over the Bath, too, was nearing completion, and was in use soon after term commenced. It has proved a great boon in many respects, allowing considerably more room than was formerly enjoyed in Chapel. To devotees of the noble game of "shove-ha'penny" an added air of homeliness was given by the arrival of the old seats out of Chapel.

No sooner had the Chapel ceased to function in the capacity of an assembly room than plans were put into execution for improvements here. It is proposed to extend at least as far as the end of the Conservatory, an extension rendered necessary by the growing number of pupils. Meanwhile it was re-seated, with a centre aisle, pending the formal dedication by the Bishop of St. Andrews.

The Choir, consisting of twenty-four, half seniors, half juniors, has greatly improved in tone and volume since it was reorganised at the beginning of term, after an exhaustive search for modest Carusos, who were content to blush unheard. The exodus of certain boys from classes for the purposes of testing their voices seemed to cause considerable amusement: but the result has certainly justified the initial expenditure of time by Mr. Sharman.

Armistice Day falling upon a Sunday this year, the usual weekly Chapel service was held in the morning, suitably adopted for the occasion; and the two minutes' silence was observed for the fallen at eleven o'clock. From that time morning Chapel has become the rule, whereby the evening is left free for recreation, and one of the much disliked walks has been abandoned.

Under Mr. Sharman's care the Jazz Band has been reborn, with a membership of nine. We hear that in this sphere we have a budding Kreisler, who will eventually be able to fill the gap left by McFadzen twelve

months ago. As usual, the band was responsible for the music during the interval at the Dramatic Society's Social at the end of term.

The latter, we understand, has enjoyed a highly successful term, despite the necessity for an entirely new set of office-bearers. With more members than ever, it seems to have discovered some very promising material among its new blood, for the acting of those we saw in the triple bill augurs well for the future success when a little more experience has been gained.

The tiling having been completed, the Swimming Bath was formally opened by Mr. Riley on Friday evening, October 26th. In declaring the Bath open, Mr. Riley said that he considered a school could not be reckoned as "first class" unless it catered for that fine and useful sport, swimming: and the opening ceremony was symbolised by cutting the ribbon of House colours. A relay race between masters and boys had been arranged by way of celebrating the event, and though the boys' superior fitness gave them a two-length victory, it was all such fun that it is hoped that this (which we believe is the first time the Staff has ever met the School in any sphere of sport) will not be the last opportunity of matching their respective strengths.

Thereafter the boys have had access to the Bath twice a week—on Saturdays, and, according to their House, on one night a week. Judging by the delighted shouts that issue from the Bath on these occasions, there is no doubt that this latest acquisition to the School is duly appreciated. Some thirty-eight boys qualified at the first test for swimming badges. Henceforth it is proposed to hold these tests at the end of each term, and intending entrants should notify W. Wills, the swimming captain, a fortnight in advance. Next term it is possible we shall start water-polo immediately, and during the Summer Term a House competition will be run: but it is felt that it will be a little time before there are sufficient numbers available to stand the gruelling fourteen minutes' strenuous exercise.

On the afternoon of November 13th the boys were privileged to hear a most interesting lecture by Captain Daintree, R.N., on Life-saving. Beginning with a demonstration of the Shafer method of restoring life to the apparently drowned (in this case, Wills, by virtue of his office), the lecturer held his audience's attention while he showed methods of rescuing the drowning and release if held while rescuing. He concluded his lecture with a demonstration of the rocket apparatus in rescue work, and thereafter gave a practical test to some thirty boys, who showed they had understood, and profited by, all they had heard.

The School relay team had its first real test of strength on the occasion of the Rugby match with the F.P.'s. Maclay gave the School a good lead at the expense of G. Smith in the first lap, and this Lacey improved to over half a length, so that at this stage an easy victory seemed possible. A. M. Moodie, swimming third for the Old Boys, made up much of the lost ground at the expense of Lang, and when Grant entered the water, he had less than five yards lead. The struggle between him and W. A. C. Lambie was well fought, and it was anyone's race right up to the last, when Lambie gave the visitors the victory by the touch amid great excitement.

The Rugby this term has been somewhat disappointing. Light both forward and back, the first XV. was a long time moulding into a team, though a chapter of accidents in the early weeks of the term was in part responsible for this. During this period of team building the forwards lacked fire, were often unable to stand the pace throughout the game, and were slow in following up; while the backs missed many opportunities through faulty handling. Sinclair alone maintained his last season's form at full back, and too often the remainder of the team seemed watching to see what he would do next: it was a bitter pill indeed he had to swallow when his side went down to Morrison's Academy at Crieff, for the first time in ten years. Subsequently, however, there was a vast improvement, and Nov. 3rd saw the beginning of a run of success, only broken by the F.P.'s, and here they showed

signs of being able to conquer stiff oppositions had the weather only been kind enough to give them the opportunity.

On the last night of term the usual concert was dropped in favour of a musical evening and dance, held in the Common Room. Mr. Sharman and the Jazz Band acquitted themselves nobly, particularly in playing for musical chairs, which caused great amusement. The School was greatly indebted to Miss Riley for the catering, to the band for its unselfish service, and to Mr. Ward for his able filling of the role of M.C. And there was no greater tribute of thanks to these than the merry faces of the participants in this jovial close to the term.

We wish "God Speed" to the few boys leaving us this term, and trust success will greet their efforts in their new sphere, and to all others, as to them, we wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

THE SHAKESPEARE LOVER'S LOVE LETTER.

The Phoenix and the Turtle,
Timon,
Athens.

Beloved Juliet,

Forgive me for my escapade with the Merry Wives of Windsor on the twelfth night of your absence, and let us return to our *Midsummer Night's Dream*: the tempest of your rage was really much ado about nothing, for I meant only fun, and were I to return measure for measure I might cite your behaviour with two gentlemen of Verona and the merchant of Venice. Such an action would savour too much of the taming of the shrew, and I would rather, so long as you like it, say, "All's well that ends well."

It is a lover's complaint that to part after so long would be love's labour lost. Let this past comedy of errors be just a winter's tale, and think of me ever as a passionate pilgrim in search of your forgiveness.

Your

Hamlet Caesar.
E. W. H.

Chapel Notes

SERVICES this term have been conducted by the Headmaster weekly, instead of fortnightly, as has hitherto been the custom. This change of rule has been appreciated by all, as it is felt generally that much strength and inspiration is to be gained by these gatherings. Whereas in the past the Chapel was of necessity used as a general assembly hall, during the greater part of this term the new Junior Common Room has been in use, and it is a matter for great thankfulness that in future our Chapel is to be used solely for purposes of public worship. It is proposed shortly to enlarge the building, and new seating accommodation has already been provided. We hope to build up here a spiritual "Power House" by which the religious life of all who gather within its walls will be deepened and enriched, and whose quickening influence will, as the years pass, make itself felt in spheres of life far beyond the boundaries of "Strathallan."

At the beginning of this term every boy in the school had his voice tested. Some thirty boys, drawn from both the Senior and Junior School, were selected for Choir work, which they are carrying out with great enthusiasm. The tone and volume of the Choir have improved considerably, and the recent introduction of four-part singing into the services has provided a new interest. Many difficulties in this connection have been encountered, but they are being overcome slowly and, we hope, surely. No Anthems have been rendered this term. We have instead concentrated on increasing our repertoire of hymns.

Armistice Day falling this year on Sunday, the two minutes' silence was observed during Morning Service, which began shortly before eleven o'clock. Briefly and impressively, the Headmaster spoke of the spirit of Armistice, and after the period of silence, the hymn, "Our God, our help in ages past," was sung. The service then proceeded in the usual manner, concluding with the singing of the National Anthem.

CHAPEL FUND.

It is our desire to make the Chapel self-supporting, and with this object in view, a collection is now being taken at each Service. The first collection, which amounted to £5, was taken on December 9th, and was given to the local Parish Church as a free-will offering. On December 16th the sum of £4 12/9 was contributed. We hope to devote a portion of each weekly offering to some charitable institution or organisation. It has been decided to contribute 3d. each week per boy, which, roughly, means 3/- per term, and we are very pleased to note that several of the senior boys voluntarily give amounts from 1/- downwards. The fund is administered by Mr. Sharman, D. Walker and G. Gray, and it is proposed to try and attach our efforts in charitable directions to those of one of the Perth Churches working in the poorest parts of the city, where we hope that in some small way we may brighten the lives of some who are less fortunate than ourselves. No part of the proceeds of the collections are to be used in any way towards structural alterations, but there are many incidentals to be met connected with beautifying the chapel and improving the standard of our choral work. These we hope to meet in part out of the funds provided by the Chapel collection. Properly audited accounts will be presented to congregation each term.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

The Christmas Service was held on the last Sunday of Term. On this occasion the singing was led by the Choir accompanied by a small string orchestra and organ. The introduction of strings was an innovation which proved highly satisfactory, and though the players experienced some little difficulty in maintaining the pitch of their instruments owing to the rising temperature of the Chapel as the Service proceeded, all worked with a will and gave of their best.

The Service opened with the singing of the Doxology to the tune "Old Hundredth," after which we joined in prayer, led by the Headmaster, who, as usual, officiated.

Mendelssohn's tune to the hymn, "Hark, the herald angels sing," was thoughtfully sung by choir and congregation. The reading which followed was from the account of the Nativity of Christ in Luke's gospel, chapter 2. The hymn, "See in yonder manger low" was sung antiphonally, all joining in singing the chorus, "Hail thou ever blessed morn," which concludes each verse.

In the course of his address, the Headmaster reminded us of our duty to our fellows at this season of peace and good-will, suggesting that our happiness can be complete only when we have striven in some way to brighten the lives of those less fortunately placed than we are. At the end of the address the Choir and Orchestra rendered a group of three carols, the first of which, entitled "We three Kings of Orient are," was sung in four-part harmony. The remaining two, "Good King Wenceslas" and "The First Noel," were treated antiphonally between the Senior and Junior Sections of the Choir. At the conclusion of the Carols we joined in the singing of the fine old hymn, "Adeste Fideles." The Service terminated with the Benediction and a Vesper Hymn.

The Chapel was suitably and tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers. As voluntaries, the Orchestra with organ played the Slow March from Glück's opera, "Alceste" and March from "Scipio" by Handel.

A FISHY STORY.

Upon a mossy river's bank serene,
An ardent angler stood
When all was green—
And looked it!

Towards evening, as the light grew dim,
He saw a fish,
Or else the fish saw him—
And hooked it!

Proud of himself, with high erected comb,
He took the fish,
Or else the story, home—
And cooked it!

B.

LA LÉGION ÉTRANGÈRE.

Bon Dieu, but it's good to see the stars
When the sun's gone down in the purple
west,

To know that the day's weary march is done
And that for a while we have peace and rest;
Just to lie on one's back and watch the moon
Painting all the desert with a silv'ry sheen
And making the shadows of palm trees creep
Far o'er the dunes where yesterdays had
been!

But when the first glint of the rising sun
Sends a blood-red glare along the sky,
Then the bugles call, and we start to march,
And those who can't?—well, they're left
to die.

Then it's tramp, tramp, tramp, the whole
long day,

Under the sweltering sky of a blazing blue
That blinds our eyes beneath our Kepi's brim
Till we hold hands like children, two by two.
And all the while the mirage danced before,
Till weak minds cracked and left their
owners' mad,

And these would croak in a sand choked
voice,

And some would be merry and some be sad
And prattle of days in the long ago
When some lived in mansion, some in a
slum,

And laughed at the crimes that had brought
them here

Degraded with lowest of earthly scum;
And one sang the song that the Legion sings
In victory, defeat or when marching along,
That they sing when Arabs come charging
down,

And this is the Foreign Legionaire's song:

"Englishmen, Frenchmen, Turk and Jew,
We've a fatherland same as you,
All caste is lost and gone all shame, under
one glorious name:
Men of the French Foreign Legion!

We die from plague, from shot and sin,
Buried at morn ere rot sets in;
Thus dying, inglorious, yet often victorious,
Men of the French Foreign Legion!

All outcasts from our native lands
Fight for France in the desert sands,
And though we be low blighters, we all of
us are fighters,
Men of the French Foreign Legion!"

I. C.

The Strathallian Club Dinner

THE Annual Dinner was held at the Central Station Hotel, Glasgow, on Friday the 21st December, and was attended by about forty-five Strathallians, who thoroughly enjoyed the annual reunion.

Prior to the dinner, the annual meeting of the Club was held, and the Secretary, Mr. A. James, presented the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly approved. A certified copy of the accounts was posted up after having received the approval of the Auditors, Mr. G. S. Brand and Mr. R. MacAllister, and the Chairman, Mr. Riley, congratulated the Club on having a balance in hand of over £113, and an increase of about forty members. There was a lively discussion of the various points brought up, and below is appended a resumé of the decisions which were arrived at.

1. It was decided that all the members of the Club should be circularised in regard to the question as to whether the Old Boys' blazer shall be a striped or plain one; a fortnight to be allowed for the receipt of replies from members.

2. The meeting was definitely in favour of holding the next Annual Dinner in Glasgow, but the selection of a venue was the subject of diverse opinions. A Dinner Committee, consisting of the President of the Club and Messrs. S. Dow, N. G. Reid, D. O. Melrose and R. Barr, was appointed, and empowered to make the necessary arrangements.

3. In view of the impending formation of Branch Clubs at home and abroad, Messrs. J. B. Morrison and T. M. Hart were appointed to act with the President in drawing up the rules and regulations to govern such Branches. Whilst each Branch should be allowed the greatest possible autonomy and freedom in the conduct of its affairs, it was of vital importance that it should be linked up with the parent Club in the manner best

calculated to further the interests of Strathallians as a whole.

4. Formal approval of :—
 - (i.) Minutes of last meeting.
 - (ii.) List of new members.
 - (iii.) Accounts.
 - (iv.) List of Life Members.
 - (v.) Commemoration Day.
 - (vi.) Diploma for Life Members.
5. Vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Extracts from Report :—

1. Membership increased by 39—from 105 to 144.
2. Fourteen Life Members on the roll.
3. Financial position much stronger :

Balance from last year	£33	9	6
Increase this year ...	80	6	0

Total cash now in hand £113 15 6
 £100 in Deposit Receipt with Union Bank of Scotland.

At the close of the meeting a resolution was proposed by Mr. O. Melrose and carried with acclamation, " that the President be asked to convey to Strathallians in all parts of the world, *Hearty Greetings and Best Wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity during the coming Year* " from the Strathallians assembled, who represented all years from the inception of the School in 1913.

After the Loyal Toast, Mr. G. Smith, of Dundee, proposed the toast of the School in well chosen phrases, which raised many laughs and cheers. He emphasised the great progress that the School had made during the last few years, and pointed out to his hearers that whereas a short time ago Strathallan was comparatively unknown among the schools of Scotland, to-day it is accepted by all and sundry as one of the leading schools in the country. Mr. Smith

told his hearers that he had been the guest of the Headmaster during the previous week, and that Strathallians of even two years ago would now hardly recognise their old school.

Mr. Riley, replying on behalf of the School, thanked Mr. Smith for his very kind remarks, and pointed out to those present that the success of Strathallan was due in the first place to the way in which Old Strathallians were making themselves felt in their various spheres of life, and he instanced the fact that business firms which had taken a Strathallian into their employ always asked for another.

The toast of the Strathallian Club was proposed by Mr. Norton, the Editor of the School Magazine, who emphasised the value of unity amongst those who had a great school as their Alma Mater. Mr. O. Melrose replied on behalf of the Club, and cheers which punctuated his speech showed that he voiced the feelings of those present. The School Games were toasted on the call of Mr. W. Shanks, who emphasised that Strathallians were always anxious to hear of the success of their Old School on the playing fields. Mr. R. Barr, who was a member of what are generally recognised to have been Strathallan's best rugger and cricket teams, replied in a very neat and witty speech, urging the teams to uphold the tradition of the School for playing hard and playing as gentlemen. The last toast was that of "Absent Strathallians," and was proposed by Mr. George G. Baker, who is at present at Oxford University. Mr. Baker made it quite clear that to be absent in person was not to be absent in mind, and he told the gathering that it only required two Strathallians to come together for old memories to be conjured up and for old battles to be fought over again. The ceremony was concluded by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and one and all agreed that a very enjoyable evening had been spent.

List of Life Members of The Strathallian Club

- No. 1. Mr. G. S. Brand, Woodlee, Bridge of Allan.
- No. 2. Mr. J. B. M. Cowan, Lindores, Whitecraigs, Giffnock.
- No. 3. Mr. Robert Carswell, The Grange, Falkirk.
- No. 4. Mr. W. J. B. Mount, 50 Parliament Hill, London, N.W.3.
- No. 5. Mr. I. McGregor, Monzie, Haining Road, Renfrew.
- No. 6. Mr. I. G. Craig, 24 Monreith Road, Newlands, Glasgow.
- No. 7. Mr. W. H. MacLaughlin, 18 Wellington Road, Oxton, Cheshire.
- No. 8. Mr. J. Cleland, Mossgiel, Alexandra Road, Lenzie.
- No. 9. Mr. H. E. Cleland, Mossgiel, Alexandra Road, Lenzie.
- No. 10. Mr. R. Neill, Cessnock, Newlands, Glasgow.
- No. 11. Mr. J. B. Rowan, 36 Avonmore Road, London, W.14.
- No. 12. Mr. G. B. Smith, Dunearn, Newport, Fife.
- No. 13. Mr. W. M. Shanks, Beechfield, Denny.
- No. 14. Mr. R. Scott, Drumdrills, Bridge of Allan.
- No. 15. Mr. A. S. Thomson, Tullylumb Terrace, Perth.

The Committee would like very much to have at least fifty Life Members by the end of this year, and parents of those boys who are about to leave are being approached with a view to their making their sons a present of a life membership of the club immediately on their leaving school, because experience shows that where joining the Club is left to the boy himself he often delays so long that he loses touch with his old school and school friends. Keep your links of friendship well forged is an excellent maxim.

London Strathallians

THE London Strathallians held their first annual dinner at the Kenilworth Hotel, Bloomsbury, and there was an attendance of eighteen members, who spent a very pleasant evening. Mr. Riley took the chair, and there were several apologies for absence owing to business reasons, many firms keeping their staffs late to complete the annual balances taken at this period of the year.

Mr. James Motion proposed the toast of "The School," after the chairman had given "The King," and he caused great merriment and laughter as he recounted incidents in his school career, "only some of which belonged to the category of 'found out'," he explained, glancing in a whimsical manner over to the chairman, who put on a well-feigned look of surprise and of consternation.

Mr. Motion dealt with the benefits which he felt he had gained from school, which he summed up in the following phrases: "Work hard, play hard, play to win, but play as gentlemen and never give in! That's what I learnt." The applause which greeted his remarks showed that he had carried his audience with him. The Headmaster, in reply, thanked Mr. Motion for his neat and witty speech, and detailed the various improvements which had been inaugurated at Strathallan during the last eighteen months.

The chairman proposed the toast of "The Strathallan Club," and outlined its progress during the last year, and Mr. A. C. Montgomery, replying on behalf of the Club, dwelt upon the advantage of Strathallians sticking together and upon the great benefits of keeping school friendships ever-green. In his capacity as Secretary of the London Branch of the Club, he regretted that there had been a difficulty in tracing some of the members who are known to be resident in London, but he felt sure that with a longer notice of the next annual dinner and with a proper effort to get in touch with those outside, he would be able to ensure a larger attendance. Mr. Montgomery thanked the parent body for their very kind wishes, which had been conveyed by the chairman, and on behalf of London Strathallians he wished Strathallians all over the world *The best of luck and happiness in 1929.*

At the business meeting, held on the conclusion of the ceremonial, Mr. A. Bonthron and Mr. J. Motion were appointed to act as a Committee along with the Secretary for all purposes connected with the London Branch.

On a vote being taken on the subject of the Club blazer, fourteen were in favour of a plain blazer and four were in favour of stripes.

Dundee and Edinburgh Strathallians

IT is proposed to form Branch Clubs in these centres, and all Strathallians interested might communicate with Mr. George Smith, Dunearn, Newport, Fife, or to Mr. Jardine Stewart, 2a Hermitage Drive, Edinburgh, who will call meetings in due course to discuss the formation of Local

Branches. Naturally, all "O.S." in the region of these two cities might prefer to link themselves up with the parent body through its Local Branches, and they will be glad to hear that this course has the approval of the President of the Club.

A War Adventure

IT was about the beginning of the month of March, 1916, when the Captain of my boat told me that I had to report at Devonport for special service. I had no idea what the appointment would be and I was very excited, and gathered together my gear and took the first train to that West of England port, and lost no time in hunting around to find the C.O. who was to give me further instructions. I found that I had been appointed to the good ship *Triton*; where she was, and what she was nobody seemed to know, so I dumped my gear in the barracks and went down to the dockyard to try and glean some information from some of the artisans or dockworkers employed there. Nobody seemed to know anything about such a ship, until I came across an old salt who was evidently much travelled. The only *Triton* he knew was an old trawler which was berthed a few hundred yards away, and I at once made my way to the spot which he had indicated and found an old tub which was used for carrying fish from the trawlers on the fishing grounds to the port of London. I thought that there had been a mistake, and I made my way back to the Chief to find out what was in the wind. To my delight and great joy I found that I had been appointed to a "Q" boat.

Now I had heard many things about these boats, and had often wondered what they were like, and I found that they were like nothing else on earth, though at the same time, outwardly, they were exactly the same as any other boat of their type.

The next morning I met my captain and we went together from the barracks to the dock, and I gathered from the discussion that he was not altogether without experience of this new type of warfare, since he had served under Captain Campbell in the "Q" boat service. The following few days were passed in getting two guns aboard and disguising them to the best of our ability, after having mounted them and having fixed gun

flaps in front, which could be let down at a moment's notice.

The crew were all Navy men, but were disguised as trawler men, and a real ragmuffin crew they looked as they loafed about the deck in the way they had been trained to do in this new service. We soon had the boat in order, and put to sea, patrolling a route roughly described by a line Thames-Doggerbank-Humber, and our job was to induce submarines to find us and then to attack us. It was just here that the real Navy discipline was invaluable, for we had to obey orders under the most trying circumstances; part of our crew were trained as a "Panic party," who were to desert the ship after she had been hit, whilst there still remained aboard a complement of men who manned the guns, and who were ready to strike immediately the word was given. These were the men who had the most difficult part to play, for they had to lie low and keep still and quiet under gun-fire, in the face of torpedo attack, and often when they were suffering wounds, resulting from bursting shells. Any sound or evidence of life aboard would have given the whole show away and would have cost the lives of the party, for the "U" boat commanders were becoming quite cute and suspicious by the middle of 1916. We had been patrolling for about a fortnight when early one morning the look-out discerned an object on the horizon, and thought that he saw a submarine far away to the windward; the Captain was called, and he waited for a few moments, when he saw it disappear. At last we were to make a personal acquaintance with Fritz! Rattlers were sounded, and the guns' crews were at their stations and everybody was on a tip-toe of excitement for we all felt that the U-boat was now manoeuvring herself into the best position for an attack. We had not long to wait, for the Captain saw the track of a torpedo coming full ahead for the *Triton*, and it seemed that it must strike the ship towards the forward end, but we were to be lucky on this occasion, for it passed just about three feet ahead of us.

Soon the U-boat rose right astern and was going at a pretty good speed, intending to take up a position about two miles away on our port beam. She then began to fire at us and we had a very lively time with shells bursting all around. Our aim was to get nearer to her and at the same time give the appearance of trying to escape her gun fire by zig-zagging. At last we exploded a large powder chest which had several appliances attached for the purpose of giving the appearance of the ship having been vitally damaged; steam hissed out of specially prepared pipes, and flames rose from specially prepared material; at last the Panic party began to abandon ship, leaving behind the concealed guns' crews, hoping for a chance to play their little part in the drama. We had been struck below the water line and the ship was really settling down in the sea, but what of that? Our Captain was closely watching to see the next move on the part of Fritz, who had disappeared under the water. Would he come up a little closer so as to get in a position to make a better examination of what seemed to be an abandoned ship? It seemed ages to us who were waiting for developments, and our boat was practically awash, but we had great faith in the carefully packed cargo of timber to keep us afloat, and greater faith in our Captain to give us our chance at the proper moment should it arrive. Fritz did come up to have a look at us through his periscope, and after making a very careful examination he decided that we were what we pretended to be, and that he would come to the surface and finish us off. We soon got the order "Stand by," and were seething with excitement when the command came down the tubes to "Let go." The gun flaps fell, and we poured many shots into the submarine, and she soon went down, never to rise again.

Our Panic party pulled over to us, and we had to work very hard to keep the ship afloat, whilst some rendered first aid to the wounded lying on deck, and others repaired our wireless so as to send out an appeal for aid. Fortunately, this was speedily forthcoming in the shape of a small torpedo boat, and we managed to reach port, where we beached the *Triton*, which lived to fight another battle.

Some "Howlers"

A correspondent sends us the following "howlers" which have been culled from various sources. We trust that few have originated at Strathallan!

The first book in the Bible is Guinness.

The epistle is the wife of an apostle.

They gave the Duke of Wellington a lovely funeral. It took six men to carry the beer.

William the Conqueror was the first of the Mormons.

Wolsey saved his life by dying on the way from York to London.

If you want to remember the names of the British leaders in the Battle of Jutland, think of "J" for German and "B" for Bosh.

Beckett had to flea to Flanders.

A ruminating animal is one that chews its cubs.

Herrings go about the sea in shawls.

The liver is an infernal organ.

The different kinds of sense are common-sense and nonsense.

A sure-footed animal is an animal that when it kicks it does not miss.

How would you make soft water hard? Freeze it.

Water freezes at a higher temperature on the Fahrenheit thermometer than on a Centigrade.

In Holland the people make use of water power to drive their windmills.

The valley of the Rhone grows tea, which is packed at Lyons.

Switzerland is a very wonderful place, you can often see the mountains touring among the clouds.

The climate of the island is wet but embracing.

Brussels is famous for its carpets and sprouts.

The climate of Bombay is such that its inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

From an essay on irrigation in Egypt. One of the chief damn places is Aswan.

The modern name of Gaul is vinegar.

Dr. Lester's Presentation

YOUNG Dick Hoskins burst excitedly into the lounge of the Bankhead Men's Social Club, treading on the cat in his haste.

"You chaps," he exclaimed, amid the terrified squeals of his victim, "have you heard the latest?"

"Not until you tell us," said Hyslop, the lawyer, leaning back in his chair and puffing comfortably at a cheroot.

"Bankhead is getting another doctor," exclaimed Hoskins.

Instantly all the occupants of the lounge turned to stare at him. "What!" said one, "Another doctor! Isn't the cemetery full enough?"

"'parently not," replied Hoskins. "The new doc. is Archer's forty-second cousin or something, and he seems to be a real 'he-man'; hot stuff at tennis and a dashed good swimmer. He's coming on Thursday, and that's all I know. If you wish to learn more, ask Archer. Now, Bob, what about a game of chess?"

A few days later, when Archer entered the clubroom, he was greeted with a battery of questions.

"Was your cousin Cambridge or Oxford?" "Is he a Blue?" "What does he want coming here?" "How old is he?"

Archer stood bewildered for a minute or two; then he rubbed his hands and smiled a thoughtful little smile. From his answers the following information was elicited. His cousin, Dr. Lester, had graduated at Glasgow, and had decided to set up a practice at Bankhead, where his cousin was an accountant. He had won several tennis tournaments, and held the Panbourn Swimming Shield. Archer did not know his exact age, but he was not yet thirty-five.

"He's got digs in town, but I think it would be better if he were to come up to the club first. I'm sure you fellows will welcome him."

"You bet," was Hoskin's answer. "And a Glaswegian too! You chaps, I

vote we give him a really handsome reception. A nice little batchelor's party, with cigars, and a bottle or two of Madeira."

"Agreed!" cried the rest.

"And what about a little gift for him, a presentation," suggested Hyslop. "It's not every day we get an athlete among us."

This was quite true, for Hoskins, the recognised sportsman of the club, could only base his claim to that distinction on the strength of the fact that he had once played in the Bankhead 1st Cricket XI.

So it was settled. The arrangements were placed in the hands of Archer, Hoskins and Hyslop, but the question of what the presentation was to be was a bone of contention between them. Finally, however, it was decided that Archer, being the only one of them who knew Dr. Lester, should choose the gift. After a great deal of deliberation he announced that his cousin did not possess a trouser-press. Now many gentlemen are content to press their trousers by sleeping on them, but in Bankhead society it was considered necessary for every gentleman to possess a trouser-press.

At last the preparations were complete. In the large clubroom the table was prepared for the banquet, and in a corner stood a trouser-press of polished oak, its screws and bands shining in the glare of the electric lamps.

Archer had motored down to the railway station to meet Dr. Lester, and the other members of the club were awaiting his return in the lounge. When Archer returned, he ushered the doctor into a small anteroom leading off the large clubroom.

He then called, "Come on, you fellows. Meet Dr. Lester."

In they trooped, one by one, and the horrified expression on their faces sent Archer into peals of laughter. A lady doctor!

"The press!" squealed Archer in glee, "The press! Oh, my hat!"

W. H. B.

The Cairngorm Mountains

THOSE of us who expect a holiday to afford fresh air, exercise, excitement and entertainment, can find these in excelcis in the Cairngorm Mountains.

The range has four distinct peaks of over four thousand feet, and, in addition, two large plateaux, where one can walk for miles without dropping much below this level.

Each of the four high peaks of the Cairngorms, Ben MacDhui (4296), Cairngorm (4084), Cairn Youl (4241), and Braeriach (4148), commands an extensive and magnificent view of the major portion of Scotland, though probably that from the summit cairn of Ben MacDhui is the finest. Eastward across the Lairig Ghru Pass lie Braeriach and Cairn Youl, connected by a mighty plateau, out of which rises the shapely Angel's Peak, and on which the River Dee has its source in a spring of crystal clear water bubbling from the midsummer snow four thousand feet above sea level. Along the edge of this plateau are many fine corries, some of which have over a thousand feet of unbroken rock and are fringed by snow cornices all the year round. Southward lies the valley of the Dee, overshadowed by a long line of heather-clad hills, out of which Loch Nager raises its dark forbidding head. To the east and north the view extends over the Speyside to where the Moray Firth lies gleaming in the distance, while closer at hand Cairngorm obstructs the view. On a clear day, which unfortunately is rare, one can distinguish hills as distant as Ben Nevis, Ben Lawers, Largo Law, and even the Culins in far off Skye.

Possibly the most lonely and forbidding spot in Scotland is Loch Avon (pronounced Ahn), which lies in a deep cleft between Cairngorm and Ben MacDhui, and is almost entirely surrounded by dark and gloomy cliffs which exclude sunshine for most of the day. At the western end lies the famous Shelter

Stone, which provides a tolerable night's comfort for as many as ten men, and which has indeed become so popular for this purpose that a visitors' book lies there in a tin box all the year round. Few more impressive experiences can be imagined than that of spending a night in this spot, with the rocky cliffs for guardians and the waters of the Lochan lapping almost at one's very feet.

The whole mountain range is split up by a series of magnificent corries, some of which are easy of ascent, some difficult, and many impossible, but every one has some rugged grandeur which commends itself to the lover of nature.

The Cairngorm Mountains are not by any means for the practised mountaineer alone, as each of the "big four" can be climbed by a more or less simple route; the rock enthusiast can find on Sgorran Dubh, the Garbh Coire and Coire Brochain as much rock as his heart may desire. Mountain lochs and streams abound, and most of them have some old tale connected with them which the crofters of Mar or Rothiemurcus will tell still in a hushed voice, beside a peat fire when the day's tramp is over. Lochan Uaine of Cairn Youl, Loch Coire, Lochan Buidhe, Loch Avon and Loch Einich, to mention but a few, are all well worthy of a visit.

But the greatest attraction of these mountains is an undefinable spirit which seems to pervade them. When one stands on the high plateau of Braeriach and watches the golden eagle soar towards his inaccessible eyrie on the rocky face of Sgorran Dubh, one feels how good it is to be alive: how fine it is to be able to climb some spot such as this and to view Nature's handiwork in all its magnificence, unspoiled by the hand of man.

R. B.

In Memoriam Amici Antique

EDUCATIONAL experts assert that schoolboys detest the past. Let not any reader, however, imagine that this, the title notwithstanding, is to be an essay on one of the pet "names" in History. The writer was not, at any rate to his knowledge, a friend of, say, Thomas Becket, Queen Bess or Robespierre; nay more, his hatred of them may be even deeper than that of the typical schoolboy. The "friend" did not play any part in shaping the destinies of any nation.

Another warning is perhaps necessary. This is not a sentimental funeral oration delivered over the grave of a departed human friend. The friend in question, although "passed away," was not buried: the remains can still be seen by any interested person. Moreover, the name cannot be read in any Roll of Honour. This friendship existed during those far-off pre-war days when the writer was still at school. The reader, who, having digested this introduction, still wants to know more, can now proceed.

It must have been the sight of those hills that produced the desire to view the remains once more. Many times before had they been the means of comfort to the soul. The hills were the hills of Dyfed. This south-west corner of Cambria is the "land of fantasy and illusion" (*gwlad hud a lledrith*) of Welsh legend. It was there that the events happened which are so beautifully described in those tales—the "Mabinogion." That view of the home of romance urged me, I say, to seek once again "the remains" of the friend of my boyhood and to commune with the "soul" of the departed. They were discovered in that same old shed which had been their resting-place for a number of years. Many a rustic eye had chanced on them and had pronounced them to be nothing but—scrap iron. To suggest that they were "remains," and that they afforded

communion with the spiritual world would be stark paganism in the ears of those Welsh Puritans, whose religion weighs so heavily upon their souls. Is immortality a monopoly of man alone? That is a pertinent question. The writer cannot accept the definitive view of orthodox theology on the subject. He is positive that many human beings have no souls. He is equally positive that he has been able to commune with the soul of that old bicycle. That afternoon in that shed the rusty iron came to life, and soul communed with soul. Intimacy alone breeds friendship, and what can be more intimate than a bicycle?

Different incidents which had happened long before were recalled—that first crash on a steep hill, when both bicycle and cyclist had to receive subsequent attention; those tests of speeds against other cycles and other schoolboys on the Monday morning and the Friday evening; those long runs (during a vacation) into the heart of the country, along roads which tested the stability of cycle and the skill of rider; the repairing of a puncture, and action which bound the ties of friendship all the more closely; these slow ascents up hills, proofs of the occasional dependence of the non-human upon the human element in that friendship. In this age of the omnibus and the charabanc it is good for the soul to draw upon the resources of such a companionship. Who could make friends of the modern leviathans of transport? These cannot be taken into the sacred precincts of the home; they cannot be lifted over stiles, abandoned in a ditch, or assisted up a hill: they are the vehicles for the crowd, not for the individual. Real friendship can exist between two souls only. That is the reason why the writer still reveres that bicycle, although it now lies in a shed sans wheels, sans saddle, sans bell—a rusty heap.

D. M.

Beverly Minster

BEVERLY, that delightful little town nestling at the foot of the Wolds, is the ancient capital of the East Riding of Yorkshire. Very picturesque it looks from the York road with the quiet park-like grounds of Westwood, and the two stately Churches surrounded by a sea of red tile roofs. As one comes through the North Bar, an embattled gateway of the fifteenth century, a view is to be seen unequalled in all England: on the left are the gracefully turreted and open battlements of St. Mary's Church; further on in the Market Place an eighteenth century Market Cross, and behind and beyond all rise the lofty fretted Minster towers. The atmosphere of antiquity, appropriate to the ancient township, pervades all.

Approaching the Minster, which is the "cynosure of neighbouring eyes," one first sees the full glory of the noble west front, and the symmetry of the fabric at once demands attention, one gracefully carved buttress rising from another, and another above that until all are lost in the great height of the twin towers. These towers are joined by an embattled parapet which serves to avoid any break in the symmetry.

Advancing to the great West Door, one first notes some thirty elaborately canopied niches, each of which shelters the statue of a saint. Once inside, however, there is no need for the thought, "This is too low, or that too high: this suggests weakness and attenuation; that is too short." Perfect proportion is the keynote of the whole building. Eleven lofty stone pillars on either side of the nave support the clear story above which is the roof, all typical of the Early English style.

The Choir contains magnificent examples of wood-carving in the Choir stalls; but even this splendour is outshone by the elaborate memorial to former nobility, the Percy Tomb, which is noteworthy as a supreme example of Gothic architecture. Yet despite the numerous styles in one building, there is nothing incongruous, so zealously have they been blended,

Outside on the south tower is a venerable sundial, bearing the curious legend "Now or When?" which inspired the late Canon Wilton with the following:—

NOW OR WHEN?

On the tall buttress of the Minster grey,
The glorious work of long forgotten men,
I read this dial-legend—'Now or When?'
Well had these builders used their little day
Of service—witness this sublime display
Of blossomed stone, dazzling the gazers' ken.

Those towers attest they knew 'twas there
and then,

Not some vague to-morrow, they must
work and pray.

Oh, let us seize transitory Now,
From which to build a life work which will
last:

In humble prayer and worship let us bow
Ere fleeting opportunity is past.

When once Life's sun forsakes the dial-
plate,

For work and for repentance 'tis too late.
G. G.

ROVING DAYS.

My roving days are over, John,
I'm feeling tired and old;
The seas no longer seem to call,
And the wander-lust's grown cold.
I'll hear no more the billow's roar,
Nor the wind's shrill eerie wail
Twanging the rigging up aloft
And billowing out the sail;
Nor feel again the lashing rain
And tang of the stinging brine
That flies in clouds to the topmost shrouds
Where the snoring sea winds whine.
Yet I'd like to steer a ship again,
With her white wings spread for home,
And watch great sea-horses plunging
With their milk-white mains of foam.
But I've changed all these for the swish of
trees

When the winds go howling by,
And the croaking caws of rooks and daws
For the sea gulls' plaintive cry.

I. C.

The Dramatic Society's Social

ON the evening of December 18th a large and enthusiastic audience witnessed the third performance of the Strathallan Dramatic Society. For the third time we take up our pen to praise the deserving and to condemn the undeserving. Thus, although we may cause joy to some, our observations may cause sorrow to others. We would point out that a critic is not his own master, and must poise evenly the scales of justice. It is with pleasure that we extol the successful; but duty bids us censure where censure is called for, since only by a revelation of faults can improvement be stimulated: yet always our purpose is to spur to still richer endeavour.

It was only to be expected that last term's stalwarts would be missed. However, the School possesses dramatic ability to reconcile us to the inevitable loss. We can indeed unreservedly congratulate the newcomers on the gallant way in which they filled the breach. Their performance was a happy augury for the success of future efforts.

The opening play was a comedy, "The Grey Parrot," by W. W. Jacobs and Charles Rock. The story is concerned with the matrimonial adventures of a sailor (V. Lauderdale) who presents his wife (Laidlaw) with a parrot which, he persuades her, will tell him all she has done in his absence. He is hoist with his own petard, however, for his fellow mate (Sinclair) reveals some of his past indiscretions, of which the loving wife makes good use. Sinclair gave a most praiseworthy performance as the tactless mate, showing a bluff heartiness entirely in keeping with his elderly character. H. Brown, as Hobson, the Inn-keeper, gave an amusing exhibition. He was greatly assisted by his "make-up," but nevertheless he should prove an extremely useful acquisition to the Society. Lauderdale showed complete self-confidence, but was inclined to speak too quickly, and was at times rather too unemotional. As his wife, Laidlaw was not quite so fascinating as on other occasions, but nevertheless gave a very creditable performance, although he must be careful to

speaking up and avoid the tendency to mumble. R. C. Scott, as Sinclair's wife, also was apt to become inaudible, but both he and W. P. Thomson, as a policeman, were entirely adequate in their respective parts.

Undoubtedly the best play of the evening was "The Monkey's Paw." The story of the wishes and the resulting tragedy is too well known to need description. Mr. Norton surpassed himself as the unfortunate father and showed a versatility which delighted his audience. S. Fraser gave an exceptionally fine performance as the grief-stricken mother, and showed a real sympathy with the character he was portraying. He deserves the greatest praise for his rendering of a highly emotional part. Black, as Sergeant-Major Morris, who introduced the ill-fated paw, was entirely successful, although he was perhaps lacking in the blustering swagger associated usually with these military gentlemen. His voice suffered somewhat from the too zealous efforts of the storm. M'Ewen, who took the part of Herbert, the son, was entirely at his ease, but unfortunately he never ceased to be M'Ewen. P. Constable, as the messenger of grief, assumed a fittingly lugubrious countenance, and was admirable in his small part.

The last play was a comedy, "A Collection Will Be Made," by Arthur Eckersley. It concerns the adventures of a typical curate who finds himself taken for a famous detective and is thus involved in an affair with two thieves who have designs on a lady's jewels. He is bribed by all parties, and becomes the recipient of entirely undeserved wealth. F. Grant, as the Rev. Cuthbert Cheese, assumed a fittingly clerical mein, but might have made the figure even more ridiculous with advantage, while his surprise at receiving so much unearned wealth was hardly emphatic enough. G. R. Anderson's rendering of Colonel Anstruther, the peppery husband of the victimised lady, was distinctly good. His vigorous acting showed up the rather milk and watery performance of some of the other players and we would have liked to have seen more of him. H. Brook, as his

wife, was somewhat expressionless, at times almost inaudible, but he was obviously suffering from "nerves." Mason, as the villainous count, looked the part and gave a creditable performance, despite the fact that at times he forgot he was a foreigner; while his confrère, Wilkie, was somewhat stiff and failed to enter fully into the part. M. Wood, as the hotel proprietor, was rather too wooden, failing to convey by his gestures the excitability of the foreigner.

In conclusion, we should like to praise unstintedly the general stage-management and production. The make-up, too, must be commended whole-heartedly. In many cases this would not have disgraced a professional performance. A word of criticism must be passed upon the wigs, which were not always suitable. Also it is a pity that elderly ladies are almost invariably dowdy. Finally, we would like to see a more skilful manipulator of the curtain. However, we look forward with interest to the next performance. Floreat Strathallan!

P. W. S.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

OFFICERS FOR SESSION 1928-29.

President, Mr. M. Norton.

Chairman, J. H. Black.

Vice-Chairman, S. D. Fraser.

Secretary, H. G. Mason.

Treasurer, I. M'Ewen.

Advertising Agent, G. M. Sturroch.

Committee, E. Sinclair, P. Constable, J.

Wood, W. P. Thomson and J. Laidlaw.

The membership of the Society this term numbered fifty-two, and as the Treasurer's report was favourable, it was decided that henceforth the Society could afford printed Membership Cards.

The programme this session has been varied; in addition to the customary readings of plays, which revealed considerable talent among the new members, there have been towards the close of the term several rehearsed play readings, which included "Rory Aforesaid," "In the Library," "The Boy comes Home," and "Shivering Shocks," all of which seemed much appreciated.

Mr. Norton gave his Presidential Address on Monday evening, November 12th, when he spoke upon "John Galsworthy as a Dramatist," reading selections from "Loyalties" to illustrate his points.

At the end of term Social on December 18th, the Society again presented a Triple Bill of the following plays:—"A Collection will be Made" by A. Eckersley, "The Monkey's Paw" by W. W. Jacobs and L. N. Parker, and "The Grey Parrot" by W. W. Jacobs and Charles Rock, a criticism of which will be found elsewhere.

H. G. MASON,
Hon. Sec.

SCOUTS.

Although the meetings did not begin until well on in the term, the Scouts managed to meet on seven occasions. Two changes had to be made in the personnel of the troop, B. Mackay becoming patrol leader of the Eagles, and R. H. Balfour, patrol leader of the Swifts. Several new members were admitted at the first meetings in the place of those who had left.

Owing to inclement weather all the meetings were held in the Gym., and the Scouts were instructed in Tenderfoot and Second-class Tests, great enthusiasm being shown throughout. At the last meeting, J. Shaw and J. Findlay were able to pass their Tenderfoot, and several other Scouts passed their Knots and Scouts Law. Progress was also made with the Second-class Tests, J. Holmes, A. Fleming, G. Smellie, W. Taylor, D. Muir and W. Buchanan passing their Scout Pace, while W. Taylor was also successful in passing his Compass Points.

Great disappointment was felt when it was learnt that Major Pullar would be unable to visit the troop, as was expected, at the end of the term, for it was hoped that he would present several Proficiency Badges. Major Pullar stated, however, that he would be able to come some time next term, by which time the elder Scouts hope to pass such tests as Swimming, Signalling, Rescue, Ambulance and Athlete. Hopes are thus running high for a very successful Spring Term.

THE BUSINESS CLUB.

The session was commenced with rather a depleted membership, but in spite of the smallness of its numbers, the Business Club has enjoyed quite a successful term. We look forward to the introduction of some new blood in the coming term, when those hitherto engaged in exam. work will be able to join us.

The first meeting was devoted to a debate, "Is it possible or desirable to stop War?" in which the leading parts were taken by the older members. There followed debates on "The Enfranchisement of Women at Twenty-one," "That the Air Force is superior to the Navy," and "That Science has done more for Mankind than Art," the last two providing most discussion.

Only one day of impromptu debating was held, but it proved most amusing, calling forth some clever speeches on the part of those who, at a moment's notice, had to oppose a motion in which they believed. The subjects of the debates were, "That Capital Punishment should be abolished" and "Which has the greater right to the road, the Pedestrian or the Motorist?" The latter, especially, gave rise to great discussion, in which practically all the members took part, and by the chairman's casting vote resulted in a victory for the pedestrian.

On two other occasions papers were read by Messrs. M'Kinnon, Diack, Walker and Wood, all of whom chose subjects from the engineering world: while the few remaining meetings were devoted to short readings from some of the modern poets.

J. M. WOOD,
Hon. Sec.

THE MOTOR LAUNCH PATROL.

When the Great War started, the Government were quick to realise the need for a fleet of small motor launches in the Navy, which could be used so advantageously for patrolling the coast. Such a fleet was soon in existence, and proved one of the most successful units in the fighting forces.

Each boat was about eighty feet long, and was equipped with two small engines. She carried one "nine-pounder" mounted forward, two machine guns, and, in addition, two large and four small depth charges; while further means of offence and defence were afforded by the rifles and revolvers of its crew. This usually consisted of two officers and eight able seamen.

When a fleet of battleships went out upon a raid, these motor launches hung round any destroyers attached to the expedition, or kept in the rear. They saw considerable action while patrolling the Mediterranean and distinguished themselves at Gallipoli; while at Zeebrugge and Dunkirk they were responsible for the saving of many lives from the wrecked vessels.

Their usual task, however, was the patrol of the English, Irish and French coasts, as a protection against submarines. The most arduous of these patrols was that of the North Sea. Unpleasant in the best of weather, when gales were blowing, these vessels met with much buffeting and danger, and its crew underwent some nerve-racking experiences when, in rough weather, they found themselves making but some 15 knots an hour headway through a pitch black night, and wondering when they might strike a mine or meet an enemy submarine engaged in its nefarious work.

M.

THOUGHTS ON THE AFTER-LIFE.

I do not think that God, a God of love,
 Could make a place that we on earth call
 Hell.

From out of Chaos did God take the mists,
 Cooled them with icy breath to form the land,
 And on his anvil hammered out the plains,
 Moulded the hills, and with his finger-tips
 Gouged out the ocean beds, the which he
 filled

With labour's sweat, or anguished sorrow's
 tears.

A God who made all this and more beside—
 The glories of the sunset and the snow
 That lies like balm upon the mountain tops
 Where stormy elements have bruised them
 hard;

The song of birds and fragrance of the
 flowers—

A God who made all this would never make
 A fearful pit where sulphurous fires should
 burn

And shrivel blackened souls to blacker
 things.

I do not think that God would ever stoop
 From gazing on the lightning and the stars
 To delve among the rock slabs and the clay
 To kindle with the torch that lit the sun
 A flaming fire to be a devil's toy.

Rather I trust that when our weary souls
 Have quit their dust, as moths the chrysalis,
 God shall have made another world in which
 All things will be so wondrous and sublime
 There will be no cause for sin or sighs.

LEAVES.

Wintry storm-clouds scurried past, evening
 light was falling fast,
 While yellow street lamps shadows cast that
 sprawled grotesquely on the ground.
 Drearly the raindrops pattered on the road
 that lay bespattered
 With sered leaves that whirled and scattered,
 madly dancing round and round.

Waltzing round, enthusiastic, to wind-
 music, wierd, fantastic,
 Dancing with a rythmn plastic Winter's
 savage dance of Death!
 And my mind in time was beating to those
 leaves with footsteps fleeting,
 Speeding down the streets, retreating, flee-
 ing from the storm-wind's breath.

Then my soul was filled with sadness : gone
 were Summer's joy and gladness,
 Fleeting as this whirling madness of russet
 and of scarlet leaf—

Swept in seething avalanches off the cold,
 bare elm tree branches
 That bitter hoar-frost blanches with the dull-
 ness of pale grief—

Tears of Autumn, sadly sailing, fluttering
 like torch flames failing
 In the bitter wind that's wailing through the
 darkening mist-filled street,
 Where all the restless rustling leaves, patter-
 ing like startled thieves,
 Seek shelter 'neath the cottage eaves from
 the lashing rain and sleet !

I. C.

PROCRASTINATION.

" I'm damned," said the clerk as he chewed
 his pen,

" If I'll work for a meagre two pounds ten,
 For totalling up the profit and loss
 For that pot-bellied Jew we call the boss.
 I will go to a place where men are men :
 But I don't know where, and I don't know
 when."

So each day he sat with his dreary books,
 With his scratching pen and his dreamy
 looks,
 And he thought of the wild and woolly west
 Where men wear guns and a sheep-skin vest ;
 He thought of dough-boys and ranch-house
 cooks,
 Of fell cattle rustlers and two-gun crooks.

But he also thought of the tales he's read
 Where one cowboy shot another one dead ;
 And of great hairy men like huge baboons
 Who frequented wild woolly west saloons.
 So pondering over these things, he said :
 " Better two pounds ten than a lump of
 lead ! "

Though figures had grown his abomination
 He drew no nearer emancipation :
 For he suffered from, and hence his rack,
 What is sometimes known as a spineless
 back,
 Or that word you await with anticipation—
 Ah, there you have it : " procrastination ! "

Rugby Notes

THE close of the first half of the rugger season leaves no doubt in our minds as to the enthusiasm prevailing throughout the School. Competition for places in the teams has been keener and more open than of yore, probably because while there is a paucity of outstanding players, there is an abundance of others with moderate and almost equal abilities. Team building has accordingly become a more perplexing task than usual, and some time elapsed before any satisfactory results could be obtained. This was especially true of the First and Seconds XV.'s, who experienced a lean time in the earlier part of the term, but latterly showed enormous improvement. The Third XV., however, quickly got together and continued their victorious way with a victory over Dollar Academy, their two matches with Dundee High School Second XV. being cancelled owing to the bad weather.

Among the Juniors the same keenness was apparent, and the Junior House matches were fought with praiseworthy dourness and amid an excitement which would have done credit to a Strath.—High School match. It is very pleasing to note the great interest which the Seniors take in the Junior games and this can only react for the good of our Rugger in years to come.

Strathallan v. Aberdeen Grammar School. At Forgardenny on October 6th.

The visitors won the toss and elected to play with the wind. Throughout the first half the Grammar School kept up a hot attack, and Strath. seldom managed to transfer the play to their opponents' half. The home defence was kept busy but acquitted itself well in that when the interval arrived its line had only been crossed once, two goals (one a penalty) being the total of the visitors' scoring.

Whatever hopes might have been entertained of opening the season with a victory faded quickly on the resumption. The Aberdeen forwards held the upper hand, making good use of wheeling. Their backs, however, were somewhat too selfish to turn this advantage to account. Strath. on the

other hand kicked ahead and took full advantage of the wind, but here their efforts were marred by slow following up and inability to press home an attack. On one occasion a burst brought them up to the Aberdeen line, but the score eluded them. Numerous opportunities were lost by lack of understanding, and though they were still pressing when full time came, the score remained unchanged.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Aberdeen Grammar School, 8 pts.

Morrison's Academy v. Strathallan. At Crieff on October 13th.

The Academy played with their backs to the sun, but despite this advantage Strath. scored in the opening minutes. I. Constable, following up smartly when Fraser broke away, touched down for Dunn to bring about full points from an easy position. Morrison's retaliated, and their efforts were rewarded by a try near the touch line which was not improved upon. Play went from end to end and the Academy went ahead with a penalty goal. Strath. then attacked strongly, and play was for a time confined in the home half, and Fraser went over between the posts, taking two Morrison's men with him. Dunn again brought the full points. Just before the half-time the Academy reduced the lead by a doubtful try near the flag, so that the score stood at 10 points to 9 in Strath.'s favour.

In the second half Strath. seemed to be played out, and nothing seemed to go right with them. Play was of a scrappy character throughout, and the referee had to issue warnings to the opposition. Weakness in defence and slow following up proved Strath.'s undoing, and the Academy added a further five tries, only one of which was converted, without reply.

Result: Morrison's Academy, 26 pts.; Strathallan, 10 pts.

Strathallan v. Glasgow High School. At Forgardenny on October 27th.

Having won the toss, Strath. played against the wind and for the first fifteen minutes the forwards played magnificently,

making the opposition seem mediocre. Thereafter, however, the High School found their stride and made the most of their opportunities. Their policy was to kick ahead and leave matters to their fast wing threes. In this way Irvine secured four tries.

Play was of a more even character in the second half, but the home threes were weak in defence, and again and again the line was only saved by Sinclair: moreover they lacked dash when nearing the enemy's line, and the forwards were still slow in following up when the threes did make ground. The visitors were not full value for their points, however.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Glasgow High School, 25 pts.

Dunfermline High School v. Strathallan.

At Dunfermline on November 3rd.

The High School opened strongly, assisted by the wind, but when the attack had spent itself, Strath. forwards took the ball into the home "25," where a penalty for handling enabled Dunn to open the score with a fine kick. A further score seemed certain when Fraser broke away, but after drawing the full back, his kick ahead went astray and a glorious chance was missed. Close on half-time, however, a movement by the threes enabled Fraser to make amends by scoring in the corner, but Dunn failed with the long kick. Half-time arrived with Strath. thus leading by six points to nil.

In the second half the High School were completely overwhelmed and were unable to break away from their own "25." On account of the heavy pitch ball control was difficult, and play confined chiefly to the forwards. The pressure gradually told, and at last I. Constable went over near the touch line and Dunn converted with a magnificent kick. Right from the re-start Strath. were on their opponents' line again, and after several unsuccessful claims for tries, Lacey gathered the ball and made the issue safe for Strath., though Dunn failed with the long kick. Strath. were still pressing when no side was called.

Result: Dunfermline High School, nil; Strathallan, 14 pts.

Strathallan v. Ayr Academy. At Forgan- **denny on November 10th.**

Strath. lost the toss and played with the wind. They were out to avenge last season's defeat, 21-3, and immediately the whistle blew they were on the visitors' line. The first try came from a scrum near the touch line; Moncur passed out smartly to Dunn, who beat his man and passed to Docherty, who scored between the posts. Dunn registered full points. Strath. continued to press and the ball being kicked over Ayr's line, Fraser dashed up to secure the touch, but Dunn failed to convert from an easy position. Ayr were kept on the defensive, and in saving his line, the Academy captain sustained a broken nose which necessitated his leaving the field. Thereafter Dunn added another three points by kicking a penalty goal, and Lang secured a further try owing to the visiting full back attempting to kick behind his line, but M'Ewen failed with the kick. Close on half-time Fraser went over again and Black converted with a splendid kick. Half-time: Strathallan, 19 pts.; Ayr, nil.

In the second half Strath. continued to hold the upper hand, and added a further twenty points. Dunn, in addition to two converts from tries by Docherty and M'Ewen, scored a smartly taken dropped goal, while both Docherty and Fraser brought their bag up to three tries. The final whistle blew with Strath. again on their opponents' line.

Result: Strathallan, 39 pts.; Ayr Academy, nil.

Strathallan v. An Edinburgh 'Varsity XV.

At Forgardenny on November 14th.

The opposition included six Strath. F.P.'s, and the match, if somewhat scrappy, was cleanly contested. The School opened strongly and worked their way to the visitors' line where Lacey went over to pass to Lang, who was lying handy, to score a try which Dunn converted. G. Russell, last year's inside three, playing as hooker, carried play back to the Strath. "25," where the game was hotly contested, but eventually the School forwards gained possession and, passing among themselves, enabled Black to score half way between the posts and touch; Dunn failed to bring

about full points. Play was very fast, but this suited the School who were obviously in better training, and near half-time scored again through a penalty from a difficult angle.

In the second half play was more even, and for a while no scoring took place. The visitors' threes spelt danger when they broke away, and their wing man was only brought down on the line. Play remained in the school "25" for some time, but the defence prevailed and eventually a kick to touch relieved matters, for the School backs took up the story, and a good movement from the half-way line ended in Fraser scoring too far out for Black to convert. Almost immediately afterwards Dunn cleverly dropped a goal. The visitors then forced matters and had hard luck in not opening their account. At last, a few minutes before time, Leonard Fraser dropped a goal from well up the field.

Result: Strathallan, 18 pts.; L. Fraser's XV., 4 pts.

The game between the F.P.'s and the School was played at Forgandenny on 1st December in ideal weather. The F.P.'s won a hard-fought match by 8 points to nil.

In the first half the F.P.'s should have led by quite a comfortable margin; instead they turned round with only a 3 point lead, gained through a clever try by Barr. The kick failed. The second half opened in promising style for the school, and it was only good kicking and fielding by Ramsey that kept them at bay. However, a slip by the home defence enabled Barr to break through, and after giving the "dummy" to several opponents, when challenged by Sinclair, he passed in to Lambie, who grounded between the posts. The last named, taking the kick himself, brought out full points. That terminated the scoring.

The School were best served by Sinclair and Moncur in the backs, while Black and Constable played a hard game among the forwards. For the F.P.'s, Barr, Ramsey, Lambie and S. Dow were best.

It may be that the School's defeat was due to their having used up so much energy in taking free kicks!

K. Ramsey (Aberdeenshire).
 W. Frew (Ayr).
 A. Fraser (Kirkcaldy).
 R. Barr (captain), (Glasgow University 2nd XV.).
 T. Irvine (Cartha).
 J. F. Dow (Glasgow University 3rd XV.).
 G. F. Todd (Kilmalcolm).
 W. A. C. Lambie (Glasgow Academicals 2nd XV.).
 S. Ferguson (West of Scotland 2nd XV.).
 D. Frew (Ayr).
 S. Dow (Glasgow High School F.P. 2nd XV.).
 A. Moodie (Whitecraigs).
 C. M'Geachy (Kilmalcolm).
 J. G. Walls (Cartha 2nd XV.).
 D. O. Melrose (Kilmalcolm).

Second Fifteen

Although the Second XV. has had a singularly unsuccessful term, there has been a welcome improvement shown in the later games. The team commenced the season fairly well, only losing to Aberdeen Grammar School by a margin of eight points in the Granite City. They won the next match against Morrison's Academy, but lost the three games following, to Dundee High School 1st XV., Glasgow High School, and Dollar Academy—all away from home, and the first and last under exceptionally bad weather. This run of failure was, however, brought to a stop by a good win over Perth Academy 1st XV., when there was a revival of the team spirit lacking in the previous games. This improvement was maintained in the next match, against Perthshire A, which was lost by a narrow margin. Under these circumstances, next term need not be awaited with any misgivings.

Criticism of Season's Play.

The close of the first half of the season does not show a very satisfactory record for our 1st and 2nd XV's. Cancelled matches, however, probably robbed us of some much

needed victories which would have imparted more self confidence to the players. They need not be despondent, however. The first, especially, are now greatly improved, and if they play up to the full scope of their capabilities we should yet be able to chronicle a successful season.

Sinclair, so far, has been the most outstanding player, and his tackling has been a splendid example for his team to follow. The team should remember that the weakness lies not so much in the inability to tackle as in the insufficient amount of tackling attempted. A missed tackle by a back is always noticeable, but has it occurred to the forwards the numerous opportunities for tackling they themselves have allowed to go by? Furthermore, these missed chances, sometimes from a seemingly impossible scoring position, throw more work on the backs and very often result in tries being scored.

The 1st XV. forwards, under Black's lead, look like proving a formidable octette. There is a distinct improvement in the heeling from loose scrummages and this is all the more welcome when we realise the advantage it gives the backs to attack a temporarily disorganised defence. In the line-outs from touch, however, there is room for much improvement. In the first instance, the wingmen underestimate the importance of the actual throw-in, the result being a general lacking in accuracy and intelligence; in the second instance, the forwards are too mechanical and fail to take the benefit the ruling on touch meant them to have when a player from their own side throws in. Fixed places for marking are all very well when an opponent throws in, but not otherwise.

The fifteen are being well served at half-back, though it is to be hoped that Moncur will assert himself more. At centre, Docherty is rapidly gaining in experience, but would make his tackle still more secure if he went above the knees instead of below. M'Ewen, always a dangerous attacking player, is gradually making more use in his tackling of the physical strength he undoubtedly possesses. Despite this, however, two fast breaking, hard tackling wing for-

wards will have to be forthcoming to lend solidity to the defence.

There will also be some competition for the wing three-quarter positions, as some of the younger players are rapidly overhauling their seniors. As it is, the present wingers are too easily eluded.

JAZZ BAND.

The Jazz Band continues to flourish, and although its membership is but ten, all are pulling their weight. At present we have four violins, one 'cello, three "ukes," piano-forte and drums. To the initiative of our drummer (F. Grant) we owe not a little of the success of many of our efforts, and while the "ukuele-ists" at times do their best to drown the pianist and everyone else in the band, they frequently provide some novel cross-rhythmic effects. In this matter, C. Lacey often shows great resourcefulness. We shall be glad to hear of any other instrumentalists who care to join us. A saxophonist will be specially welcomed.

On December 1st we helped to provide entertainment for some twenty Old Boys after the annual Rugger Match between the School and a team of O.S's. On this occasion an enjoyable evening was spent in the Junior Common Room. All joined in the singing, or perhaps one should say, the shouting of popular chorus songs, while Mr. D. O. Melrose (an O.S.) amused the company in the capacity of comic conductor. The proceedings terminated with the School Song and "Auld Lang Syne."

As usual, the Band provided music during the intervals of the Dramatic Society's performance at the end of term, when they included in their selections, "Ole Man River," "Ramona," and "My Inspiration is You."

“O.S.” Notes

MR. K. W. RAMSAY, who is residing at Westfield Road; Stonehaven, has passed his B.Sc. examination in Engineering at Aberdeen University. All Strathallians, especially those of his years, will join in tendering him heartiest congratulations. Keith is intending to go out to the Malay States and O.S's. in these parts will no doubt be hearing from him if his plans mature.

We congratulate Mr. T. M. Hart on being chosen as Reserve for Glasgow in the Inter-City match. It is certainly a feather in his cap, and we all hope that when Waddell retires, Tommy Hart will be Scotland's next stand-off half. He is playing a brilliant game for Glasgow University, and English papers, commenting on his play at Oxford against the University there, stated that “the much-belauded Oxford stand-off was completely eclipsed by Hart.”

Mr. George Ritchie, of Dundee High School F.P's., and one of the best scrummagers Strathallan ever produced, has been chosen to play for the North and South against the Anglo-Scots at Galashiels, and, although George is very young, we have distinct hopes that he may go a stage further this year and appear in the final trial at Murrayfield.

Still another O.S. has figured with credit in the Scottish trials, namely, Mr. W. Frew. Although a forward at school, he is now playing wing three-quarter for Ayr and, in that position, scored the only try obtained by the West against the North of Scotland.

Dr. R. B. Lumsden, an O.S. of Bridge of Allan days, is at present collaborating with a Canadian doctor at Edinburgh University in research work. We have seen at least one published paper to their credit, and it cannot

be long before their labours receive tangible recognition from their alma mater.

Mr. Alan Porter, a former Rugger captain and a member of the London Scottish team, has gone out to Rangoon for his firm, Messrs. Steel Bros., and there is no doubt he will be welcomed by his old friend, Mr. W. R. Morrison. There are many Strathallians in this district now, and we suggest that they should get together and have a “Strath. Dinner” and send us an account of it for the Magazine. If they can arrange to hold a dinner, they might even go a step further and consider starting a branch of the Club in Rangoon. There is a great deal of truth in the old song—“The more we are together . . .”

Mr. Colin Bowman, of Kirkcaldy, has gone out to Port Swettenham, Selangor, on behalf of the Jugro Land and Carey Ltd. If any O.S's. in the Penang region find themselves in this district, Colin will be delighted to see them. Before going out, he took the Tropical Planters' Course, with credit, at Aberdeen University.

Mr. D. S. Smith, who was playing for the Calcutta fifteen against the fifteen representing Rangoon, had a pleasant surprise when he met his old colleague and friend, Mr. W. R. Morrison, among the members of the Burma team. One of these days, perhaps, Dan will favour us with a description of this competition, which seems to excite a good deal of attention over in India. Many will remember that Mr. T. Ferguson was a member of one of the Rangoon teams, and he, too, had a very similar meeting with Dan. When Mr. A. Porter finds his way into the team alongside his friend, “W.R.M.,” somebody can look out, for in Scotland they had few superiors as a combination in School rugby.

Mr. A. S. Thomson would very much like to hear from Mr. Todd, who was at Strathallan, Bridge of Allan, and who lived at Park Terrace, Stirling. We believe him to be somewhere in Rhodesia. If this should come to his notice, a letter to 3 Tullylumb Terrace, Perth, will soon bring an answer from "Zacks."

We had a very interesting letter from our old friend, the Reverend Mr. Brownlie, who is at present wintering on the Riviera. He regretted his inability to be present at our annual re-union, and we all missed The Padre, and many were the enquiries as to his absence. Happily we are able to assure everyone that he is quite well and sends to all Strathallians "*The heartiest greetings.*" ("O.S." chorus): "*Thank you, Sir, same to you.*" We all hope that he will be able to be present on the Commemoration Day, the last Saturday in June.

Many Strathallians scattered over the various parts of India and America will be very interested in a match which was played at Denham, near to London, between the firms of Steel Bros. and Balfour Williamson's, in which were figuring ten Strathallians. Both sides were captained by "O.S." Mr. Gaston Bonthron and Mr. Sandy Bonthron respectively, and the game was refereed by Mr. Riley. The final score was fifteen points to nil in favour of Steel's, for whom Mr. J. C. Highet scored two fine tries after openings were cleverly made by Mr. A. C. Montgomery. The game was very evenly contested, in spite of the score, and Balfour's came very near to scoring

several times, but failed at the crucial moment. The Strathallians taking part in the game, other than those already mentioned, were Messrs. W. L. Anderson, R. A. Anderson, J. B. Rowan, I. Campbell, W. B. Mount, J. Burns. Mr. J. Motion, who has played so many fine wing games for School, was unable to turn out for Balfour's owing to a cold.

I hear that one of the London Scottish teams is very anxious to play a game against the London "Strath." Club, who I am sure will put up a very fine fight, for they have available some of the best of the School fifteens about four and five years ago. We think that they might get into touch with Mr. Guthrie Reid, of Lochside, Bearsden, and find out whether there are likely to be any of the Glasgow "O.S." who would care to assist them on this occasion.

Being a version of "The Ancient Mariner."

The Boss was cheered, the way was cleared;
Merrily did they strip,
Over the edge and through the air,
Below the waves they dip.

The great race grew, the white foam flew,
The furrow followed free:
They were the first that ever burst
Into that silent sea.

J. R. L.