

# THE STRATHALLIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

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VOLUME ONE

NUMBER ELEVEN

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## Editorial

IT is long since we have enjoyed so glorious a summer term, and it is only natural that the sunny weather calls for out-of-door recreations: the magazine has inevitably suffered in consequence. This did not materially discourage us, for "what is lost upon the roundabouts we make up on the swings"—the very out-of-door pastimes were to provide us with abundant material. Even the fact that many of our contributors, in the last throes of preparation for Cambridge Local Examinations, could not actively support us did not daunt. And with the summer term a thing of the past, and the long evenings upon us, hope springs eternal . . .

### THE SCHOOL LIBRARY.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have subscribed, either in money or books, to the School Library. The old Mansion House library, with its many handsome fittings, is now to be devoted solely to its former purpose, and we have catalogued about 600 books.

Those who have been withholding their books until the Library was ready to receive them may now safely send them forward in the certain knowledge that they will be housed properly.

The existence of a Library will naturally be felt by everyone, and we on the Editorial Board hope to reap some benefit; for the Library, properly organised, will also act as a quiet room, and quiet, we have been often assured, is essential to composition. We trust that in the Library, with its peaceful atmosphere, inspiration will flow freely, and we shall benefit by those inspirations.

With the introduction of the Form-Master system into the School life, a new feature suggests itself for all future numbers of the magazine, **ROUND THE FORM ROOMS**; and short contributions from the various form captains upon the activities and achievements of their forms will be welcomed for this item.

This brings us to the advent of our contemporary, the magazine of Form S 2. First we offer our congratulations to its enterprising organisers. We understand that these enthusiasts have already begun to realise the difficulties of publication, a fact which must enable them to realise as never before how great are those of a magazine that is to appear before a much wider public than their own, and to travel to all parts of the globe. The contents of their magazine

prove that there is considerable talent lying dormant in the form (and if in that form, why not everywhere?) yet few, if any, of its contributors have felt called upon to support their School Magazine. We suggest that

such an attitude reveals a lack of proportion and responsibility; and while wishing the Form magazine every success, we would ask those responsible for it to reconsider their attitude towards "The Strathallian."



**Sports Day Group.**

Professor J. E. A. Steggall.  
Miss Riley.

Mr. Riley.

A. M. Melville, Esq.  
Mrs. Melville.

### A HANDSOME GIFT TO STRATHALLAN.

Mr. A. M. Melville, of Langbank, has presented to the School a very beautiful silver cup, together with 500 shares in a first class industrial concern, the India Tyre and Rubber Co., Ltd., of Inchinnan.

This will be known as the Melville Cup and will be awarded each year to the cock house at Cricket, whilst the dividends from the shares will more than provide for a replica to be given to the Captain of the winning team. The surplus is to be devoted at the discretion of the Headmaster to foster sport at School.

### THE ANNUAL DINNER.

Saturday the 20th December has been fixed as the date for the Annual Dinner in Glasgow.

Individual invitations will be sent out to all members early in November. Should any such invitation go astray in the post, members should write to the Convener of the Dinner Committee (Mr. D. O. Melrose, The Hirsell, Bridge of Weir) for tickets.

With the increasing membership of the Club, we hope to see the Annual Dinner becoming more of a success each year, and all members are asked to do their utmost to be present on this occasion.

## School Notes and Notices

THIS term has witnessed some notable innovations at Strath., all of which will have an influence upon the corporate life of the School. Not least of these is the introduction of the Form-Master system. This has led to a greater keenness in all matters, particularly on the sports field, where inter-form matches have been the order of the day. This should have considerable influence in raising the standard of play throughout the School: while from a social and educative standpoint, in the upper part of the School at least, it is proving very valuable.

Of less abstract value, but far more material, is the new wing containing the sick room, which is so near to completion that next term should find it in use. The building only needs the mellowing effect of time to make it indistinguishable from the older part of the House, so skilfully is it imitated architecturally.

The hard tennis courts unfortunately took longer than was anticipated to prepare, but two courts were ready a week or so before the end of term, and the semi-finals and finals of the tennis championships were held on them. We congratulate A. Morrison upon repeating his last year's success and having the honour of being first hard court champion of the School. He is, in passing, a much improved player on last year's showing. S. Wright was successful in the junior event, but the finalists were by no means so good as last year's pair.

The cricket pavilion, opened on Sports Day by Mr. Melville, is a great acquisition to the School amenities. So admirably does it fit in with the surroundings that the lawn's beauty is enhanced by it, if Man's work can ever be said to improve on Nature. The whole School, and particularly the teams,

have every reason to be proud of their new headquarters.

Mr. Melville perpetuated his opening of the pavilion by presenting the School with a beautiful cup for cricket. He has handsomely endowed the cup, so that each year a replica of the cup will come into the possession of the captain of the winning House. This year Freeland were the fortunate winners, for after disposing of Nicol by a seven-wicket victory, they defeated Ruthven (who had won their way into the final, after a hard fight, at the expense of Simpson) by 97 runs to 29, thereby robbing them of the honour of holding both rugby and cricket cups.

Sports Day, on May 28th, was a highly successful function, and a large number of Old Boys and parents were present. We congratulate and thank all who helped to make the afternoon a success, particularly thanking Mr. Melville and Professor Steggall for their share in the day's proceedings. Our congratulations are particularly extended to C. Lacey, who carried off the Victor Ludorum Cup for the second year in succession. That the success was thoroughly deserved is borne out by the fact that, reviewing his services to the School during the past twelve months, we find Lacey has gained his colours in both rugby and cricket, has been runner-up in both the tennis and swimming championships, and has been a real tower of strength as centre-forward in the School water polo team. He is surely one of the best all-rounders the School has produced.

A word upon the popularity of the swimming is hardly out of place; and the visit of Renfrew Amateurs S.C. has done much to increase it. Interest in water polo is rapidly increasing, and we hope in the not too distant future House matches will be possible.

We are pleased to say that the Renfrew club will visit the School again next year.

The cricket elevens have enjoyed a highly successful season : indeed, the first team has been a record-breaking one, and by losing but two matches it has some claims to be recognised as the best side the School has fielded. There is no doubt that as a batting side at least they may claim pride of place before all past elevens, for every member of the team was capable of making a score, no less than five of them passing the half century at least twice during the season; while there are high hopes, in view of Leburn's century in the last game, that next year he will beat T. M. Hart's record aggregate of 530. The bowling of the side did not appear nearly so formidable, though it is possible that the dry wickets experienced through the season may have helped to give that impression. There is little doubt, however, that in the field the side was much below several sides still remembered by present pupils, only D. Thomson and C. Lacey living up to the usually high standard. We congratulate D. Bell upon his meteoric rise to fame in cricketing circles. To win a First Eleven Cap and carry off the bat awarded for the most improved batsman in a single season is highly creditable; but his 321 runs and five catches fully justify his reward.

Next term will see the resumption of all the usual social activities—the cinema, the Dramatic Society, and the series of lectures. So far, only two lecturers have been engaged, but negotiations are in progress for others. The Rev. A. R. Runnels-Moss will again return, this time with another of his interesting lantern lectures, " Britain in the Antilles," and Captain Daintree is due to repeat his lecture on Life-saving, which boys intending to take part in the life-saving class will do well to attend.

Then, too, there will be the Library. This will be housed in the old Library of the House, and full rules and regulations will be drawn up in due course. For the moment it is enough to indicate the general method of management. D. Muir has been appointed as Librarian, and he or his assistants will be in constant attendance during the periods when it is open. Books will only be borrowed, however, at certain times, but the Library will be open as a quiet room and for reference at other times; books in the reference section will not be allowed out of the Library on loan.

The summer term always sees a large number of seniors saying good-bye to school-days, and this term is no exception, and therefore we bid all so doing " God speed " and wish them every success in their new surroundings. Owing to the uncertainty as to which of the seniors may be returning next term, the full list of promotions has not been made. D. Walker remains in his capacity as Captain, and G. Moncur, R. Balfour, J. T. Johnston, and W. G. Leburn have been made House Captains.

### EXAMINATION RESULTS.

We have very great pleasure in recording the best results ever gained by the School in the Cambridge Examinations. Both Senior and Junior Classes excelled, the former scoring Eight Honours and Twenty Distinctions out of Eighteen candidates, whilst the latter scored Nine Honours and Three Distinctions. There were Thirty-eight candidates and Thirty-three passes in all. Charlie MacLay gained Six Distinctions in the School Certificate Examination, a record for the School. We offer our heartiest congratulations to him and to all the successful candidates, as well as to the staff who have made such a splendid result possible.

## Chapel Notes

ON June 8th, Captain Baker gave us an account of the work that is being carried on by him and his helpers in connection with the Thimble Row Mission School in Perth. After hearing his plans for providing the boys and girls of his school with a Summer Treat, we decided to give the sum of £12 10/- for the purpose of financing this undertaking. Captain Baker convinced us that the Mission was carrying on a good work among the very poorest of the district, and we are glad to believe that by giving this sum from our funds we are bringing a little sunshine into the lives of these children who, through no fault of their own, are less fortunately situated than we.

On June 22nd, Professor J. A. Steggall, of St. Andrew's University was present at the service and delivered the address. His text, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Ecclesiastes ix., 10) was one he had chosen when, as a master of Clifton College, fifty-one years ago, he had addressed the boys of that School. Enlarging on the theme, Professor Steggall showed how thoroughness, earnestness and amiability might be combined in all our actions at school and elsewhere, and said that by the practice of these qualities our progress along the road of life would prove to be more successful. He stressed his points by quoting incidents from the lives of Charles Kingsley and John Stuart Mill, both of whom were prominent men of his youth, and he advised us to play our part with that earnestness which these men had displayed. Above all, concluded the Professor, we must follow the supreme example of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This term we say good-bye to the following members of the Choir:—H. Cowper, I. Gilchrist, I. Henderson, G. Sturrock and A.

L. White. In wishing them every success in life, we desire to offer our thanks for the valuable assistance they have given in the work of the Chapel.

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## Commemoration Day

The way in which the idea of Commemoration Day has seized upon the minds of all Old Strathallians was well illustrated by the numbers who attended the second of these days on Saturday, June 28th. The numbers were nearly double those of last year, and of these over forty were at the School in time for the Chapel service at three o'clock.

This year arrangements were made whereby the whole School attended the service, and the juniors, who were witnessing their first Commemoration Service, could not fail to be impressed by the solemnity of the occasion. The hymns selected this year were: "All people that on earth do dwell," "Soldiers of Christ arise" and "Fight the good fight."

Mr. Riley read a passage from John, Chapter xiv., and in his address used it to illustrate the meaning of life and the best method of living. He emphasised the necessity of treading in Christ's ways and of not counting worldly success as the be-all and end-all of living, the spirit which made for success, the consciousness of well-doing being the primary aim.

After the service, the Old Boys met the School at Cricket, Swimming and Water Polo, records of which encounters will be found in the Cricket and Swimming Notes, respectively. One could not help wondering, however, where the next service would be housed if the numbers continue to increase at the present rate.

## A Night in Tangiers

OUR Moorish guide was waiting for us at the hotel door as we went out, and we followed him along the esplanade to the entrance of the harbour. Here a few Moors moved about or palavered in small groups, while an occasional Spaniard strolled past with his fiancée on his arm. The waves were breaking slowly, lazily, on the sandy beach, each little crest glittering like gold in the moonlight. From a distant café weird strains of music floated out on the warm night air.

We turned and wandered up a narrow street into the town, pushing our way past gossiping groups of Arabs, until at last we entered a narrow alley which led into a crowded courtyard. Along the passage-way were many clusters of excited people, some standing, some seated on seats arranged along the wall. We sat down, too, for we were about to witness a Moorish wedding.

Occasionally a Moorish youth would come up and endeavour to sell a leather pocket book or cigarette case. Then, as if a door had suddenly been opened, a great noise of babbling and shouting, mingled with the shrill notes of some reed instrument and the beat of a drum, issued from the courtyard beyond.

The noise grew louder, and the reeds began to play a more definite air: then came about a dozen men blowing into their pipes for dear might, marching in order, while behind came a gaily decorated mule, on the back of which was precariously perched a large box draped with beautiful silk cloth. The interior of the box could not be seen, but within it sat the bride, huddled into a very cramped position and probably making a wry face at every jolt of the mule. Behind followed her relations, who were accompanied by a large negress who had been her nurse and would take care of her until she was delivered to her husband. Then followed several men carrying burning candles in large candlesticks, one candle for every year of her life. This one was about fourteen apparently. After this followed the guests, and any spectator who cared to join took up the rear.

The procession passed out into the street amid great excitement and was lit up by great paraffin lanterns carried by some hired men, upon their heads. The number of lanterns, we were told, varies according to the bride's wealth. Gradually the whole company filed through the passage and marched round the streets of the town "until the bride became sick" to use our guide's words, an event which from all appearances seemed destined to occur in the not distant future.

The husband may not have seen his wife-to-be before the ceremony, so that it is really a gamble whether she proves satisfactory or not. She is not unveiled until three days after her marriage when she first appears before him and is introduced to the harem. Mohammedans are allowed as many as four wives, but our guide deemed one quite enough for him—wise man.

After the procession had passed, we pursued our way through narrow cobbled streets till our guide halted at a door in the wall and bade us follow him up the rickety wooden staircase which led up to a Moorish café.

This was a large, bare room divided into two, one half for the orchestra and the other for the patrons. On our right another smaller room was situated, in which a large straw matting provided the sole furniture. Round this mat squatted a number of bare-footed old cronies engaged in a game of cards. As it is forbidden them to go on to a carpet wearing shoes, these are placed round the wall as far from the mat as possible.

Sitting down at a long wooden trestle table, the only table in the room, we ordered Moorish coffee. It was somewhat strong coffee—a kind of liquid solid, if you understand. Soon, for our special benefit, the orchestra came in to play. If you can imagine a stormy night, with the wind howling round the chimney-tops, the slates rattling, the trees moaning, rain and hail pattering on the window, the neighbour's dog accompanying his youthful mistress on the violin and the cats from all the surrounding houses fighting under the window, you may gather

some idea of what the tumultuous noise concocted by the orchestra resembled, although but a faint one. Love songs sounded like dirges, and dirges like the noise of battle. How those wild men ill-treated their poor instruments! It was the most trying half hour I have ever spent, and the noise will ring long in my ears. . . .

We were returning home again. Still the waves rolled lazily in on the sandy shore, and Moors and Spaniards conversed in low tones along the esplanade; the moon still shone on the heaving waters, and all was quiet and peaceful. Yet away in the distance was the dreadful tumult of weird and fantastic noises, the echoes of what the Moors in Algiers call an orchestra.

G. D. M.

### ROMANCE

(With apologies to a certain journal that some time ago published a charming if over-sentimental poem).

#### I.

I once made an acquaintance with  
Miss Joycelyn Transom Pondlesdith—  
A maid most charming and most sweet,  
In manners modest and discreet;  
It seemed most opportune to meet  
Together.

#### II.

We sat out on a terrace green,  
A cypress made a perfect screen;  
We talked of this and that, you know,  
And scandalised Miss So-and-So,  
And, when our converse ceased to flow,  
The weather.

#### III.

The flowers were closing, and the trees  
Swayed (hear Pope sneering) in the breeze  
That played across the lawn askance  
To cool my blood, hot with the dance,  
Or rather, let us say, perchance  
With sherry.

#### IV.

I grew perhaps a trifle bold—  
I took her hand—she did not scold,  
But rose with gesture slightly peeved,  
And then (my ears were not deceived)  
I from her pouting lips received  
The Berry.

I. C.

### A LACQUER TRAY

Look, there's a slender bridge of woven gold  
High-arched across a reed-filled winding  
stream;

A mountain in the distance, white and bold  
Against the saffron sunset, and a seam  
Of floating clouds above the silvered lake  
Where tiny boats, with tapered wing-like  
sails,

Black 'gainst the skyline, flit as gulls, their  
wake

A rippling furrow: while o'er the rails  
There leans a maid with almond eyes, her  
hands

Filled with sweet lotus flowers plucked from  
the edge

Of that same stream, where yonder doleful  
stands

The graceful weeping willow tree. A wedge  
Of swift winged geese, like arrows in the  
sky,

Go seek those spicy lakelands far away.  
Their shadows are upon the lake, for I  
Can see them on the silver etched in grey.

I. C.

### A VIGNETTE—LOCH TANA.

Far in the mountains bleak and bare,  
Few spots possess such beauty rare  
As Tana's Loch, 'mid granite pile  
Up Ranza's Glen full many a mile.

Circled by rocks of greyish hue,  
The Loch reflects the sky's clear blue  
And on the traveller's weary sight  
It breaks as 'twere a sapphire bright :

But when at closer quarters seen,  
The waters lose their azure sheen  
To turn to crystals wondrous clear,  
Sweet nectar to the wandering deer.

There, twilight stealing down the hill,  
Deer and sheep come drink their fill,  
And ripple Tana's placid frame  
With eddying flakes of silver flame.

E B. M.

## Acoustics

THE old gentleman was rather out of breath by the time he reached the gates of the castle, but his thirst for knowledge overcame his weakness, and, puffing and panting like a locomotive after a long run, he ascended the short flight of steps to the guide's little office, and, tendering a sixpence, asked to be conducted over the ruins. The guide, a choleric old warrior with a red moustache, locked the door of his little hut, and, indicating with a wave of his hand the crumbling walls and battlements around them, commenced his parrot-like oration:

"These noble buildings, the remains of which you are now gazing upon, were built in the year 1068 A.D. by William the Conqueror in order to protect this part of the coast —."

"His ghost! did you say," interrupted the old gentleman. "Speak up, I'm slightly deaf."

"'Coast,' I said. In order to protect this part of the coast from the Danish raiders who were very troublesome at this time. In 1207 another wing was added by King John, and the next year the same monarch caused that part at the rear to be built."

"What a shame! Fancy causing the beer to be spilt! And beer was such a price then, too!"

The guide said something which sounded like "ham," or it may have been "jam," and then continued:

"During the Wars of the Roses, the Duke of York was imprisoned in the castle for a short time, but, with the aid of a friendly soldier he managed to escape and rejoin the White Rose."

"Who broke it?"

"Broke what?"

"You said that he managed to re-join his wife's nose."

"'The White Rose!' I said. The White Rose! The emblem of the Yorkists! He succeeded in getting back to his army, and gained a great victory. For a long time this castle was one of the seats of the Earls of Bedford."

"Quite right, too! I always sleep between blankets myself, but I believe that sheets are more healthy. Go on."

"George, the third Earl of Bedford, was a cruel tyrant, and was slain by his brother."

"Trained by his mother! What a coincidence! So was I."

"Oh! Killed by his father's son, then," growled the guide.

The old gentleman scratched his head. "Sisters and brothers have I none, but — er — father's son —. Oh! I see! Himself! He committed suicide, then! I see! Go on."

Speechless with exasperation, the guide stared at the mild little man beside him. Then he started to explain:

"The Earl of Bedford had a brother. Have you got that?"

"No," replied the old man, "I'm an only son."

The guide turned a rich purple.

"The Earl of Bedford's brother killed the Earl of Bedford!" he stormed.

"I see," was the reply. "The brother crept up to the Earl and killed him with a sword."

"It was a dirk," corrected the guide.

"Killed him with a sword when it was dark," said the old gentleman.

"A dirk! A shortened knife!!" yelled the guide.

"Sorry! And so shortened his life."

With a gesture of despair, the guide continued:

"Towards the end of the eighteenth century the castle fell into disrepair —."

"Fell into this — what?" interrupted the old gentleman, his hand to his ear.

"It was requiring REPAIRS!!!!!" shrieked the guide.

"Three pairs of what?" asked the old man in puzzled tones.

The purple deepened.

"REPAIRED — MENDED — WITH STONES — ROCKS!!!!!" screamed the guide.

"Oh!" said the old gentleman, mildly, "three pairs of socks! Why didn't you say so at first?"

*(Collapse of guide.)*

W. H. B.



## What's the use of it?

A PITIABLE looking individual appeared at the end of the lane. His head was bowed as if with shame: he dragged one foot after the other: in his hand he carried a small case from which protruded the end of a gaudy coloured stocking and a dangling lace.

He was returning from the trial match of the Bartquin Rugby Football Club. It was his third season, and he had been turned down again; he could not muster sufficient courage to return home where he could expect no sympathy, but rather would be chided for playing "such a senseless game" as it was called in his family circle. He vainly sought for a tree which would serve as a gallows, but none presented itself, and he found himself at length at his own garden gate.

He shied at it and furtively moved to the back entrance by which he reached his bedroom unobserved. As he glanced in the mirror, he noticed a few scratches and bruises on his face, and he wondered what his mother would say.

He need not have worried himself. When he put in an appearance at the tea table, he was greeted with cries from all sides, but there was nothing said that he had not heard many times before. He hung his head and made a muffled sound of disgust in reply to his mother's "Well, dear, and how did you get on this afternoon?" and rose and left the room when his younger brother made his usual joke, "I'd take up tiddly-winks if I were you. What's the use . . .?"

He went to another room. Always it was the same. Always they came back to that inane question "What's the use of it?" Wearily he sank into an arm chair and picked up a book, opening it at random. His attention was quickly caught by what he read, the story of the old lady and the scientist, Faraday. She had listened intently to all his lecture on the new invention, but afterwards approached him and said, "But what's the use of it?" The

scientist replied, "What's the use of a new-born baby? It will grow up."

He closed the book. How like himself it was, only he had no reply to make like the scientist to put an end for ever to the innuendoes.

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It was the following day, when a very high wind was blowing, that, as he was walking along the main street, a great gust of wind lifted his hat and sent it careering madly down the centre of the road. He leapt in pursuit. "There are very few moments of a man's existence when he experiences so much ludicrous distress, or meets with so little charitable commiseration as when he is in pursuit of his own hat." The words flashed through his mind, and then he was on the rugger field, running down the touch line. He swerved beautifully round a lamp-post and was in the middle of the road. He bore down on his hat, gathered it in fine style from the wheels of an oncoming vehicle, side-stepped the latter neatly and found himself on the opposite pavement. A man ran to his side with an extended hand. "By jove," he said, "as pretty a run as ever I saw. Can't understand how we haven't spotted you before. Repeat that on the field at practice to-morrow night, and you'll find yourself in the first fifteen on Saturday."

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"You're not going out, are you?" his mother asked the Saturday afternoon following.

"Yes, I'm going up to the rugger field."

"But what's the use? You'll never get a game."

He smiled as he closed the door. After all there did not seem any need for a crushing remark like Faraday's.

V. L.

## THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY

After the highly creditable performance of the younger members of the society in the last production no fears are entertained for a successful session during the winter months. The improvements in stage equipment have considerably reduced the large balance which had accumulated during the past sessions, but these expenditures have been justified by results, and with the large collection of plays in its possession the Society should be able to establish its position again financially very quickly.

## Income and Expenditure Account, 1930.

*Expenditure.*

To Sundry Purchases—				
Grease Paints ... ..	£0	2	11½	
Plays from French's ...		1	17	9
Wig ... ..		2	2	9
			<u>£4</u>	<u>3 5½</u>
To Sundry Expenses of Dramatic Production ... ..			0	16 11½
To Purchase of Material for Curtains ...		11	18	1
To Purchase of Chocolates, etc. ... ..		0	15	0
To Balance in hand—				
Cash at bank ... ..	£0	9	1	
Cash at French's ... ..		1	1	2
Cash in hand ... ..		1	6	2
			<u>2</u>	<u>16 5</u>
			<u>£20</u>	<u>9 11</u>

*Income.*

By Balance brought forward from Dec., 1929—				
Cash in hand ... ..	£0	6	8	
Cash in bank ... ..		0	9	1
Reserve Fund ... ..		5	17	5
Cash at French's ... ..		2	18	1
			<u>£9</u>	<u>11 3</u>
By 54 Subscriptions at 2/- each ... ..		5	8	0
By Mr. Riley's Donation to Reserve ...		3	0	0
By Collection at Easter, 1930 ... ..		2	10	8
			<u>£20</u>	<u>9 11</u>

NOTES.—The Society has in its possession ten yards of velvet at 4/8 per yard, being a residue from the material used in making the curtains.

F. W. GRANT, *Hon. Treasurer.*

## CHANGE THE BALL

Our special correspondent has secured at great personal expense (to wit, four dry martinis) an interview with "Our Garge," the oldest drinker in "The Original Swan" (Oxfordshire). This great cricketing authority does not support the recent changes and the proposed methods for aiding the bowler. His novel suggestions, if adopted, will probably revolutionise the game.

"Oi, oi, guv'nor," said the great man, "Oi, oi!" He strained a third martini through his whiskers and looked hopefully at our representative. At the fourth he unwound himself. "'Ave two bowlers, one from each side of the wicket, is wot I sez, guv'nor. That 'ud puzzle this 'ere Bradman, aye, guv'nor? They might get mixed, they might. Better to 'ave a new kind o' ball. I never played with these there round ones, I didn't: ours was square, they was. Yes, guv'nor, square. Our old Jake 'e 'it 'em square in a match or two, didn't 'e, Albert?"

"Oi, oi, Guv'nor, oi remember as how oi played for Cowley, against Witney it was. Oi remember fine, oi do, for didn't oi hit the cow that day? That was six runs, that was. And the ball, none of your round red ones; it was like an egg, a duck's egg, guv'nor. Our young Willun, 'e sent it up quick loike and 'e puzzled them Witney boys, 'e did. If we 'ad oor Willun with that there ball, and oor 'Enery with a square ball, both the two o' them bowling at the same time, we'd puzzle this 'ere Bradman and forby Jackie Hobbs as well, guv'nor. Aye, guv'nor, for we used to puzzle oor Jake that way we did; and him with his small wickets and all, didn't we, Albert?"

"Thank'ee koindly, guv'nor. Oi darsn't drink bitters, oi darsn't. When oi swallers beer, oi prefers pilsner oi does. Oi baint no conservative, oi baint, oi guv'nor.

G. G. B.

## Sports Notes

### CRICKET

A VERY successful season has just been brought to a close. The weather throughout has been exceptionally fine, though at one time the pitches suffered through lack of rain. The record for the teams is a splendid one, the First XI getting through another season without suffering a single defeat from a school side, whilst the Second team won every match played. Apart from these successes, there is a definite improvement in the general standard of cricket amongst the rest of the School which is bound to be reflected later on the playing strength of future sides. A notable feature, which possibly has a bearing on the above, is the keenness and enthusiasm stimulated by means of class matches, as apart from the House matches. This is probably because the former provide so much more playing opportunities to a greater number of boys. After all, to play is the game!

The opening of the cricket pavilion on Sports Day was a memorable event in the annals of the School. We feel that the lawn has now changed from a mere lawn into a first-class cricket field.

The first eleven compares very favourably with past teams. There was no tail to the batting, which was easily the strongest department. Opponents who became too sanguine at the cheap dismissal of Strath's earlier batsmen were generally disillusioned by the later ones. There were faults nevertheless, but these were more apparent against club sides than against school teams. Experience is very often a decisive factor in cricket, and now they are wiser many of the team would probably relish another opportunity of facing Brechin's slow bowler. Among many high individual scores Leburn's century against Dunfermline High School was the highest, whilst Lacey's display in hitting 58 in eleven minutes will take a deal of beating. It is well to remember, however, that too much importance may be given to batting averages. A small score made when the side is struggling hard for runs is of more value

than a much bigger score when runs are not so needful.

The bowling strength was good, and on occasions very effective. It was noticeable early in the season, when given a wet wicket after a period of hard wickets, that most bowlers failed to appreciate the necessity of varying their length accordingly. The bowling, however, improved considerably towards the close of the season, and there was a more intelligent placing of the field.

The fielding was weak and undoubtedly below the standard set in previous years. Thomson, Lacey, and, possibly, Moncur alone were consistently good in ground fielding, and although some excellent catches were made, the returns to the wicket-keeper by most of the others were ponderously slow and inaccurate.

### Team Criticism

A. MORRISON, as captain, suffered through lack of experience at first, but later improved considerably in the handling of his team. His batting also for a while suffered through cares of captaincy, but he recovered and showed steadier batsmanship. Although not scoring freely, he often came to the rescue with timely stands. He was more successful as a bowler and was able to secure good wickets as well as keep the runs down.

C. W. LACEY was the team's best all-rounder. Imbued with plenty of fighting spirit, he was a dashing batsman, always on the aggressive, and made most of his runs in front of the wicket. Although the fastest bowler, he kept a good length and could turn in an exceptionally good ball from the off. A splendid fielder.

W. G. LEBURN, the opening batsman, plays a sound and steady game. Always a polished batsman, he is more developed and makes freer use of his array of strokes. On a bumpy wicket he is inclined to step away from a fast ball, but can be relied upon to make a stand when needed.

D. BELL developed rapidly as a wicket-keeper and though he had one or two off days, he was a success behind the wickets.

He stumped but few, but consistently saved innumerable runs, and with a slow spin bowler would have claimed far more victims. He is the most improved batsman, and though a little impetuous, sometimes can play a most careful and defensive game, particularly when occasion demands.

T. A. N. FORSYTH is another good all-rounder. He is quite a fine batsman with a free and stylish swing of the bat and has many splendid performances to his credit. He should, however, improve his running between the wickets. With slight assistance from the wind his swerve bowling is exceptionally dangerous. He is a little slow in the field.

D. THOMSON, at point, is the team's best fielder, and is an example to the rest of the side. His smartness and neat picking up have saved innumerable runs, whilst his catching and returns were always above reproach. He is a polished batsman with plenty of strokes and will some day, when he assumes the aggressive, make plenty of runs. He bowls a moderately good ball with a beautifully free action.

G. MONCUR has maintained good form throughout the season. He has scoring strokes which he is not afraid to use and has also a good defence. He is fast in the field and has made several good catches.

R. LINDSAY has been a very successful bowler. There are far fewer loose balls than of yore, whilst his good ones, turning in from the leg, are more dangerous and plentiful. He is a much better batsman than his position in the batting order suggests, but there is still room for improvement in his fielding.

G. STURROCK had rather a lean season. He is, however, a fine straight bat with splendid driving powers. He covers up extremely well and should certainly do well in the future. Although almost untried with the firsts, he might make a most useful bowler: he is still rather slow in fielding.

J. T. JOHNSTON is quite smart in the field and made some brilliant catches. He is still developing as a batsman and should do well next year, though his back defensive stroke is still a little faulty.

I. HENDERSON has a very stylish forward stroke but is disinclined to hit. He is, however, a promising batsman but should speed up his returns when fielding.

J. P. D. McT-J.

**George Heriot's School v. Strathallan**, at Goldenacre on Saturday, May 3rd.

Strath. won the toss but elected to field. Heriot's opened slowly, but Strath. met with an early success, Lindsay claiming the first wicket with only two runs on the board. The advantage thus gained was quickly lost, for the second wicket partnership yielded over eighty runs in well over an hour. The bowling, while of fairly good length, lacked guile, and the fielding was below standard; this being in part attributable to the fact that Strath. had had but two nights' practice. The partnership was at last broken by a good catch by Leburn, but the home side continued to master the bowling and declared at 149 for 5 wks.

The opening of Strath.'s innings was disastrous, and four wickets were down for 46 runs when Bell joined Forsyth, and together they pulled the game round, credit really belonging to the latter who played with caution, yet confidently, for 46. Seven wickets were down for 107, however, and Strath.'s chances far from rosy: Thomson helped to take the score up to 148. A further wicket fell without addition, and an exciting finish was witnessed. Strath., with a wicket to fall, required two runs for victory and one ball of the over, the last, remained. Amid sighs from all, the ball did no damage either way, a draw resulting. Bell was credited with 26 runs and Thomson with 29.

Result: George Heriot's, 149 for 5 wks.; Strathallan, 148 for 9 wks.

**Dollar Academy v. Strathallan**, at Dollar on Saturday, May 10th.

Losing the toss, Strath. were put in and Leburn and Forsyth gave the school a good start, 23 runs being scored before the latter was given out l.b.w. Something of a collapse followed, the fourth wicket falling at 33, the fifth at 39. At 43, Leburn, who had batted excellently for 22, was bowled, but thanks to a spirited rally by Moncur and Johnston a total of 83 was reached, Moncur

scoring 17, and Johnston carrying out his bat for 18.

Remembering Dollar's display of hitting last year, Strath. were by no means sanguine of success, but good bowling by Lindsay, who claimed seven victims for 29 runs, backed by excellent fielding, gave them the victory. After a good catch by Morrison off Forsyth had sent back Selkirk, the home captain, a collapse set in, the last five wickets falling for a mere 15 runs. Six of Dollar side were caught, Morrison clean bowling two men, however, for 13.

Result: Strathallan, 83; Dollar Academy, 63.

**Strathallan v. Dan Stewart's College**, at Forgandenny on Tuesday, May 20th.

Strath. were sent in to bat, but the opening pair were soon parted, Forsyth going out to a full toss with the score at 15. A period of bright hitting followed, but at 36 Bell was run out. Moncur and Leburn were associated in a stand of 43, the former claiming 27 before being caught. Leburn, hitherto caution personified, now attacked the bowling, but was eventually caught at point for a valuable 45. The remainder of the school side were very unenterprising and wickets fell at regular intervals till the whole side were out for 117.

The Stewart's batsmen were most unenterprising, and the cricket correspondingly dull. Obviously playing for a time draw, they were content to block without attempting to score, and against this attitude the bowlers could do little. When stumps were drawn, wickets were falling more rapidly and the total was 72 for 7 wickets. Morrison claimed three wickets for 19 runs; Lindsay, 2 for 25; and Forsyth, 2 for 10.

Result: Strathallan, 117; Dan Stewart's College, 72 for 7 wkts.

**Auchterarder v. Strathallan**, at Auchterarder on Wednesday, May 21st.

Strath. again batted first, having lost the toss, and the scoring was slow at first, the bowling of the opposition being of good length without being really deadly. Lacey enlivened matters during his short innings

for the third wicket, hitting a six in his total of 17. With five wickets down for 65, things were not going too well for Strath., but Sturrock came to the rescue with a not out innings of 31, which included a six and three fours, the innings being closed at 108 for the loss of 8 wickets.

Left with an hour and a quarter in which to make the runs, Auchterarder contented themselves with playing for time, the first half hour yielding 4 runs for the loss of three wickets. Against the defensive tactics the School were helpless, and an hour saw 24 runs on the board. When stumps were drawn half the side were out for 41, nine runs coming from three balls in the penultimate over.

Result: Strathallan, 108 for 8 wkts.; Auchterarder, 41 for 5 wkts.

**Strathallan v. India of Inchinnan**, at Forgandenny on Saturday, May 24th.

The visitors won the toss and decided to bat. The opening pair played confidently, especially Gormley, their captain, and the score had reached 33 before Thomson brought off a fine catch off Lacey to send Sinclair back for 10. The second wicket partnership was even more prolific, the score being 108 before Moncur caught Gormley for an admirable 69, including thirteen boundary hits. A sensational collapse followed the dismissal of the captain, and the whole side was out for a matter of 136. Forsyth was to be thanked for the change in the game for he took four wickets for 15 runs.

Strath. had about an hour and a half in which to bat, and the visitors' total seemed quite beyond their reach, particularly when Leburn was dismissed with the score at 17, and Bell followed him at 44. Lacey, with a quickly hit 17, set an example which Forsyth and Moncur were quick to follow however, and the score mounted rapidly, both batsmen hitting well all round the wicket. Fourteen runs were still required when the last over began. A wide and thirteen runs did the trick, Forsyth carrying his bat for 61, Moncur for 32.

Result: Strathallan, 137 for 3 wkts.; India of Inchinnan, 136.



**Cricket Group—1st XI., 1930.**

*Standing.*—J. T. Johnston, D. Bell, G. Sturrock, R. Lindsay, I. Henderson, D. S. Thomson.  
*Seated.*—N. Forsyth, G. Leburn, A. Morrison (Capt.), G. Moncur, C. Lacey.

**Strathallan v. Glasgow High School, at  
 Forgandenny on Saturday, May 31st.**

For the first time the new pavilion was used, and the School signalised the event with a convincing victory over their old rivals. The visitors were sent in to bat by Morrison and were soon in difficulties, for the pitch, without rain for two weeks, admirably suited the bowling of Lacey and Forsyth. At one time the High School were six wickets down for 20 runs, and though some effort was made to pull the game round by the later men, Forsyth proved unplayable, coming out with six victims for 21 runs. Lacey claimed the remaining four for 14, and the whole side were out for 53.

When Strath. went in to bat, disaster soon befell them for Forsyth was caught before he had scored. Leburn and Bell played cautiously for a time after this, but soon began to hit well despite numerous bowling changes. The game became a race for runs between the two, and the High School's total being passed, they went on to score 141 before the closure was applied. The stand of 140 is a record for the School. Bell included thirteen fours and a six in his 71, while Leburn had a six and ten fours in his 66.

Result: Strathallan, 141 for 1 wkt.;  
 Glasgow High School, 53.

**Aberdeen Grammar School v. Strathallan,  
 at Aberdeen on Saturday, June 7th.**

Winning the toss, Morrison sent in the home team, and a smart catch by Thomson saw the first wicket fall for six runs. The next batsmen, however, scored runs at a brisk pace, and when the third wicket fell the score had reached 40. For a time Strath. held the upper hand, and the next three men could gather only 12 runs. The seventh wicket, on the other hand, yielded 34, so that despite the failure of the "tail" Aberdeen amassed 105 runs. Forsyth and Morrison shared the bowling honours with 3 for 9 and 4 for 35 respectively, while Lindsay, coming on at the end, claimed two wickets for 13.

Once again the early batsmen failed when Strath. batted, Forsyth and Bell being dismissed for only 18 runs. Lacey and Leburn pulled the game round, carrying the score to 63 before the former was beaten for 24. Moncur helped Leburn to add 30, but when Leburn left at 101 for a stylish 38, the clock looked like beating Strath. Amid great excitement, however, Sturrock and



**Cricket Group—2nd XI., 1930.**

*Standing.*—R. Smith, G. Dickinson, F. Thompson, J. Wright, D. Walker, W. Macmillan.

*Seated.*—W. Watt, J. McCulloch, J. Ross (Capt), R. Balfour, W. Jack.

Morrison took the score up to 109 in the last over to give the School the victory.

Result: Strathallan, 109 for 5 wkts.; Aberdeen Grammar School, 105.

**Strathallan v. Pitlochry**, at Forgandenny on Monday, 9th June.

Conditions were far from ideal for this game, a drizzle which sometimes became a downpour falling throughout. The visitors were willing to play, however, and were sent in to bat by Morrison, who won the toss. The opening pair gave the side a good start, 36 runs being scored before Forsyth claimed the first wicket. The next two wickets fell quickly, Lacey making a good catch off his own bowling, but the next two scored fairly freely off Lacey and Morrison until Henderson made a fine one-handed catch off Lacey. Another wicket should have fallen immediately but a misunderstanding between Leburn and Morrison led to a "let-off" on the first ball the incoming man received. With 86 runs up for only 5 wickets, Pitlochry looked like building up a big score, but at this juncture Lacey struck his last season's form and disposed of the remaining batsmen for 16 runs, his full analysis being O. 13; M. 7; R. 30; W. 6.

Pitlochry's total of 102 did not appear very formidable in the light of the School's form in earlier matches, but the opening batsmen did not shape at all well, Forsyth leaving at 6 and Leburn and Lacey at 24 and 27 respectively. Moncur and Sturrock continued the procession, and half the side was out for 41. Bell, who had all this time been batting carefully, was joined by Morrison and their association pulled the game round and stopped the rot, 34 runs being added before Morrison fell to a catch at slips. Although Johnson failed to score, Thomson and Bell carried the score to 96, at which point the former was bowled. Henderson helped to take the score to 101 when Bell was bowled after playing a sterling innings of 34. As neither team had yet experienced defeat, the atmosphere was tense when Lindsay joined Henderson. He managed to make a single, and Henderson drove the next ball to the boundary to win the match, after which the last pair indulged in some bright hitting to take the score up to 135 before Lindsay was caught for 22, his partner carrying out his bat for 16.

Result: Strathallan, 135; Pitlochry, 102.



**Strathallan v. Dupplin**, at Forgandenny on Wednesday, 11th June.

Dupplin were sent in to bat and the School met with early success, the first three wickets falling for 17. An Old Boy stemmed the rot with some strong hitting, and others were not slow to follow his example. N. M'Leish headed the scoring with 30, but he, with the next two highest scorers, fell a victim to Lindsay at a cost of twenty-one runs. Lacey, who bowled unchanged, now became very dangerous, and from being 88 for 7 wickets, Dupplin were all out for 92, Lacey's analysis being 5 wickets for 42.

A rude shock awaited Strath. when they went in to bat. The visiting attack was fast, and it had the School beaten from the start. Forsyth was clean bowled for a single, Leburn was unfortunate to play on without scoring, Bell and Lacey ran themselves out on what seemed certain runs, and half the side was out for 4 runs. Despite a valiant effort to stem the tide by Sturrock and Morrison, the remainder of the team seemed demoralised by the early reverses, and an unenviable record was set up for the School by a total of 16.

Result: Strathallan, 16; Dupplin, 92.

**Luncarty v. Strathallan**, at Luncarty on Tuesday, 17th June.

Winning the toss, Luncarty batted first, and their opening pair hit strongly to send up 60 before being parted. The School attack was weakened by the absence of Lacey, and the home team continued to score freely until the score stood at 99 for 3 wickets. Then with Thomson keeping the score down at one end, Lindsay found his length to make the remaining batsmen look foolish, claiming five victims for 22, and bringing his total up to seven for 46. Luncarty's score of 121 flattered them, for Strath.'s fielding was poor, not even the deceptive light entirely accounting for dropped catches.

Strath. were unfortunate in losing Leburn with the score at 29, but good hitting by Bell took the score up to 45 for 3 wickets. Something of a collapse followed, and the score had only reached 65 with six wickets down. Henderson stepped into the breach, however, with a valuable not out innings of 26, and with Johnston, was making good

headway against the bowling when stumps were drawn at 86 for 7 wickets, Johnston being not out 9.

Result: Strathallan, 86 for 7 wkts.; Luncarty, 121.

**Brechin v. Strathallan**, at Brechin on Wednesday, 18th June.

Four Forfarshire players were in the home side, which Morrison sent in to bat when he won the toss. Lindsay claimed the first wicket in his opening over with only two runs scored, and further successes were claimed at regular intervals till the score reached 54 for 3 wickets. The home captain offered a stubborn resistance, but Lacey and Lindsay were both bowling well and for the most part the batsmen were subdued. The end came at 102, Lindsay finishing with an analysis of four wickets for 25; Lacey, three for 39; and Forsyth, two for 14.

The batting of the School, however, collapsed badly, and an excellent opportunity of avenging last season's defeat was missed. Laing's slow lobbs had all the batsmen beaten, for they were undecided whether to go out and hit, or be content to defend: whichever they did seemed wrong, for three were stumped in going out, and the balls broke so much that mere defence was almost impossible. As a result Strath.'s innings was a procession, only Bell reaching double figures, and the whole side being out for 44.

Result: Brechin, 102; Strathallan, 44.

**Strathallan v. Hillhead High School**, at Forgandenny on Saturday, 21st June.

Strath. lost the toss, but the visitors elected to bat and were quickly in difficulties, two runs only coming off the first eight overs. Forsyth, coming on for Lacey, with the score at 18, effected a separation of the opening pair, Bell taking a good catch behind the wicket. Thereafter the bowlers were definitely on top, wickets falling quickly, and the whole side could only muster 37 runs. Lindsay took half the wickets for 14 runs, and Lacey, 3 for 19.

Leburn and Bell opened cautiously, but gaining confidence, began to hit freely. The latter was unfortunate to be caught right on the boundary, having scored 20 of the 27 runs on the board. Moncur was next, and



he and Leburn saw the game won and carried the score to 62 before the latter was dismissed. Then came a magnificent display of hitting by Lacey—82 runs in twenty-five minutes. He included six sixes and nine fours in his innings. The rest of the side, with nothing at stake, did not take cricket very seriously and the final total was 192.

Result: Strathallan, 192; Hillhead High School, 37.

**Strathallan v. H. B. Rowan's XI.**, at Forgandenny on Wednesday, 25th June.

Winning the toss, Rowan's elected to bat, and the opening pair, Brodie and Innes, both Scottish Internationals, found no difficulty in scoring freely. At 33, however, Brodie was run out as the result of a misunderstanding with his partner. Runs continued to come quickly, and the score had reached 104 when Morrison, who had come on for Lacey and had partially slowed down the rate of run-getting, bowled Innes. The incoming batsman, however, heavily punished him later, scoring three sixes in one over. Lacey came on again and, bowling much better than previously, got M'Indoe smartly caught by Johnston. The bowlers continued to hold a temporary advantage, and when the innings was declared closed for 197 for 7 wickets, Lacey had the best average, three for 52.

The School's innings opened disastrously, for Leburn left when there was only one run on the board, and at 16 Bell left, having scored 12. Forsyth stepped into the breach, and by confident batting pulled the game round with the assistance of Moncur, who was unfortunately out l.b.w. for 16. Sturrock did not stay long, but an invaluable stand by Morrison (11) and Henderson (9) enabled Johnston and Thomson to play out time. Forsyth's innings of 52 revealed a welcome return to form, and included seven fours.

Result: H. B. Rowan's XI., 197 for 7 wkts.; Strathallan, 106 for 8 wkts.

**Strathallan v. Old Strathallians**, at Forgandenny on Saturday, June 28th.

The Old Boys had a strong team, all its members being sometime Caps or First XI. members. They won the toss and M'Ewen

and W. G. Miller opened the innings and gave no chances though they were slow in scoring. At 11, however, M'Ewen fell into a silly mid-on trap for 6. The next pair began to score freely, but Forsyth took Lindsay's place and soon clean bowled N. G. Reid. From this point the School bowlers were definitely on top, and despite Miller's 21 and Lambie's 12 (including an inevitable six), wickets fell with such rapidity that the whole side were out for 74, Lacey taking five wickets for 24, and Forsyth four for 28. Lacey also made three good catches.

Leburn and Bell were slow to score at the start, but soon gained confidence and hit more freely. At 27 the former fell to a catch off Moodie's bowling. Forsyth and Bell hit freely and saw the match won before the latter was caught well out by Miller for 51. The Old Boys then claimed two cheap wickets through Barr, but the score was taken to 103 without further loss before stumps were drawn.

Result: Strathallan, 103 for 4 wkts.; Old Strathallians, 74.

**Strathallan v. Dunfermline High School**, at Forgandenny on Saturday, 5th July.

Strath. lost the toss and were sent in to field, but their opponents were soon in difficulties, Lacey, who was bowling well, dismissing the opening batsman with a fine "bailer," one of the bails travelling 34 yards. Lindsay, at the other end, was equally effective, so that only 10 runs had been scored with four wickets down. Some stand was then made, but Lindsay changed ends and the remaining batsmen were quickly dismissed, the total reaching a mere 32. Lindsay claimed six victims for 8 runs, while Lacey had two for 12.

Strath. opened confidently and their opponents' score was soon passed without loss. Bell left at 39, however, but Forsyth helped to raise the score to 114 before being caught for 36. Lacey again gave a vigorous display, hitting six sixes, three in one over, and four fours in his 58. Moncur, after a shaky start, also hit hard and often, reaching the boundary on twelve occasions in his total of 61. At this period Leburn was nearing his century, and Sturrock came out



W. G. Leburn and D. Bell, who set up a record unbroken partnership of 140 against Glasgow High School, leaving the Pavilion.

to enable him to reach the coveted number, which he did just on time. This is the second hundred to be scored by a School batsman, and though he was badly missed when only 16, his innings was otherwise faultless and he hit a six and sixteen fours. The innings also beats records for the School, the previous best being 249 for 5 wickets. The innings was all the more creditable since it occupied only two hours.

Result: Strathallan, 294 for 4 wkts.; Dunfermline High School, 32.  
Played 15; won 8; lost 2; drawn 5.  
Average runs per wkt. : for 17.6; agnst. 10.2.

#### BATTING AVERAGES.

	Innings	No. of times not out	Runs	Highest in innings	Average	Catches
W. G. Leburn	15	2	363	100*	27.9	1
D. Bell -	15	1	321	71*	22.9	5
T. N. Forsyth -	15	2	251	61*	19.3	1
G. Moncur -	14	2	223	61	18.6	6
C. Lacey -	13	0	220	82	16.9	9
I. Henderson -	6	2	63	26*	15.7	1
D. S. Thomson	9	3	65	29	10.8	9
G. Sturrock -	10	4	60	31*	10	4
J. T. Johnston	10	3	55	18*	7.9	4
R. Lindsay -	8	3	38	22	7.6	6
A. Morrison -	10	1	51	16	5.6	5

\*Signifies not out.

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.	Avr.
R. Lindsay -	128.5	41	314	41	7.6
T. N. Forsyth -	78	24	265	30	8.8
C. Lacey -	144.4	43	345	35	9.8
A. Morrison -	96.4	29	285	19	15
D. Thomson -	35	14	56	2	28

First XI. Colours were awarded to W. G. Leburn, D. Bell, C. Lacey, T. N. Forsyth, G. M. Moncur, and R. Lindsay.

#### Second Eleven.

The Second XI. has proved far too strong for most of their opponents, a good augury for future years, since it is essentially a young team. Their record as an unbeaten side nearly went in the last match, with Aberdeen Grammar School 2nd XI., victory being gained by two runs only, 79 to 77; but apart from this match the victories came easily, Dollar Academy being defeated by 135 runs to 44, and Dundee High School 1st XI. by six wickets. With all five games won, however, the batting was hardly so forceful as last year when one game was lost and two drawn. W. Watt headed the batting averages with 19.8, with Macmillan (15.6) and R. Balfour (15) in close attendance.



**Rugger Group.**

*Back Row.*—S. Middleton, I. Chalmers, R. Balfour, J. McCulloch, L. White, N. Cuthbert and I. Henderson.

*Seated.*—C. Lacey, G. Dickinson, T. Docherty (Capt.), R. Dunn, G. Moncur.

*Front Row.*—J. Ross, A. Melville, F. Grant.

The bowling, too, if one may judge by the average runs per wicket—for, 10.9; against, 6.47—was slightly less effective, Balfour heading the list with fifteen wickets at a cost of 3.9 apiece, followed by M'Culloch who claimed seventeen victims for 4.9 apiece.

Second Eleven Caps were awarded to R. Balfour, W. Watt, W. Macmillan, R. Smith, F. Thompson, W. Jack, J. Wright.

### RUGBY PROSPECTS

The programme for the teams is but moderately heavy, the fixtures being somewhat similar to past seasons, despite great efforts on the part of the Secretary, D. Walker, to obtain new opponents. The first team will be captained by G. Moncur, who acquitted himself so well at right centre last season. He has now heavier responsibilities on his shoulders, but, if he emulates his former captain's example of fighting spirit and rallies his team by his own doggedness

when the game seems lost, then he will go far in making a success of his captaincy and the team. The forwards, who will be led by R. Balfour, the new vice-captain, should prove a fast, vigorous and intelligent pack, but there is a scarcity of good three-quarters in the upper school, or even material to work on, so that, for once in a while, Strath. will have to pin her faith on the forwards to win through. We have one consolation in that should Moncur partner Johnston at half back, the halves will probably prove the strongest School pair of the season.

Fewer doubts are entertained with regards the second fifteen, and but fewer still with regards the thirds, for there is an abundance of talent for the three-quarter line to complete the efforts of the forwards. There should be keen competition for places in both teams, and it would be well for these ambitious players to remember that their play on the field would be considerably improved by some quiet study off the field of the intricate movements of the game.

## SWIMMING

Swimming is always popular during the summer months, and this is in all probability why so much progress has been made this term. Two classes have been formed for the benefit of those unable to swim, and from a list of thirty-four boys who entered their names, only seven remain who cannot swim at least twenty-five yards, and three of these can manage at least ten yards. The more advanced class has been instructed in diving, in the breast stroke and the crawl, and good progress has been made.

We were fortunate in having an exhibition by Renfrew Amateurs on Saturday, 14th June. Demonstrations were given of the breast stroke, the back stroke, the crawl, diving and life-saving, which proved of great assistance to the boys who looked on, as much on account of their observing how the stroke ought to be made as on account of the general enthusiasm for swimming which the visit stimulated. Between the demonstrations races took place, C. Maclay winning his fifty yards race on the back. Lacey was just beaten in a fifty yards sprint. To conclude the programme a team race and polo match were held. The visitors won the squadron race by the touch, but it was a tensely exciting affair: but the School managed to force a draw in the polo, each side scoring twice. The School goals were notched by Lacey.

The next event of interest was the match with the Old Boys on June 28th. After a bitterly contested relay race which the School won, a polo match took place. It was a scrappy game, the Old Boys being very hazy as to rules, and the School deservedly proved the victors by two goals to nil, Henderson keeping a fine goal. Lacey and Sturrock were the scorers of the goals.

A swimming gala held on July 8th was an immense success. The Senior Championship soon resolved itself into a struggle between Maclay and Lacey, the former establishing a rather too long lead in the first two lengths to be headed by Lacey in his final burst. House spirit did not enter into the Junior Championship so closely, but the struggle was fought over the whole four lengths

between Hosie and Ritchie, the former winning by inches. The Senior House relay followed and was a very exciting affair. Simpson led on the first two laps with Freeland in close attendance, but a good relay by Reid brought Nicol up with the leaders, and Lacey, with a fine swim gave them the victory, Forsyth's last length enabling Freeland to take second place. The Junior House Relay was a more one-sided affair, Freeland winning comfortably with Simpson second. The evening closed with a polo match, Freeland and Simpson beating a team from Nicol and Ruthven, weakened by the absence of Lacey and Maclay, by three goals to nil. The evening was very successful, and it is hoped that it will become an annual event, with an ever increasing number of items in the programme.

The School representatives in the polo teams have been:—Goal, Henderson; Backs, R. Balfour, W. Jack; Half-back, R. D. Linton; Centre-forward, C. Lacey; Wing forwards, J. T. Johnston, C. Maclay, N. Gillanders and G. Sturrock.

At the trials at the end of term School swimming badges were won by M'Lachlan, Montgomerie, McMath, T. Lang and Money.

G. S.

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## TENNIS

There was the usual large number of candidates aspiring to honours in the realm of tennis when, towards the end of the term, 57 boys entered for the Junior Championship and 52 for the School Championship. Next season we shall be in the fortunate position of having four new hard courts at our disposal, and shall expect the number of entries to be a record.

The preliminary rounds of both Junior and Senior Championships were played on the grass courts on the School lawn, the new hard courts not being quite completed. Much of the play in the first few rounds was rather erratic in character, due, in some cases, to lack of practice, in others, to failure in settling down to the game in a comparatively

short interval of time. The writer suffers severely from the second defect, and offers his sympathies to the unfortunate victims. However, there seemed an unnecessary number of double faults in these games; this surely may be rectified by taking sufficient care in throwing up the ball, and in placing the feet before delivery. In the Junior matches the enthusiasm of R. Johnston in disposing of his much bigger opponent in the second round deserves mention, and the good game between G. Little and A. Fleming in the same round created something of a record in "deuce" points. In the Senior matches, the results in the early rounds were much as expected, although I. Scott, last year's Junior Champion, was somewhat unluckily defeated by R. Smith in the first round, and J. McCulloch's "cannon-ball" service did not prove so deadly as popular rumour accredited it.

The semi-finals and finals were played off on the new hard courts, which, although slightly on the soft side due to recent rain, gave a most accurate bounce to the ball on every occasion. Under these circumstances, we should have really good tennis, and next year, when the foundations of the courts have consolidated, the return of the ball off the ground will satisfy even the desire of modern youth for speed. This year the Junior semi-finals and final were decidedly on the slow side. The semi-finals resulted in an easy victory for S. Wright over R. Buchanan (6-2) and a good win for G. Little, who beat N. Gillanders (6-4). The latter match was by far the better of the two, although many of the games were won against the services. Little played a slow but remarkably steady game, and allowed Gillanders to give away the points by his erratic drives. The final lasted two complete hours, and resulted in S. Wright defeating G. Little (6-4), (10-8). Here, Wright slowed down his game to overcome the persistent tactics of Little, and this resulted in long rallies, many of the returns being slow but accurate "lobs."

The Senior semi-finals were interesting games. A. Morrison, in the semi-final, easily defeated R. Lindsay (6-0), whilst C. Lacey beat I. Henderson (6-4). Lindsay seemed strangely lethargic in his play, but the other semi-final provided some of the best play of

the tournament. In this game, C. Lacey struck his best form, and his forehand drives were excellent in strength and accuracy. He must overcome a tendency to foot-faulting in serving, when he is inclined to swing his feet over the line at the moment of striking the ball. Henderson played quite well, and we think that few people would have returned some of Lacey's drives. The final between A. Morrison and C. Lacey resulted in the former being acclaimed School Champion by the score (6-2), (6-2). Lacey did not play so well in the final, showing a decided fault in over-driving. On the other hand, Morrison played a really good game, having improved vastly on his last year's form. He did well in returning a large proportion of Lacey's fast serves and drives, and was easily the master of the situation, as the score suggests. Indeed, the only serious fault in his play was the unnecessary number of opportunities which he gave Lacey to smash at the net: it is always a good policy to "lob" deep when one has to lob. Our congratulations are offered to Morrison for his display.

In conclusion, will readers please note that the rumours of a match between the staff and the boys were not without foundation, and only the pressure of work at the end of the term prevented the game from being played. We hope to inaugurate this event next season.

W. E. W.

## SPORTS DAY

Despite earlier fears for the contrary, fine weather once more favoured Sports Day, Wednesday, 28th May, and a large gathering of Old Boys and friends were present. The prizes this year were distributed by an old friend of the School, Professor Steggall, who expressed his pleasure in again being present at a school whose almost meteoric rise to fame he had watched with considerable interest.

### Opening of the Cricket Pavilion

The ceremony of opening the Cricket Pavilion was performed during the interval by A. M. Melville, Esq., President of the

India Tyre Co., of Inchinnan. In fulfilling his office, Mr. Melville, in a very happy speech, paid tribute to Mr. Riley's work and to the type of boy the School was sending out into the world. He congratulated the School upon the pavilion's pleasing effect to the eye, and upon the way in which it blended with its surroundings, and concluded by wishing the athletics of the School prosperity and success. Amid cheers, Mr. Melville declared the pavilion open.

### The Championships

It is possible that the warm weather was responsible, but however that may be, the fact remains that record-breaking was non-existent; and little opposition was offered to Lacey in the open events. He went on to win the Victor Ludorum Cup with five victories (25 pts.) to his credit, with Morrison runner-up with eleven points. The Allan Anderson Cup was more keenly contested, F. Thompson proving the winner, with A. Melville and R. Buchanan in close attendance.

The best races of the afternoon were the Open Quarter Mile and the House Relay. In the former, R. Brown's splendidly unselfish pace-making enabled Lacey to win comfortably; in the latter, where Nicol proved successful, L. White gave them a good lead in the first lap, which the second and third strings barely maintained, but S. Brook, in the final lap, though once headed by C. Maclay, beat off the challenge to win by two yards.

The House Championship was more keenly contested than it has been for years, and the result, a tie between Simpson and Ruthven, was a most fitting conclusion to a tense struggle, the youngest house only snatching a share in the laurels by a victory in the Tug-of-War. Nicol, the holders, thanks to Lacey's splendid work, claimed the position of runners-up, ten points behind the winners.

### Results in Brief

#### OPEN EVENTS.

- 100 yds.—1, A. Morrison; 2, G. Moncur.  
220 yds.—1, C. Lacey; 2, W. Buchanan.  
440 yds.—1, C. Lacey; 2, A. Morrison.

880 yds.—1, N. Forsyth; 2, C. Maclay.

120 yds. Hurdles—1, C. Lacey; 2, S. McAllister.

High Jump—1, R. Balfour; 2, W. Buchanan.

Long Jump—1, C. Lacey; 2, W. Buchanan.

Throwing the Cricket Ball—1, C. Lacey; 2, D. Bell (89 yds. 2 ft. 4 in.)

#### UNDER 16.

100 yds.—1, F. Thompson; 2, W. McLachlan.

220 yds.—1 N. Cuthbert; 2, R. Buchanan.

440 yds.—1, A. Melville; 2, R. Buchanan.

880 yds.—1, A. Melville; 2, W. Falconer.

120 yds. Hurdles—1, F. Thompson, 2, W. Roy.

High Jump—1, R. Buchanan; 2, W. Roy.

Long Jump—1, F. Thompson; 2, A. Montgomerie.

#### UNDER 14.

90 yds.—1, T. Chapman; 2, R. McMath.

440 yds.—1, T. Chapman; 2, R. McMath.

High Jump—1, T. Chapman; 2, P. Wilson.

Long Jump—1, T. Chapman; 2, R. McMath.

#### OTHER EVENTS.

House Relay—1, Nicol; 2, Ruthven.

House Tug-of-War—1, Simpson; 2, Ruthven.

Obstacle Race—1, G. Pettigrew; 2, W. Rowan.

Three-legged Race—1, A. Motion and J. Morgan; 2, G. Pettigrew and J. Stevenson.

Tilting the bucket—1, J. Findlay and I. McGill; 2, R. Buchanan and W. McLachlan.

75 yds. (under 12)—1, J. Peden; 2, H. Tod.

High Jump (under 12)—1, J. Peden; 2, J. Balfour.

Tug-of-War—Old Boys beat the School.

## Scout Notes

IN describing the progress made by the Troop this term it is necessary to point out first that the reunion of the two sections has resulted in better collaboration among the patrols and greater unity in the Troop itself. This was the one great need in the Troop at the end of last term, and the fusion, which was very desirable in many ways, has been justified.

A Scout revels in the summer; he recognises it as the time of the year when he can most easily live the outdoor life and discover more of Nature's secrets. It is easy to understand then that this term has been a successful one in every way; in the first place, it has been possible to arrange two parades during the week instead of the usual Saturday meeting, and consequently our programme of activities has been longer and, we think, more interesting. Then again, we have had an opportunity of noticing what an ideal position was chosen for the Scout Hut in the woods; many a pleasant hour has taught us to appreciate this.

It is difficult how best to sum up the general conclusions regarding the Troop this term; we could give a long list of tests passed; we could give a graphic description of how, and with what untiring efforts, the standard of signalling, for example, has been raised; or how the 73rd Perthshire set out to make a survey of their County — it would be premature, no doubt, to give a summary of this; but perhaps the clearest reflection of the spirit existing in our midst was afforded by Field Day, which was on a Saturday this term.

On that day Culteuchar lifted its head to see a great battle being fought, in which the only casualty was a slightly twisted ankle, and West Dron, thanks to Matron's kind arrangements, towered above a most unusual spectacle—shall we attempt to describe how many potatoes, what quantities of mince, underdone and overdone, were consumed; or how many gallons of tea — a very excellent beverage! — were removed on that Saturday? Such a piece of realism would not be appreciated, and besides, a far clearer picture is left in the mind of each one of us who was present.

One thought is left with us now that the memorable day has slipped into the past — if we can keep alive that spirit of camaraderie and bonhomie which was prevalent then, every day in the coming year — to put it most clearly — if we can keep that SCOUTING spirit alive, then the 73rd Perthshire has a glorious future ahead of it. Who shall accomplish this better than they who constitute the Troop — each one and everyone?

### A POEM? ?

Before I start my simple lay,

I wish to state I'm not a poet—

Ah! what is that I hear you say?

I thought I heard you growl "We know it."

I fear my rhymes are fairly weak

(In fact I think they're simply awful),

But if you'll please excuse my cheek,

I'll try to spout you quite a jawful.

The story which I wish to tell

Concerns these pesty varmints, weasels—

(Excuse me, but my rhymes compel

The mentioning of German measles).

One day upon a mossy bank

There dozed a sleepy cocker-spaniel.

His well-groomed hair was long and lank—

(To suit the rhyme I'll call him Daniel).

But now my purpose I'll disclose,

Now that I've gained your kind attention

(Excuse me while I blow my nose.

The handkerchief's a great invention).

I said when I commenced my song

That I was going to talk of vermin;

But my intention all along

Was just to give a little sermon.

But first I should announce my text,

And what it is I can't remember.

Oh, bless my buttons, what comes next?

(The rhyme demands it be 'September').

But now I think I'd better say,

Before I go on with my story,

That that is quite enough to-day—

(And, gosh! I cannot say I'm sorry).

W. H. B.

## "O.S." Notes

WE regret to say that Mr. Alan Porter was drowned in one of the creeks in Rangoon and we take this opportunity of putting on record the very great loss which the Club and the School have sustained. Mr. Porter was the Captain of the best School XV. that ever played for Strathallan and there are many who consider that his team was the best school team of the year in Scotland. A great part of its success was due to his leadership and personal skill and many of his exploits will long be spoken of, whilst at School today his name is mentioned with something akin to reverence and awe. We have had many letters deploring his loss and testifying to his splendid character. His memory will ever be treasured in Strathallan.

Strathallians will be glad to hear that Messrs. Alastair and Willie Thomson will be home from the East about the middle of December, when their address will be Southdene, Ayr. They hope to be present at the Annual Dinner in Glasgow.

The British Westinghouse Brake Company have no reason to regret having taken Mr. Jack Laidlaw into their employment, for he has scored several successes under their apprenticeship examination scheme. The writer has it on good authority that they would be quite willing to take another Strathallian of the same calibre.

Messrs. D. S. Smith and W. Scott have returned to Calcutta after their furlough and many interesting letters are coming through with regard to the trouble with the natives in that city. Newspapers sometimes tell the truth, but not always the whole truth.

Mr. Willie Frazer, of Perth, who is taking one of the leading parts in a play in Calcutta, received a pleasant surprise at the end of the "show" when he received an

invitation, signed by several Old Strathallians, to come round to dinner. We understand the party was a merry one.

Mr. Sidney Fraser, of Dundee, has joined the Hudson Bay Company and is serving somewhere on the borders of Alaska. Letters addressed to the Company's office at Montreal will reach him, but they take 73 days in the ordinary course of post.

Several times we have been asked to publish the address of Mr. Keith Ramsay, and at last we have managed to locate him in Ceylon, through the good offices of Mr. Willie Thomson. His address is Bo-Ella House, Kurunegala, Ceylon.

We have read a glowing account of Mr. T. Docherty's rugby in the Argentine, which, in passing, pays a very nice tribute to his old School as a training ground. He is playing for the Pacific, one of the first-class clubs in Buenos Aires, occupying a centre three-quarter position.

Mr. G. G. Baker has gained a very notable success at Brasenose College, Oxford. He has taken his degree in Law in the First Class, and has been awarded a Law Scholarship. Mr. Baker was President of the Junior Common Room and represented his College and University on the athletic field. All Strathallians will join heartily in offering Mr. Baker sincere congratulations.

Dr. J. J. Cruickshank, who was in practice in Perth, has removed to Leigh, Lancashire, and has taken with him a charming young lady from Perth as his wife. She was formerly Miss Brown, of Craigie, Perth.

Dr. Arthur Fraser has accepted a post under the Ministry of Health in the Birmingham district. Perhaps, if this comes to his notice, he will let us have his exact address.

Mr. W. Hird asks us to state that he is Assistant Engineer on the Electrification Scheme in the South, and not in charge as we stated in our last issue. We regret the error.