

THE STRATHALLIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

VOLUME TWO

NUMBER NINE

Editorial

STOCKTAKING is always a disagreeable task, yet it is customary to perform it at least once a year. What better time is there than the beginning of the New Year?—our second birthday, as Charles Lamb calls it. Then we review the past and anticipate the future.

Of the past we prefer to say little. The years of depression seem to have made their mark even in the unimportant sphere of a school magazine. No doubt it was only to be expected that where people were occupied with a veritable struggle for existence, no time for contributions could be found. It is nevertheless a fact that the "Strathallian" has lived from hand to mouth for several terms now, a situation we must deplore, however little we are capable of remedying it ourselves. Several contributors have "lost touch," others we know are working in professions which keep them fully occupied. These, we trust, when the goal is reached will let us hear from them again.

And what of the future? Naturally, this rests largely with the present generation in the School. There are pleasing signs that Old Boys still remember how the harassed Editor and the Board went round the bedrooms and classrooms for contributions "and compelled them to come in." Indeed, it is possible that we owe some

contributors an apology for the non-appearance of their articles, but they will realise that the Old Boys occupy considerable space at this time of the year, and accept our thanks for their support.

But the School remains apathetic, terribly so, and it is difficult to understand the mentality which is content for others to do all the work; that such mentalities tend to permeate the School is a regrettable fact. The sooner it is realised that this is a pernicious spirit, the better for everyone; for in the struggle that is yet to be for National survival everything depends upon the wholehearted, co-operative effort of the members of the commonwealth. This spirit must be cultivated when young, and the schooldays are the days best suited for its propagation; for a School is in its little way a commonwealth as is no other sphere of life. There is no place for the drone any more than in the bee kingdom. We are fortunate here at Strath. in that so much is given us, so much done for us. We should not be content merely to receive but also to give; and surely there is no better time to ask whether we are givers as well as takers than now, with the New Year before us.

In concluding, let us wish all our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year, none the less sincere for being, as usual, belated.

School Notes and Notices

FEW of us were sorry when the long Christmas term came to an end, for it has been an unsettled and worrying one, not less so on account of the necessity for changing from Cambridge Senior Examination to the Scottish Prelim. But the change was successfully accomplished, and the first papers for the new exam. will be taken in March. Apart from the senior forms thus affected, some hard work has been done by the two exam. forms, and we trust that the results will have justified the efforts.

This term has seen further improvements in the amenities of the School. Two Eton Fives courts were completed about half term, and some Rugby courts are now in the course of erection, and should be completed early in the Easter term, despite frosty weather holding up the building on several occasions. The game has proved very attractive, and boys who, for medical reasons, are unable to take part in rugby, now have some game to keep them fit, while the quickness of the eye needed should have beneficial results on the cricket ground. When the Rugby courts are completed—they are to be roofed and artificially lighted—boys will be able to play in the evening after prep. J. M. Wilson is acting as Fives Captain.

Moreover, on the Net Practice ground, now extended right up to the Sanatorium, a hockey pitch has been marked out, ready for use in the event of further hard weather during the Easter Term. This should provide a better means of keeping the teams fit than by the soccer games played on the rugby pitches, or even a walk.

Table Tennis still holds its own, and the two full-sized tables given by Mr. Riley have only served to increase the enthusiasm. In the league, at the end of the first term, the Common Room are in the lead. They have not been beaten, and have the splendid record of seventy games against ten. Their captain, W. Hood, has won nineteen out of twenty games, having been defeated only by Mr. Walker. The Grub Room are second, with the Prefects and the Staff very close behind them. The general standard of play, we understand, has improved immensely, and it is increasingly difficult for any one player to be certain of victory in his four games. An individual

championship has been held, for which there were over a hundred entries. R. L. Paul, by beating H. E. Walker, and W. E. Hood, who beat D. McColl, reached the final, where Hood won the championship after a game which went to five sets and lasted more than an hour and a half.

The Library continues to enjoy a fair measure of success, and a new catalogue is now in the course of completion. The Librarians desire to remind boys that well-being and popularity of the Library depend upon its being up-to-date, and that they, concerning themselves with the reference sections, cannot also afford to restock it with new novels. They would therefore ask that when boys have finished reading a novel, they would seriously consider giving it to the Library that others may enjoy the pleasure they themselves have obtained.

We hear that the Cine Club is enjoying greater popularity than ever. This is no doubt due to the efforts of J. A. Smith and O. T. Brown in their unremitting search for films that will appeal most strongly to the greater part of the audience.

Following Mr. Smythe's highly successful lecture in November on the recent Everest expedition, we are pleased to be able to announce that there is another treat in store during the coming term. "Round the Horn before the Mast" is the title of a thrilling experience to be related by Claude Muncaster, A.R.W.S., on February 20th.

The Debating Society has enjoyed a very successful term, and there is no doubt that a little knot of enthusiasts are rapidly becoming expert debaters, ever ready to seize upon weak points in an opponent's arguments or speak on any topic. Indeed, O. T. Brown's speech in proposing the motion "That Modern Civilisation is Retrogressive" was a really masterly piece of work, and clearly showed the value of a well-prepared speech.

The Dramatic Society has also been well supported throughout the term, and even if its end-of-term production was less ambitious, from a numerical point of view, than some recent ones, it was a more literary piece of work and served to reveal the resources of the Society, since many of

its experienced actors were unable to take part owing to the claims of examinations. We hear that all did not go well with the production from a "back-stage" point of view, but from a spectator's aspect it was one of the most successful and entertaining plays yet given.

One of the most disappointing features of the term has been the performance of the Rugby team. There was excuse in the early matches when experiments were being made, but something of the poorness of the displays could be gauged by the lack of interest in the game taken by those on the touch line. The two victories in Glasgow appear to have been thoroughly deserved as a result of good football, but the displays on the School ground have generally been such that the team has been itself responsible for the lack of interest, and thereby thrown away entirely the advantage of playing at home. We should welcome a return of the days when a full-throated cry of "Strath!" rang along the touch line; it is a great incentive to the players: but it will never come while the team serves up so little to enthuse over. The vicious circle must be broken, and we trust that the revival of spirited play which marked the last matches is a sign that it is already broken. Macmath has been the star man of the side, with McKenna, Cooper, Forrest and Breckenridge (now fortunately recovered from his illness which prevented him giving his best earlier in the term) close behind him.

One or two faces will be missing when the Easter Term begins. W. Carrie is perhaps the most notable absentee: a hard working forward, Chairman of the Dramatic and Debating Societies—how he prayed that the debates would continue lively till 9.45!—and a House Captain, he will be missed next term; while it will be remembered he virtually won the game for the School against the Old Boys last Commemoration Day. With him go S. Grant and D. Wood, both of whom have earned places in the First XV. this season; W. Batchelor, a Second XV. stalwart. We wish them all every success in their new spheres.

Among the promotions necessitated by these departures are:—

J. M. Wilson has been appointed Captain of Ruthven House.

Prefect: J. Forrest.

House Prefects: G. Balfour, R. Kirkland and V. Mackay.

Sub-Prefects: S. Carswell, O. T. Brown, J. A. Smith and S. Dobbie.

PROMOTION

'Twas evening in a quiet street,
The blinds were drawn, the lamps were lit,
The policeman slept upon his beat,
And Burglar Bill got out his kit.

He handled the jemmy with loving care,
His flashlight he placed in his pocket,
Along with a skeleton key so rare
(To open a door or to lock it).

He opened the door and out he stole,
A sharp look out around he kept;
He heard no sound, nor saw a soul—
For still the lone policeman slept.

He chose McGregor's hardware store
(It stands just opposite the mill),
The other shops did not possess
For him sufficient in the till.

He tried the front and ope'd the door,
But in his haste he let it slam:
The policeman woke, the burglar swore
"Oh curse, oh dash, oh dear, oh d——!"

The man in blue his whistle blew
To summon aid from all the town,
But as policemen were so few
He waited long with dark'ning frown.

At length with stately measured tread,
He neared the shop, with looks so bold,
Tho' inwardly his heart was lead
And in his feet lay icy cold.

He came without and peered within
And spied his man behind the sink.
He walked right in and broke Bill's chin,
And dragged the dreaming man to clink.

* * *

'Tis evening in a quiet town,
The blinds are drawn, the lamps are lit;
Another sleeps upon that beat—
The present sergeant's done his bit.

"Borrowed Plumes," Form S.2.

Our President, 1934, Mr. N. G. REID

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Club, Mr. Guthrie Reid was elected President for this year and there is no doubt that the choice is a most popular one. Mr. Reid was at Warriston, Moffat, where he not only excelled at games but was a Prefect in the school.



He came to Strathallan in 1923 and left in 1926 and there are few who have left a more permanent mark upon the School life. He was a Prefect and gained his rugger cap for three seasons. Those who witnessed his displays on the rugger field are not likely to forget his splendid tackling and accurate kicking, to say nothing of the many dropped goals from all sorts of positions, many of which not only caused surprise and joy to Strathallians, but consternation in the ranks of the opponents. He was Cricket Captain in 1926 and had the honour of leading his team to many a victory, the most sensational of which was

perhaps that gained over H. B. Rowan's eleven by two runs when this eleven contained several Scottish Internationalists who were in their prime. Those who witnessed that thrilling finish are not likely to forget it for there were many who literally cried with joy.

At the end of his school career he was presented with the School Certificate of Thanks for his services. He entered the employment of Messrs. John Brown & Sons Ltd., Textile Manufacturers, and after passing through various departments was appointed to the head of one of them. In 1933 he left this firm and joined the Imperial Chemical Industries, where it is certain he will make his mark.

On the sports side he played for Glasgow Academicals both at rugger and cricket, and whilst at the top of his form as a full back his medical adviser ordered him to give up rugger. During that year Glasgow Academicals' second choice as full back was chosen to play for Scotland. Can anything have been more certain than an international cap for Mr. Reid had the doctor not intervened?

Into a very busy life Mr. Reid finds time to take his part as a lieutenant in the sixth battalion of the Highland Light Infantry.

In the life of the Strathallian Club he has played a leading part and few, if any, can claim to have been more prominent in its activities since its foundation and it will be very strange if Mr. Reid's speech at Xmas, 1934, does not contain outstanding figures in many directions. He, himself, puts it this way: "1934 is the twenty-first birthday of the School and we are going to let you know it."

Strathallian Club

Office-Bearers, 1934

Hon. President—H. Riley, Esq.

President—N. Guthrie Reid, Esq., Lochside, Bearsden.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—J. B. Maitland Cowan, Esq., Solicitor, 30 George Square, Glasgow, C.2. Tel. Central 794.

Trustees—H. Riley, Esq., D. J. Bogie, Esq.

Auditors—Callum McGeachy, Esq., W. M. Shanks, Esq.

General Committee—S. Dow, W. A. C. Lambie, D. O. Melrose, and Secretaries

of the London, Edinburgh and Dundee Branches.

Dinner Committee—W. A. C. Lambie, J. T. Johnston, and E. B. Mackay.

* * *

The Committee regrets to note that there are several members whose subscriptions are considerably in arrears. These subscriptions should be remitted immediately to Mr. J. B. Maitland Cowan, 30 George Square, Glasgow, C.2, otherwise the issue of the magazine to those concerned cannot be guaranteed.

Life Membership, £5; Annual Subscription, 7/6.

The Annual Dinner

THE Seventh Annual Meeting of the Strathallian Club was held at the Grosvenor Restaurant, in Glasgow on the 16th December, 1933.

Mr. D. O. Melrose, the President, was in the chair and there were between fifty and sixty members present besides several of the staff from School, and friends of old Strathallians.

The guest of honour on this occasion was Rosslyn Mitchell, Esq., who as a member of a recent Parliament, made one of the most brilliant speeches of the last ten or twenty years.

The business meeting was held prior to the dinner and there was an animated discussion, the outcome of which were the following resolutions:—

1. That the Trustees should invest the Club Funds to the extent of £200 in 3% Government Loan, 1948/53, and the balance in the Post Office Savings Bank.
2. That N. Guthrie Reid be elected President.
3. That J. B. Maitland Cowan be elected Secretary and Treasurer.
4. That D. J. Bogie be elected a Trustee.
5. That W. M. Shanks be elected an Auditor.
6. That W. A. C. Lambie be appointed to the General Committee.
7. That the General Committee should frame a Constitution to be submitted at the next Annual General Meeting.
8. That the School Crest be adopted for the Old Boys' Blazer.

Regards (8) a notice will be found in the Easter Magazine.

The usual financial statement was presented to the auditors and subject to confirmation of the amount of interest earned by the deposit receipt during the past year the accounts were found to be in order.

The dinner itself was a very successful one in spite of the somewhat meagre attendance.

During the course of the speeches, Mr. Melrose, the President, presented to Mr. Riley, to hold in trust for the School, a beautiful silver cup engraved with the School crest, for competition between the Club and School upon Commemoration Day.

In a neat speech, Mr. Melrose in handing over the trophy, hoped that it would spur on both sides to greater keenness in these contests, and Mr. Riley, in accepting the Cup threw out a broad challenge to the Club to muster its forces and try its strength with the School in competition for the honour of being first to have its name on the trophy. Mr. Riley promised the Club a very keen contest and reminded the Old Boys that they had a long list of defeats to wipe out.

Mr. Riley, in the name of the School and the Club, called for a vote of thanks to Mr. Melrose which was responded to with acclamation.

Mr. Rosslyn Mitchell proposed the toast of the Club, and in an eloquent address he urged the members to realise the importance of their Fellowship and its opportunities for service in our Empire, which in days to come would need the very best that our Youth could offer. Mr. Melrose, the President, replied in a very neat speech, during the course of which he showed the strong position, both financial and numerical, in which the Club was placed at the end of 1933.

Mr. Bogie, in proposing the toast of the School, paid a very graceful tribute to the headmaster for his guidance and inspiration. He drew attention to the widespread developments which are taking place at Forgardenny, the establishment of Fives courts, the creation of a Hockey ground and the general laying out of the School grounds round the Tennis courts and Sanatorium.

Mr. Riley, in thanking Mr. Bogie for his kind references to the School and to himself, assured the Club that the School was developing in every way. Its Old Boys were climbing into positions of responsibility. Its pupils were being drawn from colonies and foreign countries to which the name of Strathallan had been carried by its Old Boys. Its successes at the University examinations fully maintained the splendid results of the past, whilst the Old Boys themselves were gaining high University and professional distinction.

Mr. K. G. Mackenzie, who proposed the toast of Absent Friends in quite a witty speech, earned a round of applause when he declared, with reference to the lack of success of the School rugby team, that he had come to the conclusion that the team was all at sixes and sevens but after a visit to Forgardenny he found they had been at fives.

THE SECRETARY OF THE STRATHALLIAN CLUB,

Mr. J. B. MAITLAND COWAN

At the Annual Meeting of the Strathallian Club, held on 16th December, 1933, Mr. J. B. Maitland Cowan, who was at Strathallan from 1922 to 1925 was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Club.

Mr. Cowan had a successful school career, which was continued at the University of Glasgow in the Law classes, and finally he was taken into partnership in May, 1933, in the legal firm of Messrs. Cowan & Grove, George Square, Glasgow.



Mr. Cowan was always an enthusiastic supporter of the various School games. He is quite a good golfer, but on one occasion when asked what his handicap was, he facetiously replied "A bag of clubs."

Like many men who are engaged in professional work, Mr. Cowan finds his hobbies in things mechanical and electrical.

He holds various secretarial appointments to local clubs, and his experience and driving force will be a very great asset to us.

There have been many old Strathallians who have slipped through the Club net simply because they have not been approached with regard to their membership, and Mr. Cowan and the new President, Mr. Guthrie Reid, intend to signal they are taking over the reins of office this year by enrolling the largest number of new members in any one year. Those who knew Mr. Cowan at School will realise that this aim is likely to be accomplished, for he was always known as a "sticker." Well may they succeed!

MR. DAVID J. BOGIE, B.Com., C.A.

Many Strathallians will recognise the accompanying photograph as being that of Mr. David J. Bogie who left Strathallan in July, 1922, after having a most successful school career.



This he followed up by qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1927 and taking the degree of Bachelor of Commerce at Edinburgh in 1929, gaining many honour certificates en route.

In 1927, as a qualified assistant, he entered the well-known firm of chartered accountants, Messrs. Graham Smart & Annan, of Edinburgh and London, and in 1930 was appointed an assistant examiner to a member of the general examining board of the Scottish Chartered Accountants. Three years later, he was taken into partnership by his firm.

A mere statement of these facts shows that Mr. Bogie may well look forward to a distinguished career in his profession. Mr. Bogie, too, is the president of the Edinburgh Chartered Accountants Students Society.

On the sports and aesthetic sides of life he also has a varied and successful record. Strathallians resident in the Kirkcaldy

district know full well that he has played a leading part in the local Amateur Operatic Society's productions, whilst golf and tennis are his interests so far as outdoor sport is concerned.

During the last six years he has been secretary of the North of the Forth Tennis Championship Tournaments played under the auspices of the Scottish Lawn Tennis Association, whilst on many occasions during the year Mr. Bogie will be found in a lieutenant's uniform in the division of the Royal Corps of Signals (T.A.).

To show the esteem in which Mr. Bogie is held by those who know him best, namely, his old school fellows, one has only to recollect the fact that at the last general meeting of the Strathallian Club he was elected as co-trustee with Mr. Riley of the Club's funds.

INDIGESTION

The introduction of the game of Fives has given the boys a chance to get their own back upon certain members of the Staff. So much has been done to "bump off" a certain member that we understand he has taken out further insurance policies on his life. He is, however, at present able to hold his own sufficiently well to be also interested in "third party" risks.

We are asked to deny the rumour that the opening game of the Strathallan Hockey Club will be against Kilgraston Convent School.

We understand that a certain racing motorist has been severely handicapped of late by certain unaccountable idiosyncrasies displayed by his machine. The exhaust pipes show a marked antipathy for the rest of the bike and part company at every opportunity.

Among other items of interest gleaned at the headquarters of the Strathallan Motorist Club is that one of its members has bought a powerful entrant for the Old Crock Race this year. It will start a strong favourite — if it starts.

We divide the Strath. Bun between the two boys who defined "a blue-book" as a "disgraceful piece of literature" and "hermetically sealed" as "going about and living by yourself."

The School Concert

THE School Concert, held on the evening of Wednesday, December 13th, was an uproarious success (the accent falling upon the second syllable) for Mr. Fletcher in arranging the programme had seen to it that the boys had been provided with ample opportunity for full throated song.

After "God Save the King," the concert opened appropriately with a lively march, the "London Scottish," played with verve by the orchestra. Already in this piece, however, it was evident that the orchestra was not quite up to last year's standard, there being a certain thinness in the tone of the strings, a defect which we have every reason to hope will be overcome when our very young violinists have gained a little more experience. It was therefore, perhaps, rather too ambitious to attempt Wagner's "Grand March" from "Tannhauser," the performance of which, though by no means devoid of praiseworthy qualities, did raise the question: Is it preferable to choose simple pieces which are allowed to live, or difficult compositions which . . . ?

"The Sun has got his Hat on," "Lullaby of the Leaves" were two of the many songs, very ably played by the band, the choruses of which were sacrificed to the full-throated audience. Special mention should be made of "My Darling," of which D. Hall very competently executed the saxophone solo, and of the "Pot-Pourri of Old-time Melodies," well put together, but the length of which, partly at least, accounts for that same full-throated audience being left voiceless that evening and the day after.

Of the instrumental music, Mr. Ward and Mr. Frank played E. German's pianoforte duet, "Nell Gwynn Dance No. 1," into which they infused all the graceful swing of this little composition. J. A. and I. M. Smith gave a couple of Moskowski's Spanish Dances for four-handed pianoforte. It was an excellent musicianly rendering, in which the brilliant fireworks of the florid upper part never failed to go off. Two more dances of the same series

followed in the second half of the programme, Mr. Fletcher replacing J. A. Smith in the bass, and concluding with the difficult and effective Bolero. The novelty of an oboe solo was provided by H. E. Walker, accompanied by Mr. Ward. Walker is well on the way to mastering the difficult instrument of his choice, and if there were faults in his playing, they were faults which time and further practice will cure. There were certainly passages in which he produced pure and genuine oboe tone: he must concentrate now on breathing for long phrases. Mr. Frank (at the violincello this time), W. Taylor (violin), and I. M. Smith (piano), interpreted with daintiness and charm F. Bridge's "Three Miniatures."

Mr. Shaw made his first solo appearance in a beautiful and unhackneyed song of Schubert, "Mein Aufenthalt." He was handicapped by a cold and obviously ill at ease, but his rendering was very welcome in spite of these obstacles. In Vulcan's aria from Gounod's "Philemon and Baucis" he was more at home, making clear to all his audience the reason for this song's widespread popularity. The florid passages were particularly delightful. After the interval he gave us a genuine and typical Viennese song, first with the original German words, then with a French adaptation in praise of Paris, and lastly invoking in English the genius of a place not a thousand miles from Perth.

In addition, Mr. Shaw sang the verses of four plantation melodies, two grave and two gay, the choruses of which were sung as quartettes by the Forgandenny Chocolate-coloured Coons (Mr. Shaw, D. Hall, H. E. Walker and T. Dishington, the last named deserving special mention for his complete absorption in the rôle—he was a coon to the life the whole of the time, on the stage and off, and never better than in the long-to-be-remembered banjomallet episode). The concluding item, "Roll on Mississippi," in appropriate and effective setting, also found opportunities for the Coons and full chorus.

Apart from his musical contributions, Mr. Shaw staged, with the gratefully

acknowledged help of Lady Findon (R. L. Paul) a review of the year's work at Strathallan and a distribution of prizes. It was a sustained *tour de force* in his best style and will be remembered when this concert has been succeeded by many others.

Variety was provided by two one-act plays. Mr. Frank is to be congratulated upon his production of G. B. Shaw's "Fascinating Foundling"; for if this little one-act play about a happy solution of two of the Lord Chancellor's little problems is "a disgrace to its author," it was by no means so to its producer and actors. The best performance came from W. Batchelor as the Chancellor and R. Aitkenhead as Mercer, his secretary. The former was delightfully pompous, while the latter had captured the spirit of the cockney soul very cleverly. Only less successful were C. L. Roy as Brabazon and G. C. Turner as Anastasia, the two "problems," and this was partly on account of the fact that they had more difficult parts to play. Both are garrulous characters, typical of Shaw, and to achieve garrulity on the stage is a very difficult art. Both were almost word perfect, and being so, they sought to gabble their parts in the hope that it would seem like garrulity. Not always did they realise their hopes. Further, Turner was too statueque; he sat too still and was too sparing in his gesture. Such criticism may seem captious, particularly when it is not intended to suggest that either of them was inaudible—quite the contrary; but in so good a performance the small faults showed the more monstrous.

The other play was one of the outstanding items of the evening's entertainment, "Rory Aforesaid," a one-act adaptation by John Brandane of the 16th century French play, "Maistre Pierre Patelin," and performed by the masters. Half farce, half comedy, a mixture of boisterous extravagance and of true-to-life characterisation and psychological development, the play was one requiring very great skill on the part of both producer and actors. It might easily have been merely hilariously impossible, or on the other hand, not even funny, but just silly. All the more credit, therefore, to those concerned, who gave us a performance which could, except for one or two details, be called Perfect (with a

big capital P). And this is no complimentary exaggeration.

The very idea—and sight of—Mr. Roberson, our sports master and rugby forward, as Mrs. McLean, one of the witnesses, was farcical. But Mrs. McLean was the incarnation of all garrulous Mrs. McLeans. Mr. Norton ceased to be the University Graduate and Teacher of English. Seeing him in the witness box, we forgot all about M. Norton, Esq., B.A., in our enjoyment of the antics of the daft shepherd standing before us. It was impossible to realise that Mr. Cole comes from Southampton. For thirty minutes he became a typical Scotch small shopkeeper, and we admired the perfection with which he has assimilated the rather unrefined Bridge of Earn accent. Mr. Campbell was so efficient a Court Officer that we regretted he had so small a part, and look forward to seeing him again in a more important one. Mr. McCutcheon had a difficult role to play in portraying a rather colourless lawyer, and although he did well we may be forgiven for hesitatingly suggesting that he seemed somewhat self conscious and consequently not altogether convincing. Last, but by no means least, Mr. Frank gave us a study of the deaf sheriff which was above reproach, and since he relies even more upon the expressions of his face and telling little gestures of his hands than upon the qualities of his voice (and those who only heard him will know that this is saying a great deal), it is a thousand pities that owing to the disposition of the bench he could not be seen by a large proportion of the audience. This is the one and only adverse piece of criticism I have to offer to those responsible. We must not omit to congratulate Mr. Norton (incidentally the producer) on the excellence of all the characters' make-up.

Nor must we omit to mention the hard work put in by R. Macmath, S. K. White and G. Sharp in preparing for the various items behind the stage. They, and the lanternist, O. T. Brown, did as much as the artistes themselves to contribute to the outstanding success of the evening.

The Dramatic Society Social

Hunter	J. M. Ritchie
Philip Sevilla	R. Kirkland
Betty Findon	R. L. Paul
Colin Derwent	Mr. M. Norton
Sir Miles Standing	W. M. Edward
Det.-Inspector Pember	T. Dishington
Det.-Sergeant Brace	J. M. Wilson
Restaurant Manager	W. Carrie

ON Tuesday, December 12th, we were entertained by the Dramatic Society with a performance of "Ten Minute Alibi" by Anthony Armstrong. The play is a cunning blend of the hackneyed and the original, which fact incidentally helps to explain its wide appeal and extraordinary success in London. Colin Derwent, in order to save Betty Findon, the object of his unrequited affection, from the betrayal which awaits her, murders his successful rival, Philip Sevilla. He has worked out in advance an ingenious alibi which turns upon the judicious manipulation of the clock in Sevilla's flat and a prearranged meeting there with Sir Miles Standing at the time at which the murder will afterwards appear to have been committed. What is original about the play is the first act in which we are shown the whole plan evolving in Colin's mind as he lies drugged by a cigarette from Sevilla, and the epilogue, wherein a practical and a doctrinaire detective attempt, and all but achieve, a complete reconstruction of the crime. The author has evidently pondered the matter and decided that Colin's lily-white chivalry set against Sevilla's depravity raises the crime to a level at which it is morally justified. But the thwarting of justice at the end of the play left at least one member of the audience in a state of aesthetic as well as moral dissatisfaction.

From nearly every standpoint the play was well worth doing: it contains some sound characterisation, situations succeed one another with plausible smoothness, and the dialogue is for the most part tense and economical. Let me say at once that "errors and omissions excepted," as our commercial friends say, and notwithstanding any uncharitable lapses which may subsequently appear, the Dramatic Society gave a thoroughly good account of themselves and it, and that in spite of the total inexperience of several of the cast.

As the libertine, Sevilla, R. Kirkland was excellent, though nervousness kept his southern blood off the boil during most of the first act. His exotic sliminess and calculating sensuality came out particularly well in his encounters with the simple Nordic Colin, and altogether his rendering of the part was effective and promises well for some future performance. R. L. Paul was happily cast as the heroine, and carried off some difficult passages with accomplished sangfroid. He looked and spoke, as usual, most convincingly and his performance was marred only by some awkward and unfeminine movements which practice had failed to eradicate. In case it should seem ungracious to find fault with so admittedly fine an interpretation, Paul himself has prompted and must excuse it. He has set so high a standard in the rendering of women's parts that criticism seizes eagerly upon trifling imperfections. *Le mieux est l'ennemi du bien*. In the part of Colin Derwent, Mr. Norton found a congenial vehicle for his talent. Baffled by the astute Sevilla in the first act, quietly triumphant in the second, nimbly defensive in the third, Colin demanded a player of real versatility and depth. Mr. Norton more than fulfilled the demands made upon him, and in addition endowed his part with

the kind of solidity which makes a responsive auditor long to mob the stage and anticipate the dénouement. These three shared the chief burden of the play, and without their combined merits its success would have been impossible.

The secondary parts were all capably filled. W. M. Edward was more than adequate as the old friend and confidant, Sir Miles Standing—a conventional and unsatisfying part. J. M. Ritchie was a somewhat grim and cynical figure as Hunter, and W. Carrie made a most effective appearance as a French restaurateur. It remains to speak of the two detectives whose fruitless investigations bring the play to a close. As the older, self made man, T. Dishington was delightfully convincing and spontaneous, his transitions from one hypothesis to another being especially good. J. M. Wilson as his over-educated subordinate was only one degree less good, and in any case his part was one which offered a good deal less scope.

Nor must the unseen helpers be forgotten, chief among them being R. Macmath and J. A. Smith. Macmath had undertaken the onerous and exacting management of the clock (designed by Smith) which is the lifeless protagonist of the play. He was admirably vigilant and deserves sympathy, not censure, for the one bad lapse which did occur. As the other stage manager, Smith was also the victim of circumstances at one agonizing moment. But no momentary hitch should hinder our recognition that the show as a whole ran smoothly and well and that for this the stage managers are not least responsible.

Altogether—let it be said again—"Ten Minute Alibi" was the Dramatic Society's biggest success for at least two years. The smallness of the cast ensured that every rôle could be adequately taken and that the stage need never be overcrowded. And although laurels are due to several players to whom they have been offered, yet the Society itself, by its hard work and intelligent co-operation which it had manifestly put into the production, deserves the greatest praise of all.

E. J. F.

THE DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Officers for the Session

Chairman: W. W. Carrie.

Vice-Chairman: T. M. Dishington.

Secretary: J. M. Wilson.

Treasurer: W. M. Edward.

Committee: J. W. Drummond, I. Macbride, S. K. White, W. B. McKenna, R. Macmath, J. A. Smith, and R. L. Paul.

The first meeting of the term was occupied with the election of the above officers, forty-two members being present. The meeting also recommended that the committee should seek a thriller for the end of term play, and R. Macmath suggested "Ten Minute Alibi" as a possible choice. Though other plays were read, this play, by Anthony Armstrong, was eventually produced; and a criticism of it will be found elsewhere.

The next two meetings were devoted to the usual search for talent among new members, "The Man in the Bowler Hat," "The Grey Parrot" and "Providence & Co." providing ample opportunity for acting ability to be revealed. At subsequent meetings, rehearsed readings of "The Tender Passion," "Master Mariners," "The Conversion of Nat Sturge" and "A Collection will be Made" were given, the last three named affording T. Dishington, S. K. White and J. A. Smith, respectively, opportunity to try their hand at production, and all of them were much enjoyed.

On November 17th, Mr. F. S. Smythe visited us again with an illustrated lecture on the recent Everest Expedition, which the whole school fully appreciated.

The remaining meeting took the form of the Presidential address, Mr. Norton repeating his first address, on Sir James Barrie, illustrating with extracts from his plays, notably "The Admirable Crichton" and "What Every Woman Knows," the author's art and humour.

The collection at the end of term social realised £3 1/7, and we would take this opportunity of thanking the audience for its generous contribution to the Society's funds.

J. M. WILSON, *Hon. Secy.*

The Debating Society

Chairman : W. W. Carrie.

Vice-Chairman : I. Macbride.

Secretary : V. Mackay.

Committee : R. Macmath, H. Fleming, W. Smith, G. Balfour, and S. K. White.

The above officers were elected at the first meeting, a resolution being passed that to avoid the necessity of further elections at the beginning of the Easter term, the Vice-Chairman automatically becomes Chairman. There was considerable enthusiasm at the meeting, the most pleasing sign of this being the fact that speakers and a motion for the first debate were chosen, which we believe constitutes a record in the Society's history.

The motion "That another World War is inevitable" was proposed by Messrs. J. A. Smith and M. Mitchell, and opposed by S. K. White and S. Carswell. A well contested debate was ultimately defeated by twenty-one votes to eighteen.

The second debate, "That the emphasis laid on Speed to-day is to be deplored," was scarcely so successful, the speakers scarcely getting a grip on the subject's possibilities; and rather against the actual argument adduced the motion was defeated by sixteen votes to six.

By far the most interesting and successful meeting resulted when the motion "That modern civilisation is retrogressive rather than progressive" was proposed. Mr. O. T. Brown, proposing the motion in a speech which must have gratified his English master, and which indeed was one of the best speeches made before the Society, made a slashing and conclusive attack upon modern times, which neither Mr. Dow's advancement of the progress of medicine and science, nor Mr. M. Ritchie's shrewd criticism of the proposers could counteract. An illuminating phase of the debate centred round the religious outlook of to-day and aroused a spirited argument.

Ultimately the motion was easily carried by twenty-two votes to three, a great reversal from original opinion, and a fitting tribute to Brown's speech.

The last debate of the term was "That Sport directed against Animal life is to be deplored," and was a moderate success, enlivened as it was by humorous interludes by T. Dishington and others. R. Johnston and R. Macmath spoke well in support of the motion and were opposed by G. Balfour and R. Paul, the last named showing considerable possibilities. When put to the vote, the motion was defeated by eighteen votes to twelve.

We are greatly gratified by the interest taken in our activities by various members of the Staff and look forward eagerly to the Staff debate which is to open the Spring term.

V. MACKAY, *Hon. Secy.*

A TEN YEAR RECORD EQUALLED.

In the Cambridge School Certificate Examination held last Christmas, all candidates for the School Certificate were successful. It is ten years ago since every candidate from Strathallan in this examination was successful.

Ninety per cent. of the candidates for Supplementary Certificates were successful. The 1933 Class S3 is to be heartily congratulated, and especially on the number seeking the London Matriculation who were successful, only one boy out of the eleven failing to qualify. The successful candidates were:—O. T. Brown, A. Carswell, S. E. Dobbie, J. Drummond, J. W. Drummond, J. McC. Dunlop, H. A. Fleming, W. B. McKenna, A. R. Scott, J. A. Smith, W. C. Smith, T. W. Wurgan, J. A. Dow. J. A. Smith, Scott and Wurgan gained honours.

Aviation in Scotland in 1943

Somnium omnia vincit.

IT is a glorious spring morning in the year of grace 1943. A few fleecy clouds are drifting slowly across the azure sky, visibility is perfect, and there is practically no wind; altogether, a splendid day for flying.

Piloting my own fast cabin aeroplane, I have just descended on the excellent landing area in the heart of Glasgow, the roof of the Central Railway Station, after a pleasant and invigorating flight from my country residence. Many business men resident outside a radius of twenty miles from the centre of the cities arrive by this method of transport on account of the immense saving of time compared with rail or road. The roofs of the principal railway stations and other large public buildings in Great Britain have been converted into landing areas, with hangars and complete service facilities; but where roofs are not available or suitable, aerodromes have been constructed close to the cities. The River Clyde has been completely covered between Stockwell Bridge and Glasgow Bridge, and numerous 'planes land there daily.

Looking back over the last ten years, one is startled by the amazing growth of aviation. 'Planes travelling at speeds of 300 M.P.H. or over are scheduled between Scotland, England and the Continent. There are also local services between the principal cities and towns. The air routes are organised by the railway companies in conjunction with their rail and road services, thus providing extremely rapid transport.

The capacity of an air liner varies between twelve and fifty persons. These liners are luxuriously furnished and equipped with comfortable arm chairs. They can all land almost vertically, as also can the smaller 'planes, by means of the "auto-gyro" type of horizontal blades fixed above the 'plane and either gear driven or automatically rotated by the slip stream. The engines, generally four in number, are absolutely silent, driven by crude oil (distilled from coal at plants situated in the large coal mining areas and costing only twopence per gallon), and only the soft pleasant whir of the propellers

breaks the silence as the machine cleaves the air at over three hundred miles an hour. Private 'planes are fitted comfortably with cabins, and ordinary business or sports clothes are the order of the day. Bumps have been practically eliminated by patent slots on the wings which also minimise accidents due to stalling. Tables are provided in the large liners for writing and dining purposes. As regards the latter, an excellent cuisine is provided from the all electric kitchenettes.

The ceiling of the liners is ten thousand feet, and on all journeys of two hundred miles or more this ceiling is utilised for the purpose of decreasing air resistance and obtaining the desired velocity. The 'planes have an extremely rapid rate of climb and reach the requisite altitude quickly. Communication is maintained by wireless telephone with the control stations en route, and notice of severe storms and atmospheric disturbances warns the pilot to avoid the danger zone.

The pilot's task is further simplified by the automatic pilot, and his direction is kept accurate to a degree by beam wireless radiated from the control stations.

Safety appliances, too, have progressed: passengers in the early days of aviation were equipped with individual parachutes, but now the 'plane itself is so equipped. An enormous parachute is concealed in the fuselage and can be released at will by the pilot, thus bringing the crippled 'plane gently down to terra firma with an almost imperceptible jar.

Although perhaps it is scarcely relevant, I might mention that all steel airships are employed with safety and comfort between Great Britain and U.S.A. and are shortly to be introduced in our own Dominion routes. It has taken us long to recover from the terrible disasters of 1930 and 1933.

The fares are remarkably moderate; and as a result everyone is "air minded" and thinks no more of travelling by air than our fathers did of travelling by horse, coach, train or internal combustion road vehicle.

J. B. M. C.

Istamboul

ISTAMBOUL, or Constantinople, the most powerful city in East Europe, is situated on a peninsula which juts out between the Sea of Marmora and the Black Sea. It is a city of mosques, their minarets pointing up into an azure sky. About one hundred and sixty of them serve the religious needs of a population of a million and a half inhabitants.

The most famous of them is the Blue Mosque, built by Suleman the Magnificent in the Seventeenth Century, Sultan of the Turkish Empire and son of Selim the Grim. It has six minarets and its interior is entirely of blue tiles. The Moslem preacher sings the Koran to the congregation who kneel on thick carpets, bowing. And since they are kissed by the Moslems in their prayers and must therefore be kept clean, all visitors to the mosques must put on slippers on entering.

The oldest mosque, that of Santa Sofia, was originally the Christian Cathedral, built by the Byzantine emperors. The interior fittings and altars are built so that the congregation faces towards Mecca with a result the mosque has a lop-sided appearance. A remarkable feature of the mosque is the marking, or veins, of the marble pillars which are found in the shape of men and peacocks. A further reminder of the history of the mosque is found in the covering over with banners of all the effigies or pictures of Christ.

On the other hand, in the Mosaic Mosque, which was originally an orthodox church before the city of Constantinople fell into the hands of the Turks under Mohamed the Conqueror, the mosaics, depicting scenes from the Bible have been left, but the head of Christ has been disfigured in every picture in which He appears.

The modern Turk has become very westernised in his dress and manners. Indeed, after the revolution during the Great War, the Turk was forbidden to wear the fez and the baggy trousers like plus fours. Mustapha Kemal, with western ideas, is seeking to do for Turkey what has already been done in Japan, that is, westernise his people but still retain the dominating position of the Islam religion.

The walls of the city rise in tiers from two to three hundred feet and it was owing to these impregnable defences and the city's strategic position that Constantinople was able to withstand the Turkish attacks for centuries before she finally fell before the onslaught of Mohamed the Conqueror in the fifteenth century. She was the bulwark of Christianity in the east; but now the minarets of the Mohamedans flout the skies where once stood Christian churches.

The Sultan's palace looks over the Golden Horn, across which lies the Galata, the business and foreign quarter. It consists of many one-storeyed houses, divided by spacious gardens. The only two-storeyed building is the royal harem. In the days of the Sultan, only the Sultan and his Grand Vizier were allowed past the Ethiopian eunuchs who guarded the doors; and it was an almost unobtainable privilege for a westerner to see through the building. Legally the Sultan was allowed, like all Mohamedans, four wives, but in practice he usually had from sixty to a hundred and twenty. Suleman the Magnificent had over two hundred.

Under the Sultan the Turkish women were treated as slaves, but under the republic they have all the rights of men save the right to vote.

But the glory is fading for the old city of Istamboul, whether permanently or not depends on circumstances; but already it is no longer the seat of the government which has moved, under Kemal, to Angora in Asia Minor.

I. McB.

The Everest Expedition

ON November 17th Mr. F. S. Smythe paid the School his third visit to give an account of the recent Mount Everest expedition. The lecture was again illustrated by slides of Mr. Smythe's own making, and if these photographs generally, despite some fine cloud and mountain effects, seemed slightly inferior to some he had shown in the past, it was no doubt due to the fact that the photographs taken on the Kamet expedition were so surpassingly beautiful. Mr. Smythe himself recognised this fact in explaining that the Everest scenery was far inferior to that of Kamet, and that the weather was so often unsuitable for good photography.

But it was only after the lecture that one had time for comparisons, so spell-binding was the narrative of Man's struggle against the elements, so impressive the personality of the lecturer. It was almost as if the Snow Gods realised that this time they must put forth all their might if they were to thwart the expedition. And if they ultimately foiled the attempt, what a glorious failure was the 1933 expedition.

Following the route of Bruce's expedition in 1924, up the Rongbuk valley and glacier, they found conditions far more difficult, but nevertheless placed camp after camp at a greater altitude than previously; and this in the face of blinding blizzards which made the dangers from avalanches more imminent, left soft snow underfoot to render the going more difficult than ever at altitudes where every step is an effort under the best of circumstances, and destroyed the steps hacked with so much effort, danger and patience in the great ice wall, which lay in the way, so that all the work had to be done over again. In the end they were within striking distance of the summit when the early breaking of the monsoons compelled them to retire.

Mr. Smythe's story of his own attempt on the summit, a last desperate effort, after lying blizzard-bound for two days in the wind-swept fifth camp on the North Col, and again on the perilously pitched sixth camp, more than twenty-eight thousand feet up, was thrilling in the extreme, not less so because of the exceedingly modest way it was told. From the highest camp he was forced to take the same route as the ill-fated Mallory and Irvine in 1924; but being alone, his companion having had to go back on account of illness, he was forced to retrace his steps after exploring a possible way over what appeared the final obstacle, and narrowly escaped being caught and lost in a blizzard before he reached the safety of the lower camp.

Sympathy went out to the expedition generally, and Mr. Smythe in particular, on the gallant failure, the more so since difficulties were being placed in the way of further expeditions by the Tibetan Government, difficulties which have since been increased by the recent death of the Grand Lama.

OBITUARY

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Mr. Bobby Kelly, of Strathallan during the Bridge of Allan days. Mr. Kelly, along with his brother, formed part of the original School, and all who knew Bobby held him in the highest respect, for he had earned the best of all reputations that a schoolboy can win from his chums, namely, "He was dead straight"!

APPRECIATION

The following appreciation was received from the
Rev. Mr. Maisey, of Johannesburg:—

"Dzunje,"
82 Persimmon Street,
Malvern, 24th January, 1934.

Principal Mr. Riley,
late Bridge of Allan, Scotland.

Dear Mr. RILEY,

I am sure you are always interested to hear news of your students. The one I want to refer to is the late Robert Anderson Kelly, who died suddenly on the 16th inst. (under an operation for his teeth). He was born in Johannesburg and was taken by his parents to your School in Bridge of Allan for his education, and afterwards to Edinburgh University. He then returned to South Africa in 1921 and started his business career as an outfitter—his firm is known as Strachan & Kelly, Ltd., Johannesburg.

His interest in Church work was keen, and for over eight years he has been secretary of our Board of Management, and he was also treasurer of the Eastern Johannesburg Caledonian Society, both of which offices he filled with great efficiency.

We know his home training had moulded his character, and it was the work you were able to do in his education which made him in after years a young christian business gentleman, and a keen practical Church member, for he carried into effect the teaching he had received under your guidance. He was a young man highly respected in business and by the Church, and by the Caledonian Society, and though he was only 32 years of age, he had won the respect of all. His funeral was attended by some five hundred people, and at the Memorial Service on Sunday last the Church was crowded.

I am asking Mr. J. Kelly, his brother, to forward this, hoping it will reach you.

I remain, yours very sincerely,

W. CHAS. MAISEY,

Minister, Malvern and Denver
Presbyterian Church.

THE GLEN

'Tis night, with the pale moon shining
Down in the ghostly glen
And on little banks of vapour
Which float o'er the misty Ben.

'Tis night, with the streamlets splashing
And rushing down the hill,
With their foam a glittering whiteness,
Their depths a blackness still.

'Tis night, with the stars atwinkle,
The frost has settled hard,
And the phantoms on the heather
Are keeping close their guard;

They watch o'er the mighty secrets
Of an old forgotten age,
The mysteries of the clansmen
Who fell in battle's rage.

The sound of the rumbling water
Alone disturbs the glen;
Not a living soul about there,
Not even a sign of men.

'Tis night, and all is silent,
Save for the rushing burns;
Surely to-night of all nights,
The long-dead clan returns.

'Tis night, when the frost is keenest
And the fearful silence worst,
When suddenly the stillness
Is rent by a tuneful burst.

The glen is filled with music,
A slow and mournful tune,
Some haunting dirge on the pibroch
In the silver light of the moon.

Along stalks a fine old piper
Proudly swinging his kilt;
He changes his tune from sadness
To a captivating lilt.

With his bagpipes on his shoulder,
And his bonnet on his head,
His plaid is wrapped about him
And is stained an ugly red;

A ghostly, shining figure
Of veiled, uncanny light,
Some warrior bold of Scotland
Goes piping through the night.

His lilting tune of gladness
Goes echoing up the glen,
Is caught on the distant summit
And echoed back again.

Eerily marching onwards
He tramps o'er heather and bogs
While at his heels there follow
Two friendly phantom dogs.

And then in the utter darkness
They softly fade away,
And all resumes the stillness
'Twixt the mountains, misty grey.

'Tis night, the night of sorrow,
And the mourning burns splash on,
The pale moon looks down sadly
With the stars, on the glen forlorn.

The glen is full of shadows,
And her heart is full of woe;
'Tis night, and she is weeping
For her sons of long ago.

CHOMAR.

Sports Notes

RUGBY

IT cannot be said that the Rugby teams I have covered themselves with glory during the past term, though there were signs of a welcome revival in the closing weeks of the term which lead one to hope that the difficult Spring term fixtures will yield more successes than hitherto. The vacancies in the First team have proved even more difficult to fill satisfactorily than had been anticipated: but apart from these difficulties, the team has lacked real fire in all departments. The tackling at times has been deplorably weak, with a result that some tall scores have been registered against us. A brilliant exception to this statement must be made in the case of R. Macmath, who, never poor, at times seemed to do the tackling for the whole team—and very devastating tackling it was too. He began the season at full back, but the weakness in the centre invariably left him with at least two men, and generally more, to mark—an impossible situation. In an endeavour to close up this breach, he was moved to the centre, the full back position falling, after some experiments, to R. Kirkland, who has improved with every game, and now makes good use of his speed in linking up with the threes. In the last games, Breckenridge moved in from the wing to centre, and with Macmath and Forrest, who has played consistently well at stand-off, formed a thrustful spearhead down the centre.

The forwards have scarcely lived up to their reputation as a pack, though individual members, among whom J. Cooper must be mentioned, have developed wonderfully. The chief fault forward lay in lack of "snap," and intelligent co-operation seemed missing at times. As a pack, they were seldom beaten for weight, height or pace, and yet they failed to push home the advantage this should have given: indeed, it took a better pack, such as that of Dunfermline H.S. to bring the best out of them.

The School is fortunate in that few changes are necessitated by boys leaving at

Christmas. W. Carrie will be the most notable absentee, for he was a hard-working forward and usually a safe goal kicker, though he has found few opportunities to show his prowess in the latter sphere. S. Grant, who has played several useful games with the First is also leaving, but apart from these, all the teams will be unchanged, except that R. Johnston will have sufficiently recovered from his injury to fill the scrum half position for either the First or Second teams.

Strathallan v. Whitecraigs, played at Forgandenny on September 25th.

Strath. kicked off from the School end and carried play into their opponents' half, where they attacked strongly for a short while. The visitors soon settled down, and their heavy centres threatened danger, attacking again and again, and being kept out rather by their own mistakes than by sound defence of the home side. McKenna was doing more than his share in defence. Eventually scores came; although Roy was very successfully bottled up by Kirkland, bursts through by the centres and fly-half had resulted in three unconverted tries when half-time arrived.

In the second half the pack, which was not playing at all well, was obviously feeling the effects of pushing against grown men, and this gave Whitecraigs too many scoring chances, which they seized to score four more tries and two goals. Strath.'s weakness was mainly in the scrum, where the heeling was only little worse than the hooking. Line-out work was also weak. The threes were completely outclassed, particularly the two centres, though Houston tried hard but had no chance against his larger opponents. Outstanding for the School were Kirkland, who shepherded Roy with complete success, and Macmath, whose display at full back was frequently brilliant. McKenna and Cooper were easily the best of the pack.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Whitecraigs, 28 pts.

Strathallan v. Aberdeen G.S., played at Aberdeen on September 30th.

Aberdeen kicked off with the wind and promptly scored twice. Strath. were still stiff from the journey and could do nothing right. McKenna alone showed any spark of life, but he could not rally a very sluggish pack. With eight points against them, Strath. slowly improved, with Forrest kicking well and receiving strong service from Strang, who was steady except for an occasional blunder. The forwards were now getting the ball in the scrums, but the threes seemed lost, only Hood making a run for the line. When the home side did get the ball, their outsides managed to confuse ours, and two more tries were scored before the breather.

In the second half the forwards played well, and frequently looked dangerous; but the threes had not the experience to finish off the chances the forwards gave them. Towards the end, a splendid rush by the home side took them into our territory, and a dropped goal made the result certain. In the closing minutes they added another try. McKenna, Macmath and Cooper were again the best on the field, and Macbride surprised his opposite number time and again with an excellent cut through. Weak passing, however, almost completely wiped out the advantage thus gained.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Aberdeen G.S., 21 pts.

Strathallan v. Gordon's College, played at Aberdeen on October 14th.

Strath. kicked off and carried play into the home "25," where they stayed for the first quarter of an hour, and repeated attacks, mainly by Breckenridge, were held up very close to the line. The Gordon's pack was weak and were pushed by the Strath. eight all over the field. Eventually, Breckenridge gained a typical try on the blind side, side-stepping half a dozen opponents. Unfortunately, he was kicked as he went down and was very quiet for the rest of the game. Gordon's rallied, and their stand-off half intercepted a pass and ran round Mitchell to score. Strath. replied, and Forrest was conspicuous in keeping up a series of attacks. Just before the breather Macmath was all but through.

In the second half the home forwards showed up in a better light, while the School eight fell away in the tight. As a result, Gordon's out half frequently broke through and was stopped on the "25" by Mitchell, who was playing quite creditably for his first game at full back. Ultimately, the fly-half broke through to score under the posts. A little later a kick ahead was fielded by Macmath on the line. Unable to dodge, he was brought down, the ball went loose and was touched down by Gordon's. From the restart till the end Strath. attacked hotly, but lack of coolness in the home "25" prevented a score. Several scrums on the line gave the School the ball, but Strang neglected to get his threes moving. McKenna, Breckenridge and Macmath were the best of a side which played below its ability. The threes showed greater understanding of each other, though there was ample room for improvement.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Gordon's College, 11 pts.

Strathallan v. Glasgow High School, played at Forgardenny on October 21st.

Strath. kicked off towards the School, but were immediately brought back into their own half by a splendid High School pack. Recovering, however, they played better than before this season, the forwards setting a hot pace to carry play to the visitors' line, where they stayed for some ten minutes without capturing it. The High School backs made some attacks during this period but they were effectively broken up by the devastating tackling of Macmath. Though the rain and cold made handling difficult, the High School's attacks were always dangerous, and only Kirkland's tackling saved a score on several occasions. After having most of the game for the first quarter, Strath. quietened down, and the visiting backs put in some strong runs, but, thanks to Macmath, they failed to break through. At length the visitors opened their account with a dropped goal after a quick pass out from the line-out. Before Strath. could recover from this reverse the backs went clean through to increase the High School's lead. From then on they had to fight every inch

of the way, for in the tight and loose the home pack was on top.

In the second half, the Glasgow forwards rushed play to the home line, where, after being held up once, they managed to score from a five-yard scrum. Despite good work by the forwards, Strath. could not hold out the far superior High School backs, but a score by the right wing, after a good run down the line, too far out to be converted, ended the scoring. On the run of the play, the High School was flattered by the score. The outstanding features of the game were the spirited display by the forwards, the deadly tackling of Macmath, the determined runs of Breckenridge, and the steadiness under pressure of the new full back, Kirkland.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Glasgow High School, 13 pts.

Strathallan v. Dunfermline High School,
played at Forgandenny on October 28th.

Strath. kicked off in a squall of rain and sleet and carried play to the Dunfermline half. Far too good to be disturbed by a sudden attack, the visitors fought back to Strath. territory. Conditions militating against back play, the game was a grim and muddy forward struggle. The School eight showed great promise, and seemed at first sure to score. The visitors, however, were sound, and by clever dribbling took the game to Strath.'s "25," where a quick heel sent their centre over, too far out to convert. Shortly afterwards, Kirkland fielded a kick, but in getting in his return was charged down and had to be carried off the field. A man short, the pack played up splendidly and held the heavier and taller visitors. The backs did not, naturally, have a chance to shine, though Breckenridge and Forrest were finding touch with some good kicks; and Macmath was again prominent with his tackling, which served to break up any opposing three movement.

In the second half, the visitors' forward rushes were excellent, their wing forwards getting away with the ball time after time. Weakness in falling on the ball allowed

them to score again, the wing forward dribbling past several men to score near the posts. Strath. thereafter pressed hard, particularly the forwards, but they were not a scoring power, and it was the visitors who closed the scoring by their wing three getting over near the flag. McKenna was outstanding in a hard-working set of forwards, and Forrest was the best of the outsiders.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Dunfermline H.S., 9 pts.

Strathallan v. Edinburgh Medicals, played
at Forgandenny on October 31st.

Strath. kicked off, but scarcely got going quickly enough. Macbride sent Hood away for a nice run, but the latter was pulled down near the enemy's "25". Play was somewhat scrappy until the visitors settled down when they scored far out. A little later they ran through again to score under the posts. Strath. replied with a brilliant run by Forrest, who went round the blind side to score by the corner flag, Carrie narrowly missing the convert. The visitors then broke through a line out, dribbled past the full back and scored to give them a 9-3 lead at half time.

In the second half the School played up strongly against a now tiring side, and it was against the run of play when the Medicals scored again far out, but a good kick brought about full points. Strath. replied with an excellent break through and a strong run by Breckenridge, who also added further points with a penalty kick. Excitement was intense as the School maintained the pressure, the visitors' line having some lucky escapes. At length, from a line out, Macmath came up at full speed, unnoticed by the visitors, took the ball and went over with a completely unstoppable run. With but minutes to go Strath. strove valiantly for the winning points but the Medicals relieved, and play ended in mid-field. Forrest, Breckenridge and Macmath were outstanding outside, while Cooper played a sterling game forward.

Result: Strathallan, 12 pts.; Edinburgh Medicals, 14 pts.

Strathallan v. G. Smith's Dundee XV,
played at Forgardenny on November
8th.

In this game the School was outplayed by a larger and faster side, although they were by no means disgraced. Dishington's hooking, against St. Andrews' hooker, was his best performance of the season, and the pack as a whole all but held their own against the heavier eight. The opposing outsiders were much too fast and, generally speaking, scored whenever they had the ball, except when the attack was immediately frustrated by Macmath's destructive tackling, or by Breckenridge catching the man who was away.

In the second half the Dundee team began to tire, and Strath. looked as if they might pull the game round. The opponents' scores were now only breakaway affairs, whereas the Strath. forwards were doing their best to rush the ball down the field. Macmath scored with an individual burst from the "25". McKenna, Cooper and Mitchell were the best forwards, and Macmath and Breckenridge the best of the outsiders.

Result: Strathallan, 5 pts.; G. Smith's XV, 32 pts.

Strathallan v. Allan Glen's School, played
at Glasgow on November 18th.

Strath. well deserved their first win of the season, being superior in all departments, though bleak conditions made handling difficult. After a short spell of midfield play, Strath. gradually gained the upper hand, repeatedly pressing into the home "25", largely through Forrest's kicking. At length, McKenna broke away and passed to Forrest, who, seizing an opening, went through to score. Garrie failed with the kick. The next try came from Macmath, who was playing an excellent game. Receiving the ball just inside the home half, he broke through and, once started, was unstoppable. The kick again failed, but the six point lead was held to the interval.

Strath. continued to hold the upper hand on the resumption, and on the run of the game should have scored more than they did. Macmath played a magnificent game;

his running was powerful and straight, and he had conquered his previous fault of not passing. Twice he made the running for Breckenridge to go over, but neither try was converted. Strath. were still attacking when the final whistle blew. The backs were the better part of the team, their running and passing being far ahead of their previous displays. The forwards were not so sure of themselves as usual, but McKenna and Drummond were outstanding.

Result: Strathallan, 12 pts.; Allan Glen's School, nil.

Strathallan v. Robert Gordon's College,
played at Forgardenny on November
25th.

Strath. played their poorest game, in striking contrast with the previous week, forwards and backs failing miserably. The pack was sluggish, and the backs disorganised and incapable. Strath. kicked off and opened the scoring, the ball being scrambled over at the lower end of the pitch. After this, Gordon's pulled themselves together, and their centres, both powerful runners, got going well for the winger to score a try which a good kick converted. Strath. seemed unable to reply; the ball came out slowly and the visiting backs and wing forwards were easily able to smother the attacks. The forwards were at fault particularly, failing even to mark the outstanding members in the opponents' pack.

In the second half Gordon's kept the upper hand. Once they were over, but were luckily held up before touching down. It was not long, however, before a converted try rewarded their efforts. The home side seemed put off by the hard ground. Kirkland's tackling was weak, though his running and kicking were useful in gaining ground. Macbride ran well on the only chance he had.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Gordon's College, 13 pts.

Strathallan v. Old Strathallians, played at
Forgardenny on December 2nd.

The School kicked off and gained a temporary footing in the Old Boys' half, but

a quick heel and a round of smart passing saw the visitors quickly take the lead with a converted try near the posts. The forwards were holding the heavier pack creditably, but outside things were more difficult for the School, Turner Johnston setting his threes going very well; and fast running here saw Irvine go over twice, too far out for the convert to be effected. The School forwards were slow in heeling and as a rule Forrest had little room to move when the ball reached him. His touch kicking, however, despite this handicap was both longer and safer than usual. Half time came with the Old Boys leading by eleven clear points.

Though on the resumption the visitors seemed to tire slightly, the School could not attain such an ascendancy as to score. Barr broke through cleverly, and gave to Lambie who easily put the Old Boys further ahead. Strang put in some useful work in going down on the ball in front of F.P. forward rushes to hold them up. A quick heel, however, from a loose scrum saw the visiting threes moving well, and Irvine went over again at the corner, the kick failing. The F.P.'s kept up the attack but Drummond's work in getting across to break up attacks was excellent; and Macmath appeared from nowhere on another occasion to save a certain score. Play continued near the School line and just before the close an infringement in the scrum gave the Old Boys a further chance of adding to their score, but the kick was missed. Carrie, Mitchell, Cooper and McKenna played well for the School pack, though the latter must learn to get away from the ball in the scrum. Forrest and Breckenridge were the best of the outsides.

Result : Strathallan, nil ; Old Strathallians, 17 pts.

Strathallan v. Hillhead High School,
played at Glasgow on December 9th.

Strath. opened with plenty of snap and took the game into the home half. Good kicking by Forrest and Breckenridge advanced the game to the "25" where, from a scrum, Forrest swung away on the blind side and caught the home defence napping.

Carrie converted with a good kick. Hillhead retaliated with several good forward rushes, which took them to the Strath. line where some anxious moments were passed before Macmath cleared with a good kick. Just before the interval Breckenridge took a pass, and beat several men by his strong running to score well out, but Carrie again converted.

Although only one further score resulted in the second half, Strath. was well on top. The forwards packing 3-4-1, got the ball out smartly and repeatedly from the scrum; Strang gave Forrest good service from the base of the scrum, and it was only by resolute defence that the home side held their line intact. At length Macmath gave a splendid dummy and scored for Carrie to bring about full points. Hillhead attacked strongly after this and for a time kept the School penned in their own "25", and strictly on the defensive. Just before the close Dishington gave away a kick and Hillhead scored from the kick. The game reflected great credit to Strath. Kirkland kicked well and used his pace to advantage at full back; Carrie and McKenna were outstanding in a hard working pack, and Forrest, Macmath and Breckenridge were all good outside.

Result: Strathallan, 15 pts.; Hillhead H.S., 3 pts.

SECOND FIFTEEN

The Second Fifteen, like the senior side, have had a poor season so far, winning only one of their seven games. This success was gained at the expense of Gordon's College. A try by Batchelor, converted by Carswell, in the opening minute did much to encourage Strath., and though the visitors went over once in the second half, tries by Batchelor, Sharp, Carswell and Macbride (two) enabled Strath. to run out easy winners by 24 pts. to 5. Gordon's had their revenge in the return game on 25th Nov. Aitkenhead and Batchelor were injured in

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way along the railway he tells of cracks appearing in front of him six feet wide, and as he looked into them he said he almost swallowed his tonsils! It was a kind of adventure to walk along the twisted railway line; to step on a sleeper might mean a journey down into Mother Earth, or else a precipitation up into the skies. It is to be hoped that in our next issue Mr. Moodie will enable us to publish an account of it, for it is doubtful whether many people have had more adventure packed into the short space of a few hours than Mr. Moodie. Happily, he came through uninjured, and although winding up on his usual cheery note, he evidently cannot get the catastrophe out of his mind, for he stated that he had seen and smelt enough dead to last him for a life-time.

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the opening minutes, and thus handicapped, Strath. could not hold the opposing wing, who scored repeatedly. Hall, being tried at full back, was not a success, and though the forwards played fairly well the School had to admit defeat by 32 pts. to 3, Aitkenhead scoring the try from an opponent's miskick.

Of the defeats, the best displays were those against Glasgow High School at Glasgow and Hillhead High School at Forgandenny. In the former, Dishington's excellent hooking enabled the School to hold their heavier opponents and take the ball in three-quarters of the scrums, while Sharp, Dunlop and Balfour were conspicuous in the loose. Apart from Houston, however, the backs were poor and tackled weakly, while R. Johnston's service from the scrum was badly missed. Nevertheless, to hold the High School to six points was very creditable. Against Hillhead, the School was a little unlucky to lose. Territorially they held the advantage, and only a lucky kick ahead gave the visitors the victory, though credit must be given to them for the sterling defence throughout the second half when Strath. were storming their line. The three-quarters lacked snap in attack, but their defence was excellent. The forwards were again the heroes of the match, Sharp, J. Balfour and R. Dunlop being conspicuous.

Only in the game with Dollar Academy could the School forwards be said to have met their match, and even here they were only inferior in the loose. The threes failed to impress, only Hood and Dobbie on the wings revealing any dash. Dollar's scores were due to a clever scrum half and the very weak tackling by the School forwards.

Against Aberdeen Grammar School in the opening game, the threes, while showing individual merits, failed to blend together and their tackling of bigger opponents was weak. Aitkenhead was responsible for the

School's only try, when he kicked ahead for Houston to touch down. The visitors replied with five tries, one being converted. The remaining game was against Morgan Academy 1st XV at Dundee. Outweighed forward and back, the School found themselves fourteen points down within ten minutes, before the threes grew accustomed to the slippery ground. Thereafter they defended stubbornly, the wingers again being the best of the back division. The pack stood up well to their bigger opponents, the brothers Balfour and D. Hall being the best.

THIRD FIFTEEN

The Third Fifteen also can only be credited with a single victory, this being against Gordon's College early in the term, though the tables were turned in a second match at the end of November. Dollar Academy and Aberdeen G.S. each took more than thirty points off them, very poor tackling being responsible for the heavy defeats. A much better display was given against Morgan Academy 2nd XV, whose greater weight and size gave them the victory.

SWIMMING

Owing to the drought experienced in the Summer term it was late in the term before the Swimming Pond was opened, and it was only possible to play two practice games at polo. These were enough, however, to reveal much new talent, notably Macmath's powerful throw. Several of the newcomers to the School show considerable promise, and, if enthusiasm and practice mean anything, these will surely find their way into the School side before Commemoration Day. Forrest, the Swimming Captain, has put in much time in encouraging throwing and dribbling practice.

Scout Notes

THE Summer holidays held moments of anxiety for the Troop, since we knew that many of our officers would not return in the new term. Nevertheless, the present term has proved the worth of their successors — I. Macbride as A.S.M., S. K. White as Troop-leader, B. C. Smith, V. Mackay, A. R. Scott as Patrol-leaders. These, together with the longer established leaders, have maintained the keen and able character of inter-patrol work. We have had to reduce the number of patrols—there are eight now instead of nine; this move has made possible a more even distribution of individuals. With the admission of twelve new members, ten of whom came as recruits, the Troop has maintained its total of sixty.

In the notes of last term it was mentioned that the Summer camp had been arranged for Scarborough, on the Yorkshire coast. A site was found at Raincliff Farm, on the edge of Raincliff Woods, in Lady Edith's Drive. We owe great thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Miller at the farm for their kindness and helpfulness. Though we were only a small group in camp we were fully able to enjoy all the joys of camp. Even the S.M. was disturbed by a chorus of cocks, calves and snoring Scouts, and the A.S.M. by the eruption of an ant-hill beneath his ground sheet. These minor out-of-the-ordinary occurrences only set off the more vividly the delights of bathing at Filey, and the climbing of the Nab, of the ageing car that couldn't, apparently, ever run away on Blue Bank, of the discovery at Whitby that stone coffins *were* made to fit. Scarborough itself had much to offer of delight — few of us were prepared for the magnificence of "Tom Jones" at night in the open-air theatre. From breakfast porridge to camp-fire cocoa the camp was really enjoyable.

We were sorry, this term, to be unable to greet Mr. J. Crichton, the Scottish H.Q. Organising Secretary, but as he was unable to come during our Saturday meeting, it was impossible to arrange for a visit from him.

The Troop offers its congratulations very readily to S. K. White, W. M. Edward, J. M. Wilson, W. Mackay on gaining their King's Scout badges this term. S. K. White and J. M. Wilson have gained their red and white all-round cords. Badges passed during the term include Pathfinder, Rescuer, Interpreter and Cyclist.

The work of the term has been largely, though not completely, confined to the Hut. The Rattlesnakes are to be congratulated on their good showing in the inter-patrol competitions. In an ambulance competition most patrols showed a very cool and ready ability to deal with the problems set; we can only hope that this ability would be present when the case is not simply a paper description to be dealt with on a healthy member of a patrol. Very good work has been done in the corners by the various patrols. By the present arrangement, patrols need no longer work solely to a programme for one term, but may work at a scheme covering several terms or may make additions and improvements to old work without the destruction of previous efforts. The corners were judged by Mr. W. E. Ward and Mr. A. J. Shaw, who awarded the cup to the Wolves patrol, the Seals being second. The cup for the individual exhibit was awarded to J. A. Smith, of the Wolves, for a wireless set. The Principal presented the Trophy to the Eagle patrol who have earned it by good all round work in competitions, corners, badge work and service. The Seal patrol was second, and the Wolves third.

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