

# THE STRATHALLIAN

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PERTHSHIRE

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## Editorial

THE Heartiest Greetings to all for 1937!

After which, it seems rather a pity to resume our customary complaint. We could, however, wish that the Festive Season had left a moment when the "Strathallian" had been remembered. We are aware that last term we were not driven to the customary appeal for contributions; and under the circumstances to pretend we were seemed unjustifiable and unfair. When the whole of the term passed, however, without a single contribution being submitted to us, we began to wonder if our readers were playing quite fair with us.

It is not only monotonous, it is undignified, to have to remind Strathallians each term that their support of the magazine is essential. It is; and therefore we urge all once again to make a big effort. Our appeal is directed particularly, though not exclusively, to the Old Boys, because their contributions have of recent years been very few and far between; and since the magazine provides them with news of their contemporaries if it does no more, it would seem that their only way to repay the debt is to provide others with reading of a general interest. Moreover, they have so much greater opportunities of observation than we who spend so much of our time within the narrow limits of the School.

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## School Notes and Notices

THE Christmas Term pursued a singularly placid course, unremarkable in the matter of weather or epidemics, and came to its customary hectic conclusion in a welter of examinations and entertainment. The majority of the School departed, indeed, for the vacation, leaving some two dozen unfortunates little more than half way through the Cambridge Local Examinations, an unusual occurrence at this time of the year. We are pleased to say that the thoughts of the examination did not seem to mar the breaking-up festivities, and trust that they were not allowed to interfere with those of Christmas and the New Year, even though the publication of the results must

necessarily be awaited with anxiety in some quarters.

During the term building operations at Strath. have virtually been completed. The two Junior exam. classes took up their quarters in new classrooms at the beginning of term, and the remaining two Junior classrooms were, by its conclusion, almost ready for occupation. The Gymnasium, too, has been renovated, the rounded windows being replaced by square ones in conformity with those of the new classrooms, and a heating apparatus installed which enabled the end of term activities to be held there in great comfort.

The various societies have also shown "a certain liveliness": and the arrival of

the "Talkies" at Strath. has been greatly appreciated, even though the actual venue of the Saturday evening entertainment still remains a matter of some uncertainty and the sound reproduction occasionally imperfect. The acoustics of both the Gym. and the Common Room are not all that could be desired; and perfect reproduction must necessarily be a matter of experiment temporarily, in either place.

The meetings of the Debating Society have been widely appreciated. A point to which its secretary calls attention might well be stressed here. Mere facts alone seldom carry much weight in debating unless they be well marshalled and engagingly presented: and speakers would do well to cultivate this aspect of debating to a much greater extent. Some "maiden" speakers this term seem to have realised its importance to the full, and we trust that their example will be emulated by all. Above all, we feel that the art of summing-up has been entirely neglected; all too often the advantage of being last speaker is entirely wasted through inability to recapitulate succinctly yet forcibly, essential points in the argument. If attention is devoted to these points, the present generation of debaters has every opportunity of adding considerable lustre to the Society's history.

The Dramatic Society, too, has proved immensely popular, its numbers showing a considerable increase; and many talented members have been discovered among the newcomers, three of whom earned places in the end of term play. Full criticism of the production of "The Man Who Stayed at Home" is reserved for other hands, but in K. Grant the Society seems to have found its best female impersonator to date.

Here some word may be said about the newly built stage in the Gym., which is indeed a very great acquisition from the social side of the School life, and for which the School must always be in Mr. Riley's debt. The Secretary of the Dramatic Society will doubtless have more to say upon the equipment of the stage in his report, but it is worth noting that the Society in its expenditure has thought of posterity rather than itself and its

immediate needs. The switch board installed has been expensive, but it is felt that it is elaborate enough to provide for all contingencies in future productions: so far, little more than the dimming possibilities have been explored, but few lighting effects should be outside the scope of the new equipment. The curtains have been hung anew on proper theatrical equipment; the ease of working resulting fully justified the expenditure entailed. So did the greater rigidity given by the new scenery and method of supporting it.

The School Concert was held on the last night of term, and was fittingly a singularly light-hearted affair. Indeed, only the Staff play had any pretension to seriousness, apart from several orchestral numbers. These were admirably rendered, if hardly so much to the taste of the audience as the jazz numbers in which it assisted vociferously. Mr. Jones and his helpers are to be congratulated upon the great progress made by the musical side of the School, and particularly upon the advent of such a distinct acquisition as I. Macdonald and his trumpet. All concerned in the evening's entertainment put the School greatly in their debt.

Two lectures round about mid-term provided welcome breaks from the customary routine; while the juniors were afforded a further opportunity of refreshing their memories in matters of Life Saving and Artificial Respiration by Captain Daintry. Of the lectures, the first one was undoubtedly an outstanding success; and Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Roddie must join Mr. Smythe and the Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce as the high lights among the lecturers visiting Strath. His subject, "Germany," may have daunted some of the younger members at first, particularly when they learnt that it was not a lantern lecture; but it was not for long. For the lecturer brought his subject down admirably to their understanding; his exposition was clarity itself, and, when he had finished, all knew something of modern Germany and the circumstances which made Hitler and Nazism possible there. He appealed to our youth even as Hitler had done; while his climax, the description

of the Nazi meeting, was masterfully staged—worthy, one would suppose of Hitler himself.

Captain H. S. Blunt had not the same scope for his lecture "The Vast Sudan," but by the aid of some excellent slides he contrived to conduct his audience over vast areas of Africa: particularly good were those illustrative of his flight back to England by air.

The Rugby Fifteens have enjoyed a fairly successful season, though there have been sad lapses on the part of the First Team on several occasions. After numerous experiments, the side seemed full of possibilities, but somehow these have not so far been fully realised. With the possible exception of the Old Boys' match and that against Heriot's, the games have not been so pleasant to watch as those of last season because the back division has generally failed to open up the game as it did under Forrest's leadership; and indeed the final game, against Cupar, can only be described as very dull. Nevertheless, the defeats of Dollar Academy, Allan Glen's,

and last but how very sweet, of the Old Boys, are high feathers in the caps of Houston and his men. The forwards have played well on the whole and borne the brunt of the game, but when, for whatever reason, they have played below themselves, the side as a whole seems to have collapsed. It is perhaps captious to criticise too much, for not the least pleasing feature of the season's play is that the successful players in most of the teams have generally been on the youthful side, whose services the School will enjoy for several seasons to come.

During the vacation Mr. Wenham joined the ranks of the married members of the Staff, and we take this opportunity of wishing him and Mrs. Wenham every happiness. During the vacation, too, we met Mr. McCutcheon. He was but newly recovering from the effects of an English winter, but, in wishing to be remembered to his many friends at Strath., he expressed the hope that he would be able to visit them next Autumn, by which time he hopes to have been ordained.

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## The School Concert, 1936

IT was a strangely quiet company which assembled for the Christmas Concert marking the close of the year. Our thoughts concerning the abdication of King Edward VIII, news of which had just come through, had cast an unusual solemnity over the gathering. Mr. Shaw's opening monologue quickly dispersed the gloom, however, and we settled down to enjoy the concert in time-honoured fashion.

Our first thanks must go to the orchestra—certainly the best company of musicians to cause harmonic vibrations at Strath. for many years. We had had some taste of the quality of Mr. Jones and his "boys" on Dramatic Night. To be honest, their first concerted number, "La Cinquantaine," was ragged. Later, "The Music Goes Round and Around" lived up to its reputation, and the band definitely arrived with "Alone." The Rhythm Boys, a jazz quartet, made the biggest hit of the evening with "Shoeshine Boy," closely followed by other popular jazz numbers. Macdonald's work on the trumpet was a revelation and

literally brought the house down. He has acquired, no doubt by arduous practice, both the technique and mannerisms of the professional performer, and did Strath. appreciate it? Absolute accuracy of timing was necessary in these numbers, and great credit must go to Rowan on the piano and Smith (bass) for the splendid backing they gave Macdonald. Craig at the drums was adequate but a little too restrained. Smith and Rowan showed their versatility by taking part in pianoforte items for eight hands. The former paired with Mr. Jones and the latter with H. Scott in Schubert's "Moment Musical." Once again perfect accuracy of timing and sympathetic rendering gave us a musical treat—this time of a somewhat "high-brow" classic. Most popular of their offering was the more robust and less involved "Marche aux Flambeaux"—obviously much enjoyed by the younger element. The violins (W. Taylor and E. C. Davison), assisted by Beatson and his 'cello, took the limelight with two of

Beethoven's Minuets, while the whole band in "A Little Dash of Dublin" and various community items completed a feast of instrumental music.

The complete absence of vocal efforts by the boys showed us that well as Strath. can play, it cannot sing, and we look to next year's concert to remedy this. Mr. Shaw gave us "We've Come Up From Somerset" and a very clever burlesque of the famous old "Drinking Song." Rumour has it that a certain member of Class II still believes that Mr. Shaw was not acting. Of other individual items, A. J. Macgregor's skit as a parson was most apropos. His opening lines were gems of characterisation; whilst Wallace stuck nobly to a humorous poem, "The 11.59" which he had begun to learn only on the day of the concert.

The Staff gave a one act play as usual, and relied once more on a crook drama, "Object All Sublime" by Frederick Ferris. Mr. Norton was happily chosen for the part of the embittered Henry Buxton who had been wrongfully sentenced to seventeen years' penal servitude. The rôle contrasted vividly with the "silly ass" part he played the night before and showed us the wide range of his ability. His very convincing performance was enhanced by an excellent make-up. Mr. Langstaff rivalled Mr. Norton in the clearness of his delivery, and he made real the self confident, blustering Judge Travis, but Mr. Waters did not show quite enough of the briskness and force expected from a high official of Scotland Yard. Mr. Hallett, whose chief mission was to be murdered, thrilled us with a real old stage "death." The member of Class II aforementioned is

reported to have cheered in a most undignified manner. The play as a whole was excellently staged, and performed without a hitch.

The "Grubroom," under the direction of Mr. Shaw, produced two sketches, "Scene in Court" and the "Last Lesson of the Term." In the first, Lyle as the hen-pecked and inebriated husband, showed lamentable disrespect for the Judge (J. Methven) and the Prosecuting Counsel (J. Kelly). All three gave good performances and extracted the maximum of fun from the situation. G. Knox, as the wife, had a riotous entry, and we should have liked to hear more of her. One could not but admire the bravery of wee P.C. Mitchell in arresting such a "tough guy."

The real riot of the evening was "The Last Lesson of Term," in which Mr. Shaw played a Will Hay type of schoolmaster. The play produced one laugh per line at least; in fact, we had no time to recover from one before the next started. L. Scott, J. Wilson, M. Paul, J. Steel and D. Fulton constituted the long-suffering class and right well did they play up (in two ways) to their learned (?) instructor. The brief glances of the headmaster (E. Watt) were much appreciated—portrayals of headmasters seem to run in the Watt family! The Maths. department seemed most upset by the ignorance of the class concerning polygons.

Finally, let us remember that a concert requires a whole lot of spade work in organisation and rehearsals. As usual, this was carried out by the Music Master and Messrs. Ward and Shaw: so we would close with a hearty vote of thanks to them for their efforts.

R. O. C.

## The Debating Society

*President:* Mr. Norton.

*Chairman:* R. Houston.

*Secretary:* I. M. Smith.

*Committee:* T. Macfarlane, J. Methven, N. McLeod, J. Beatson, H. Rowan.

THE first meeting of the session was devoted, as usual, to the election of office-bearers for the year, and after these had been chosen, proposals for the term's debates were invited. A considerable number were forthcoming, many of which were—alas!—old favourites, but the first debate "That a Woman's Place is in the

Home" was decided upon, and the four speakers secured before the meeting closed.

This debate, conducted by some of the more experienced members, gave the session a good send-off, and although many people held rather surprising views on the subject, the debate was enjoyed by all. Messrs. J. Methven and T. Macfarlane

eventually triumphed over Messrs. J. Beatson and A. Milroy, by carrying the motion by two votes.

"That if you wish for Peace, you must prepare for War," a fortnight later, proved equally successful, W. Reid making his long-awaited debut along with three other new speakers. It was noticeable that here two of the speakers made a real attempt towards delivering a speech which was something more than a series of disconnected facts; and this advance in rhetorical excellence is one which others would do well to copy. The motion was carried by 11 votes to 8.

"That Blood Sports should be abolished" gave the Society a subject to discuss about which all members knew something. The brothers Methven, perhaps rather better equipped with knowledge than anyone else present, made convincing speeches against

the motion, but met with some surprisingly good opposition, particularly in the remarks of H. Scott, who proved to be a shrewd speaker, and the motion was eventually carried by 14 votes to 4.

At the last meeting of the term, the two minutes debate was revived, and although the attendance was so low as to be by way of a record, those present gave of their best on humorous topics, and the meeting was an unqualified success. Two members of the Staff were present on this occasion and played their part well. We should like to thank them for the interest they have shown, and particularly we thank Mr. Pendlebury who has brightened meetings by clever, if sometimes fatuous, remarks which have proved him an able speaker. We hope that he will take part in the Masters' debate next term when we may hear him in a more serious vein.

I. SMITH, *Hon. Secretary.*

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## Scout Notes

SCOUTING this term has unfortunately been interfered with rather badly by the School matches on Saturdays. As the 1st and 2nd Fifteens have had a full fixture list, many of the senior members of the Troop have been unable to put in a regular appearance at the Saturday morning meetings. The patrol leaders have, however, done the best they could under the circumstances, and the creditable display of Corner Work at the end of term speaks volumes for their enthusiasm and leadership.

The junior members of the Troop have not been handicapped like their seniors, and it is gratifying to state that they have shown great keenness. Twelve new Scouts were invested during the term, bringing the total members of the Troop up to the figure of ninety-five. To these new Scouts go the good wishes of the entire Troop. Fifteen Scouts have completed their work towards their 2nd Class Badges and finished parts of their 1st Class Badge. The eagerness of these young Scouts has been one of the most heartening features of this term's work, and is a good augury of the continued success of the Troop in the future.

A great deal of badge work has been accomplished, and, in all, forty badges were

awarded during the term. Special mention must be made of the achievement of T. Macfarlane and D. Fulton in obtaining their Bushman's Thongs—honours they both very well deserve. But for the continued help to the Troop of Messrs. Ward, Norton, Cole, Waters and Bain, much of this badge work could not have been undertaken. We are, indeed, fortunate to have so many members of the staff who are willing to give their time to assist with this important branch of Scouting, and to them we extend our very sincere thanks.

On the last Saturday of term we had a visit from Mr. Mackie, the local Badge Secretary, and his assistant, Mr. Macfarlane. They examined members of the Troop in 1st Class Ambulance work and Ambulance Badge work. All the candidates submitted were passed.

At the end of term the trophies were presented by Mr. Ward as follows:

Cup for Best Individual Exhibit—Scout R. Orr, of the Rattlesnake Patrol, for a model canoe.

Cup for the Best Corner Work—Swift Patrol (P.-L. D. McColl).

Shield for Most Improved Patrol—Swift Patrol (P.-L. D. McColl).

Trophy for the Best Patrol—Hawk Patrol (P.-L. M. Paul).

The Hawk Patrol is to be congratulated heartily on winning the trophy for the third time in succession. The standard of their work is very high, and their enthusiasm unbounded. In their Patrol-Leader, M. Paul, and their Second, I. P. Murray, they have two hard-working leaders who set an admirable example to the remainder of the patrol.

After presenting the trophies, Mr. Ward spoke of his interest in the Scout movement from its inception, and congratulated the Strath. Troop on the progress it had made since first he was connected with it. The S.M. thanked Mr. Ward for kindly presenting the trophies and for his practical interest in the Troop throughout the term; and the proceedings concluded with three hearty cheers for Mr. Ward.

L. P. W.

## Firewalking

THE recent discussions on the exhibitions of firewalking by its professional exponent, Doctor Karim Bux, lead me to describe the amateur display of this somewhat dubious "sport" which I witnessed while in Burma.

The Mohammedan coolie working in the oilfields at Yenangyaung hails from Southern India and belongs to that more fanatical sect of Islam, the Shia, who indulge in such painful professions of their faith as hook-hanging, the piercing of their flesh with skewers, and firewalking.

On the occasion of one of their more important festivals, they decided to hold a display of firewalking with performers chosen from their own numbers.

Permission for such a display had to be obtained from the local "police-wallah," a friend of mine, and so I was duly invited to see the fun.

The scene was in the centre of one of the nearby villages where a huge crowd of Burmans and Indians were assembled to see the performance, and here we sat on a warm hot-weather night while a preliminary display of torch swinging was given while the firewalking pit with its burning charcoal was gaining a red heat.

It was interesting to watch in the flickering flames the expressions and the faces of the crowd as the torch swingers performed amazing feats with their fiery brands.

Suddenly to the beating of drums, the local "mullah" (priest) arrived with the performers from a nearby mosque and, to the waving of incense, examined the fire and pronounced it to be ready.

Whereupon, the "walkers" proceeded to follow the "mullah" round the pit, which was about fifteen feet long and three feet broad, beating themselves and lashing themselves into a frenzy with shouts of "Hasan Hussain," "Hasan, Hussain," at the same time receiving a blessing from their priest.

Retiring to a short distance from the pit, they continued their incantations for a few minutes, then the priest handed the leader a standard and commanded them to walk the fire. Three of them swept forward crying the names of their saints, Hasan and Hussain, the sons of Mohammed, and, closely followed by three others, walked through that glowing pit, while their feet seemed to disappear into the embers.

This they repeated six times, and then their priest announced that the exhibition was at an end, and the performers retired.

After this an examination of the pit and its contents was conducted at a range of about two yards as, anywhere nearer than that, the heat was unbearable. Here, certainly, was no fake!

Then the priest invited us to the mosque where we examined the performers' feet, and found them to be absolutely without blemish (so far as a coolie's feet can be!) or blisters of any kind!

What the answer is to this remarkable feat is best left to our medical profession, and, so far, I have heard no reasonable explanation in this part of the world. "Just one of the mysteries of the East" is all one can ever obtain by way of an explanation.

## The Tenth Annual Dinner

THE Tenth Annual Dinner was held at St. Enoch's Station Hotel, Glasgow, on the 19th December. The President of the Club, Mr. Geo. Smith, was in the chair with Bailie Victor Warren as the guest of honour. There was an excellent turn-out of members whose school years stretched back as far as 1915; a fact which gave great pleasure to all those connected with the organisation of the function. On the top table, directly in front of the Chairman, figured prominently what appeared to be a tastefully decorated "mike" which caused some apprehension to our guest of honour who certainly did not anticipate his speech being broadcast. His fears were soon set at rest when one of the speakers made reference to "this thing which we won on Commemoration Day" and it turned out to be nothing more or less than the Wooden Spoon, which quite appropriately was referred to by Mr. Riley as "Mike," much to the amusement of the assembly.

The dining room itself was most tastefully decorated in School colours and two long side tables ran the length of the room from the top table where the President, the Guest of Honour and others who were to make speeches sat in state. The dinner itself was a great success and even those responsible for the drawing up of the menu showed a pretty wit as well as a sound knowledge of a Scotsman's deep-rooted aversion to learning foreign languages for, instead of a choice between Consommé Ailerons and Crème Lamballe, it was put bluntly in plain English "thick" or "clear." There was a general hum of conversation, question and answer following one another in rapid succession interspersed with a shout of merriment on occasion. Whatever it was the joke must have been a good one or perhaps on such occasions one is easily amused, but of one thing there was no doubt whatever, everyone was enjoying himself. Then came café and one could almost sense that some of the top table were becoming nervous, and it was quite evident that the presence of "Mike," gaily decorated as it was, was not giving inspiration of the right kind to those who

had to get up and speak, except perhaps to our esteemed Honorary President who fondled it and seemed to take a fiendish delight in drawing attention first of one person and then of another to its presence. There was no doubt it was a disturbing element to most and several very weak attempts to explain away its presence only seemed to make it more pronounced. How many would have been delighted to have been able to use effectively the famous expression, "Take away this bauble!" After the toast of "The King," Mr. Harry Gowan, who was at Strathallan in Bridge of Allan days, in proposing the toast of "The School," drew a picture of what it was like in days gone by. He delighted his hearers by recounting his reminiscences of Bridge of Allan days, and when he turned and spoke of what he had seen recently up at Forgandenny, his hearers understood to the full the meaning of that word "Progress." He stated that he had been present at School last month on the occasion of a very keenly contested School match and he remarked on the "fine spirit that was being fostered amongst the boys," and in his toast he coupled with the name of the School that of "its presiding genius who solely by his own effort has brought the School to its present state of efficiency."

In reply, the Headmaster took up the comparison made by Mr. Gowan between "the discomforts of days gone by" and the "comfort and luxury which they enjoy to-day," and he declared that Old Boys had told him many times that the present generation was being pampered. "They may be pampered," retorted Mr. Riley, "but of one thing I am absolutely certain and that is they are not in any way spoilt! You don't suppose that these fellows who during this last year have been putting up all-time records as far as the School is concerned on the rugby field and on the cricket ground, you don't suppose these fellows are achieving these things without having retained all the guts and the grit which you fellows used to show in days gone by. They have been inspired by your example to try not only to emulate your

feats but to surpass them, and everyone connected with the School and the Club knows how well they have succeeded. No, gentlemen, they may be pampered but you yourselves must admit, as you learned to your own cost on Commemoration Day and at the rugger match last term, and by the very presence of 'Mike' himself here to-day, they are not spoilt." (Loud cheers)

Mr. Riley went on to explain the work that was being done in improving the School. During the last twelve months an entirely new set of schoolrooms had been built on the site of the old greenhouses and labs. A large workshop had been added and the gymnasium had been equipped with a stage and gadgets which had turned it into a first-rate theatre. Recently the School had acquired additional land rounding off the School grounds in such a way as to form a very compact whole, and Mr. Riley explained that he hoped to be able to put into the grounds of to-day five first-rate rugger pitches together with two new cricket grounds which would allow even the junior boys in the School to enjoy cricket practice on a first class pitch. He explained that his great anxiety was to secure continuity of the School, which, he declared, was the duty that he owed to every Strathallian—a duty he would not in any way shirk and he was glad to be able to tell them that he had appointed two trustees, Mr. David Bogie and Mr. John Cowan, to hold the School in trust for the Old Boys. In conclusion, Mr. Riley remarked "Strathallan is my present to you. It is a trust which I am placing in your care and I do so with implicit confidence and faith that you will not let me down." (Loud and prolonged applause).

Mr. Smith, in calling upon Bailie Victor Warren to propose the toast of "The Club," pointed out the long list of public services which he had rendered to the community and, although comparatively a young man he had not only had time to attain eminence in his business but had attained high civic dignity and had won his way to the command in the territorial army of one of its best regiments.

On rising to propose the toast of "The Club," it was soon evident that Bailie

Warren was an experienced speaker with a good store of after-dinner stories. Even was he able to say something witty on the subject of education! "Old boys' clubs," continued Bailie Warren, "are founded for the purpose of friendship and," he added, "we have got to prove to that wider democracy that we have that 'little extra bit of something that the others haven't got' if we are to carry on the traditions of public schools! And we owe it to the people to use this little bit of something extra that we have got, not for our own selfish amusement but for the benefit of the community at large." Bailie Warren declared that although he had only a short acquaintance with some members of the Club, yet it had been sufficient to emphasise in his mind that the old boys from a good school were the best prospectuses that headmasters ever sent out into the world. Even His Honour could not refrain from making a sly reference to the presence of "Mike." "I confess that I am considered to be an experienced speaker and that on occasion I have broadcast, but I must also confess that I was quite relieved when I found my apprehensions were not justified, and I am sure your fellows will see to it next year that 'Mike' is left at home." (Laughter and cheers).

Mr. George Smith, the Club President, made the reply and he pointed out that the Club had a membership of 310, of whom 182 were life members. Of the 22 boys who had left School during the current year, 17 had joined the Club and three others had promised to do so. He emphasised the fact that the Club itself was not a somnolent body but one that was very much alive and progressive, and one which had rendered service at one time and another to Old Strathallians scattered in many parts of the world. He said the Club was a focal point which brought Strathallians no matter where they were on to common ground and he said that Old Boys' meetings which took place not only at the official meeting place in Glasgow once per year, but at various times and at other places—he spoke of these meetings as days of "Do you remember?"—days which he declared would become more precious as time went on. He then faced



up in his sketch of the year's events to Commemoration Day. "This thing you know was handed to me on Commemoration Day," assuming an air of great sadness and looking rather ruefully at "Mike," "but that defeat, although it was pretty bad, was really worth experiencing to see the joyous grin that came over Mr. Riley's face when, amidst the hilarious enthusiasm of the boys themselves, he, as Club President, had to step forward and accept that wooden spoon."

"Our Guests" was charmingly proposed by Mr. A. Fraser, in replying to whom Mr. J. G. Rowan made a very interesting speech. He spoke at first of his long connection with Strathallan. "For fifteen years," he said, "I have had one or two sons at your school and I have never regretted choosing Strathallan." He thanked Mr. Riley and his staff and voiced his appreciation of everything the School had done for his boys. Underlining one of Mr. Riley's speeches on Sports Day, Mr. Rowan said, "To give service is the finest thing we can do in the world, and I would like to urge you young people who have had the advantage of a good education to devote some of your time and ability to public service," and, continuing, he paid a delightful compliment to Bailie Warren for his unstinting service to many public bodies.

It fell to Mr. Alastair Dow to propose the toast of "Absent Friends," which he did in a well delivered and well thought out address. "This toast," he declared, "must by now have been worn threadbare, but I think I have found a new angle, a new point of view. I would like to ask our Headmaster wherever he may be to think of everyone of us Old Boys as true and trusty Absent Friends and as our fortunes rise and fall so will those of the School."

Mr. Smith then invested Mr. Lambie, the President-elect, with the chain of office as President for the coming year, using the words of exhortation which have been passed on year by year since the chain of office was inaugurated by the founder. Mr. Lambie then was coaxed to stand up on the table and, after a few preliminary remarks and expressing thanks for the confidence that the Club had placed in him and promising to further its interests in every

way in his power, he, too, came under the spell of "Mike." With a feigned burst of anger, and scowling across the room at the wooden spoon, he declared "That thing has got to go and we've got to have the Cup back in its accustomed place. I shall rely on you fellows to turn out on Commemoration Day and let the School see what we can do." There was a loud burst of cheering and as the evening was drawing to its close there were some who declared that "Mike" shivered visibly and quaked, but in spite of this it is firmly believed that "Mike" will be present at the Dance where he hopes to have the pleasure of being introduced to the ladies.

The honours were done and "Auld Lang Syne" was sung, and thus drew to its close perhaps the "best ever" of the Annual Dinners.

## THANKSGIVING

For this green earth, that in its bosom  
holds

New wonders for the eye, from when the  
bright sun golds

The eastern edge until sweet Night enfolds  
The world,

I Thank Thee, Lord :

And for the still quiet hours of silvery  
night,

When, 'neath the magic of the sickle moon's  
pale light

My spirits soar, peace seeking, out of sight  
To Thee,

I Thank Thee, Lord :

For this my body whereby I may see  
These beauties, warmth o' the sun, winds  
and clouds all free,

Scent o' the rose, the murmur of the bee—  
For these

I Thank Thee, Lord.

For these I thank Thee, Lord; for in woe  
and weal

These have I loved; but for my soul  
whereby I feel

All things I see, and know Thy power is real  
I have no thanks—

'Tis Thou.

## The Dramatic Society Social

THE School was regaled with a most enjoyable evening's entertainment by the Dramatic Society on December 9th, 1936, when the Society gave their annual production. This year's choice was "The Man Who Stayed at Home," by Lechmere Worrall and J. E. Harold Terry—a play which so happily blended the dramatic and comic that its appeal to the audience was immediate, and was maintained until the final curtain.

For the first time the production was held on the new stage in the Gymnasium. Except that the players had some difficulty in coping with the acoustics, the new venture was a tremendous success. The stage was spacious, and the new properties, curtains and lighting gave a real "theatre" setting to the play. Mr. Norton, at the end of the proceedings, voiced the appreciation of the entire Society to Mr. Riley for the great improvements which had been carried out. He also thanked Mr. Bain and all those who had assisted in making the show a success.

The principal reason why the entertainment went with such a swing was because everyone sank his own personality thoroughly in that of the character he was playing, and worked with the rest of the company in a piece of excellent team work. In a play of such length—it lasted over three hours with the intervals—it was inevitable that here and there lines were temporarily forgotten, but so well did everyone support the other members of the cast that these blemishes never held up the action, and made the prompter's task almost a sinecure.

Mr. Norton undertook the interpretation of the difficult character of Christopher Brent—the man who stayed at home, scoffed at because he refused to join up, hiding his real feelings behind an inane and fatuous exterior, but actually carrying out espionage of an extremely daring and dangerous nature. Only an experienced and matured actor could have successfully interpreted the various shades of difference in a character like this. Mr. Norton succeeded; and his personality dominated

the stage and was an inspiration and incentive to the rest of the players.

It is always difficult for boys to play female parts, so when it is remembered that there were six women in this play, it will be appreciated that there were many obstacles to overcome. A. J. Methven, as Mrs. Sanderson, was remarkably effective, had perhaps the best stage presence, and only a reference to the programme revealed his true identity. M. Gordon, as Miss Myrtle, was excellent, and ludicrously funny in his helplessness and moments of timidity. V. Lowden, in the heroine's part as Molly Preston, gave his best, but found the love scenes very trying. J. Beatson made an effective Fraulein Schroeder, but retained rather too many of his own mannerisms, particularly of stance. K. Grant was a real discovery, for his speaking voice and stage presence were admirable, and his scene with Molly where he, as Miriam Leigh, a fellow-worker of Brent's, saves the situation by posing as an adventuress, proved him an actor of real ability. C. Turner was adequate in his small part of Daphne Kidlington, but was the only one to suffer in any degree with "nerves."

N. McLeod, as John Preston, J.P., though good, did not quite reach the heights he attained in last year's production. His acting has attained greater maturity, but while admirably interpreting the brusqueness and gruffness demanded by the character, he marred his performance by constantly addressing the floor of the stage rather than the people upon it or the audience. The part of Fritz, the German waiter, was taken by N. Thomson, who gave one of the finest character interpretations of the play. He combined the sinister with the genial to make his character a really live and interesting personality. J. Kelly, as Carl Sanderson, made only a moderate start, but he improved as the play progressed, and in the final scene, when he found his schemes going awry, his baffled rage and ferocity were very well portrayed. T. Macfarlane gave a creditable performance as the unassuming Percival Pennicuik, and A.

Milroy made the most of the small part of Corporal Atkins.

A word of appreciation to Mr. Norton for his efforts in producing the play. But for his untiring efforts and many hours' work, the production must have fallen far short

of its very high standard. The Society is indeed fortunate in having such an able and enthusiastic President and producer. Thanks are also due to Mr. Jones and the members of the School Orchestra, which played entertaining selections during the intervals.  
L. P. W.

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## The Dramatic Society

*President:* Mr. Norton.

*Chairman:* I. Smith.

*Vice-Chairman:* T. Macfarlane.

*Secretary:* J. Beatson.

*Treasurer:* R. Houston.

*Committee:* R. Peacock, J. Kelly, N. McLeod, N. Thomson, R. Gjertse.

SEVENTY-FIVE members joined the Society this term, and after the first meeting had been spent in the election of new office-bearers — Messrs. Harrington, Johnston, Forrest and Mackay being notable absentees from last year—as usual the first two meetings were devoted to trial readings of one act plays, preference being given to newcomers, and the main search being directed to the discovery of possible female impersonators. As a result of these readings, much promising talent was discovered, and three of the discoveries won their way into the end of term play.

Two lectures were given under the Society's auspices in the middle of term, Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Roddie explaining the origin of "Modern Germany," and Captain Blunt giving an illustrated lecture upon "The Vast Sudan."

The remainder of the meetings were devoted to rehearsed readings. Mr. Norton set the ball rolling with a new play, "Morgan, Sometime Governor of Jamaica," while later, I. Smith was responsible for the preparation of a new comedy, "There's Money Coming to You." Messrs. Peacock and Beatson were responsible for productions of "Elegant Edward" and "In the Library" respectively.

Great interest was aroused by the knowledge that the end of term play, this year "The Man Who Stayed at Home" by Lechmere Worrall and Harold Terry, was to be produced on the new stage in the Gym. Before this was possible, much work had to be done in the fitting up of the stage. The sloping floor necessitated the making of new scenery; an elaborate switch-board had to be acquired and fitted (and we should particularly like to thank R. Gillanders for his great interest and assistance in this direction: his assumption of full responsibility for the lighting was a great weight off Mr. Norton's shoulders); new fittings were found desirable for the curtains, and it was only by dint of hard work on the part of Mr. Bain and his men that the stage was completed in time for the show. But we feel that the job of fitting up the stage has been done well, and fully justifies the trouble and anxiety it has given; and we would sincerely thank all who have had a hand in it.

A full criticism of the play is to be found on the preceding page. We regret that as all the accounts for the new fittings are not yet to hand, we cannot at the moment publish an Income and Expenditure Account for the term. This shall be duly rendered at the close of the session; but meanwhile we would gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of £4 8/2 made by the School towards the upkeep of the stage.

J. BEATSON, *Hon. Secretary.*

## Strathallian Gains his Rugger Blue at Cambridge

Mr. J. G. S. Forrest, who left School in the early days of October, was among the first to be awarded a rugger blue at Cambridge this term, and he must have set up something in the nature of a record in gaining his blue in about five weeks after leaving school. He was captain of the School Rugger XV and of the School Cricket XI, as well as sports champion for three years in succession, and all those who saw him play had little hesitation in predicting early distinction at Cambridge. This was fully borne out by his display against the Harlequins and Richmond, where the English press critics, who were unaware of his Scottish qualifications, were busy proclaiming a real find for the centre position in the English three-quarter line. Under his captaincy the School rugger side improved enormously and put up many very fine performances and in some cases established School records. Perhaps the two most outstanding feats were the School's victory over Scottish Wayfarers in which Mr. Forrest played a distinguished part, and the running of the victorious Heriot's School team to a draw at Goldenacre—a try by Mr. Forrest to a penalty goal for Heriot's in the closing stages of the game. On the cricket field, too, all School records were broken during his last season at School. There was a perfect spate of centuries and perhaps the outstanding performance was a score of about 250 for one wicket against Dollar Academy, where Messrs. Forrest and Johnston—both scoring centuries—gave one of the fastest scoring exhibitions ever seen at Strathallan. Mr. Forrest is studying medicine and is doing his second year work which will probably keep him from taking part in any serious cricket, though one may find him gaining athletic

distinction in other directions. A short time ago Mr. Forrest was elected as one of the office-bearers for the Cambridge University Rugby Club for next year.



## Sports Notes

### RUGBY.

THERE was a considerable amount of team-building to be done in the First Fifteen at the beginning of term, but our problems were not as difficult as was at one time expected; and it was only the filling of a few positions that gave any trouble. We were undecided in what position to play Houston. He played a good game at full back, but did not fit into the three-quarter line at all. Eventually he was restored to the full back position to the exclusion of W. Steel, whose long kicks were of value, but who was shown up in a poor light when under constant pressure. J. Steel came in to take Houston's place in the three line. After two or three had been tried for the left wing three-quarter position, N. Thomson gained the place. In the pack the real problem was to find a hooker. Galbraith played at the beginning of the season, and succeeded in getting a fair share of the ball; but apart from this he was not prominent. Better all round forwards were tried with G. Knox hooking, but this experiment was not successful, and the original scrum formation was eventually resorted to.

Throughout the season the team has attempted to play good football; the defence has been sound, and the attack moderate. T. Macfarlane has been the most dangerous player in attack, and his play has improved considerably since last season. His centre, J. Steel, is a thrustful player. On the other wing, Sharp and Thomson excelled in defence. Of the halves, Macnaughton was the more consistent; he developed a good understanding with Anderson, and sent out a good service. With more experience, the other features of his game should develop. Anderson at first seemed unsettled; he showed a tendency to run across the field and crowd his three-quarters on the touch line; but this was remedied, and he began to open up the game more intelligently. His kicking has been useful, especially the diagonal kicks to exploit the wing three-quarter's speed.

Houston, once he had been restored to his best position at full back, played with

all his usual soundness. His positioning, catching, and the neatness with which he beat an oncoming opponent, were his chief assets. His kicks were not long, but usually found a safe touch. He has performed his duties as captain very well, and could always be heard shouting encouragement.

The forwards at first were just a collection of individuals, some of them brilliant; but with constant practice together they settled down into a good combination. They adapted themselves to all sorts of conditions, getting the ball back on days which lent themselves to open play and keeping it tight on wet days. Of course, there were lapses, as in the game against Dunfermline; but they played two excellent games against Allan Glen's and Heriot's. Peacock has led the pack well, and was frequently the most outstanding forward on the field. Together with McColl, he was always a source of trouble to opposing halves. Of the others, Peden, Pringle and Knox were the best and did a great deal of work in the set scrums.

The results this term have been satisfactory, the games generally being very evenly contested.

Played 10; won 5, lost 4, drawn 1; points for, 61; against, 55.

**Strathallan v. Aberdeen G.S.**, played at Forgardenny on Saturday, October 3rd.

The first fixture proved to be a very ordinary game, in which the better side won. The team as a whole played a sound rather than brilliant game; but created the impression that more experience of one another's play would lead to more satisfactory results. The three-quarters seemed to lack thrust in attack, but were superior to our opponents, who rarely seemed likely to score owing to their taking of passes while standing still. This made our defensive work comparatively easy. The halves, Anderson and Macnaughton, gave promise of producing a successful partnership; but Milroy at full back was shaky, and frequently out of position. The forwards were good in the set scrums and

quick on the ball in the loose, but the visitors showed up to greater advantage in the line-outs.

Strath. opened the scoring when Pringle scored from a penalty; and shortly afterwards a good movement by Houston and Sharp resulted in the former scoring a try which was not converted. In the second half, Macfarlane scored after following up a kick ahead, and Pringle converted with a good kick. Towards the end, the visitors attacked strongly and scored by means of a penalty goal.

Result: Strathallan, 11 pts.; Aberdeen G.S., 3 pts.

**Strathallan v. Melville College**, at Edinburgh on Saturday, October 10th.

Several changes were made from the side of the previous week; Houston resumed at full back, Macfarlane taking his place in the centre, and L. Scott acting as wing, while Knox replaced Galbraith as hooker, and R. Taylor taking Knox's place in the front row.

The game was evenly contested, and a draw was a fitting result, though the Strath. threes wasted more opportunities than the home side. In mitigation of this, it is only fair to state that they were handicapped by the slow heeling of the forwards and the indifferent display of the halves. Further, the College defence was very sound. Strath. did all the attacking at the start, and seemed likely to win by a substantial margin; but the home side improved, and one or two of their movements looked dangerous, but no scoring resulted before the breather. Soon after the restart the home side went ahead when their scrum half broke away from a scrum in the School "25" and easily avoided Sharp, who had moved to full back because of a minor injury. The kick at goal failing, Strath. took up the attack, and Houston came into the movement by gathering a loose ball to nip over for a try. Subsequently, Pringle failed with a penalty kick, and Anderson with two attempts to drop a goal, one from an easy position. The game ended with Strath. still pressing in vain against a resolute defence.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Melville College, 3 pts.

**Strathallan v. Robert Gordon's College**, played at Aberdeen on Saturday, Oct. 17th.

Further positional changes were made for this game, Houston again moving into the centre, Macfarlane going back to the right wing, and N. Thomson filling the left wing position. Carrie replaced J. Wilson in the forwards, and W. Steel was entrusted with the last line of defence. He played a sound game and could scarcely be blamed for the scores. He had little or no tackling to do; but his fielding of a lively ball was safe, and he put in some useful touch kicks. There was a strong wind blowing diagonally across the ground to spoil promising movements on both sides; but neither side made full use of it when playing with it at their backs. The Strath. three-quarters made good use of the few opportunities given them in attack and were sound in defence, though there was a tendency to let an opponent go before he had played the ball. The halves were handicapped by the infrequent and slow heeling by the forwards, but Anderson made some good defensive kicks, and Macnaughton was often prominent in backing up his three-quarters in defence. The forwards as a whole were disappointing, were beaten nine times out of ten for the ball in the set scrums, and made little apparent effort to heel the ball when stopped in a loose scrum. The line-out work was slightly better, but there was little support given to any individual when he caught the ball from the throw-in. Peacock and McColl worked hard, and were always to the front in forward rushes.

In the first half we played against the wind and held our own until a movement on the home right wing led up to a try. In the second half the School defence was caught on the wrong foot when Gordon's changed the direction of a movement, which led to a converted try. Then followed the best try of the match. Macfarlane received the ball in midfield, beat his own man, kicked over the full back's head and won the race for the touch down, Pringle registering the goal points. Towards the close, Gordon's made the issue safe by means of a dropped goal.

Result: Strathallan, 5 pts.; R. Gordon's College, 12 pts.

**Strathallan v. Dollar Academy**, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, Oct. 24th.

The return of Galbraith to the pack as hooker led to the rearrangement of the forwards, Carrie dropping out for Taylor in the back row. The forwards played much better together than previously, and with more intelligence, so that the backs were provided with a fair share of the ball. Peacock, McColl and Knox were often prominent. The backs played well in spasms. In the first half, playing with the wind, they made little headway owing to faulty passings, the halves being the chief offenders; Anderson was handicapped by poor service from Macnaughton, who seemed unable to send out a good pass into the wind. In the second half, however, the halves combined very well, and Macnaughton paved the way for Macfarlane's try. The centres, Houston and Sharp, did not give their wing men a reasonable chance of showing their speed, and this was all the more surprising since they lacked the thrust to go through themselves. Houston was the worst offender; and it seems as though full back is his true position. Steel, however, played soundly in the last line, and although he had no tackling to do, so soundly was he covered by his threes, his fielding of the ball and kicking were good.

In the first half Dollar seemed the more likely side to score, but good defence kept them out; and Strath., with a little luck in the bounce of the ball, might have profited from Dollar's missed passes. Near half time Anderson made a good effort to drop a goal, the ball just passing outside the post. In the second half the School forwards heeled regularly and enabled the threes to keep up a constant attack. Eventually, Macnaughton went away on the blind side and passed to Macfarlane, who raced past the full back for a try which Pringle converted. Dollar fought back and a cut through by one of their centres resulted in a try, but the kick failed. After this, Strath. were definitely on top, but were unable to penetrate the Dollar defence.

Result: Strathallan, 5 pts.; Dollar Academy, 3 pts.

**Strathallan v. Edinburgh Medicals**, played at Forgandenny on Thursday, Oct. 29th.

J. Steel took the place of Anderson at stand-off half, the latter being unfit. The standard of play did not rise to great heights, but the heavy state of the ground was responsible for this to a certain extent. Steel's presence added more thrust to the back division, and he came out well from his first game. Macfarlane and Sharp were also seen to advantage on occasions, while W. Steel, at full back, put in some useful touch kicking, but was not unduly pressed. The forwards outplayed the opposition scratch pack, but heeled raggedly. Peacock, McColl, Pringle and Peden shone individually.

In the first half there was no scoring, but Strath. took the lead in the first minutes of the second period, when Sharp cut through the middle to score a good try which Pringle converted. Later Pringle added to the score by a penalty goal.

Result: Strathallan, 8 pts.; Edinburgh Medicals, nil.

**Strathallan v. Dunfermline H.S.**, played at Dunfermline on Saturday, Oct. 31st.

A weakened side visited Dunfermline, Peacock, Knox and Macfarlane joining Anderson on the injured list to give place to Carrie, Gillanders and L. Scott. There was very little open play, the home side relying upon forward rushes, which tactics proved profitable since Strath. failed to adopt proper defensive methods, and few of the team thought of falling on the ball. Dunfermline's defence was sound, and it was late in the game before Strath. realised the value of the short kick ahead. Not only did they then hold their own, but had the ball bounced more favourably, might have scored once or twice. W. Steel made several mistakes and seemed troubled by the constant pressure upon him, and the halves and three-quarters failed to make his task any easier by their own frequent faults in defence. The forwards gained a fair share of the ball but lacked combination, allowing the home pack to break through from the line-out. Peden was the best of them and set a fine example by the keenness of his play.



All the scoring came in the first half, hesitancy on the part of Steel and Houston letting in two tries, while a third came as the result of an intercepted pass from Macnaughton. None of these was converted. Play in the second half was much more even, but defences prevailed.

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

**Strathallan v. Old Strathallians**, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, Nov. 7th.

For this game the School was again at full strength, Houston returning to full back and J. Steel retaining his place as centre. The game proved a fast and exciting one with plenty of open play. The School gave a much improved display and fully deserved their victory. Houston was never at fault and proved beyond doubt that full back is his true position. The three-quarters played well together and really looked dangerous, since they were always attempting to do something with the ball. Macfarlane was the best of the line. The halves gave the best display of all, fully justifying earlier expectations of them: Anderson played far above his usual form, and Macnaughton's passes came out quickly and truly. The forwards, too, played well together and won a fair share of the ball against a heavier pack. McColl was the best forward on the field and was always up on the ball.

For the F.P.'s, G. Smith was outstanding at scrum half and frequently threatened the line by breaking away on his own. W. Hood showed pace on the right wing and C. Roy did some good defensive work in holding Macfarlane; but their line did not combine well, and passes frequently went astray. The forwards were heavy and energetic, I. Wood often being prominent, while R. Auld hooked well.

The School attacked first and it was not long before Macfarlane beat his man, kicked ahead and won a race for the touch-down: Pringle converted. The second try was the result of an individual effort by Anderson who kicked ahead and, following up quickly, took advantage of a mistake by the full back to score near the posts. Pringle again converted to give the School

a ten point lead at half time. On the resumption, play was open and even for a long time. Eventually Linton scored for the F.P.'s from a scrum near the line and Wood converted. This spurred the Old Boys to greater efforts, but the School defence prevailed, and just before the end play was carried to the other end where Sharp broke through to score a try which Pringle again converted.

Result: Strathallan, 15 pts.; Old Strathallians, 5 pts.

**Strathallan v. Allan Glen's School**, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, Nov. 14th.

An unchanged side gave a creditable account of itself under heavy conditions which made open play impossible. The most pleasing feature of the match was the display of the forwards who adapted themselves to the conditions admirably. No longer were we dismayed by the sight of opposing forwards continually breaking through from the line-out. Donaldson, Pringle and Peden excelled in this phase of the game, and Peacock and McColl were prominent in forward rushes. Of the backs, Houston, who rarely made a mistake, and the halves were the outstanding players, and Steel was the best of the threes. The others found the greasy ball a great handicap, but the defence of all was sound.

The game was evenly contested, but Strath. did a little more attacking and on the whole deserved the victory which was gained by means of a good drop goal by Anderson in the first half. Towards the end Strath. tried hard to increase their lead, and a try seemed certain when Anderson kicked high ahead over the visitors' line, but the efforts of two or three of the home side to touch down were fruitless.

Result: Strathallan, 4 pts.; Allan Glen's, nil.

**Strathallan v. Heriot's School**, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, Nov. 21st.

An unchanged side gave another highly pleasing display against much bigger opponents. The game was the most evenly contested of the term and most enjoyable to



watch. The only advantage the visitors possessed was in the forwards who were heavier and got the ball from the set scrums time after time. In other respects the Strath. pack held its own, and Peacock was the outstanding forward on the field, while McColl, Peden and Knox also played well. At full back Houston played a sound game, his fielding of the ball, positioning and tackling being good, but his kicks did not gain much ground even though they usually found touch. The halves combined well, and Anderson's fine kicking was of great benefit to his side. The three-quarters seemed a more dangerous combination than the visitors, but keen marking gave them little scope to develop their attack: as usual they were excellent in defence.

Heriot's kept up a constant pressure at the start and early in the game their stand-off half dropped a good goal. Strath. rallied, and for the remainder of the half held the advantage territorially, and scored two tries, the results of opportunism, neither of which was converted. Following up a kick ahead, and making use of a mistake by his opposing wing Macfarlane scored first in the corner. Then Sharp won an exciting race for the touch-down for a second try. The second half was a keen struggle, but play did not suffer as a result. Finally, Heriot's scored a try after a blind side movement and this was converted. At once Strath. made an effort to regain the lead, but their attacks were beaten off and the visitors were pressing again when the final whistle blew.

Result: Strathallan, 6 pts.; Heriot's School, 9 pts.

**Strathallan v. Cupar**, played at Forgan-denny on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd.

The form shown by the team on this occasion was far below their best, and the standard of play lower than that seen in the earlier games of the term. Played upon a heavy ground, the game ran mainly with the forwards. The visiting three-quarter line was a speedier combination than that of the School, whose defence was for once shown up in a bad light. The attacking powers were negligible, and Anderson's efforts to develop attacks by diagonal kicking were futile. As for the forwards,

it can be said that they held their own against a heavier pack, but their heeling was slow, and this made the spoiling tactics of the opposing wing forwards easy and effective.

Cupar were soon on the attack and scored two tries in the first fifteen minutes, one being converted. They followed this with another unconverted try; and after a period of pressure Anderson dropped a goal for Strath. The second half produced neither exciting play nor any further score, and play ended in fading light.

Result: Strathallan, 4 pts.; Cupar, 11 pts.

**THE SECOND FIFTEEN** cannot be said to have found anything like its true form till late in the term. Earlier, constant changes in the side made them ragged forward and lacking in combination at three-quarter. During the first month Aberdeen G.S. defeated them at Aberdeen, while Dollar Academy and Morgan's Academy 1st XV emerged the victors in games at Forgan-denny, the latter being the heaviest defeat, 26 points to 3. During this period the only grain of comfort was the holding of a strong Gordon's College side to a six point draw.

November saw the side moulding together well, and with the backs showing better understanding of each other's play and more thrust, Allan Glen's 2nd XV were defeated by 12 points to 3, and Stirling High School 1st XV were completely outplayed at Stirling in the final game of the term by 28 points to 8.

**THE THIRD TEAM** also finished the term more strongly than it started it. Journeys to Aberdeen for games with the Grammar School and Gordon's College undoubtedly largely contributed to their defeats in the opening games: though against the Grammar School they showed considerable promise, particularly behind the scrum, even if finally overrun by a heavier side by 21 points to 11. To compensate for these defeats, however, the team well beat Dollar 3rd XV at Dollar by 13 points to 6, and overran Morgan's Academy 2nd XV by 28 points to 3—a particularly good showing.

# Strathallian Club

Telephone: Central 794.  
Telegrams: "Defence."



Hon. President - H. RILEY, Esq.  
President - W. A. C. LAMBIE, Esq.  
Vice-President - DAVID J. BOGIE, Esq., C.A.

Secretary and Treasurer:  
J. B. MAITLAND COWAN, Esq., Solicitor,  
30 George Square, Glasgow, C.2.  
Trustees:  
D. J. BOGIE, Esq., C.A., and H. RILEY, Esq.  
Auditors:  
J. C. McGEACHY, C.A., and  
W. M. SHANKS, C.A.

## CLUB COUNCIL.

### Council retiring 1937.

R. D. Paton.  
N. G. Reid.

### Council retiring 1938.

T. Irvine.  
R. Lamont Paul.  
W. Wills.

### Council retiring 1939.

Robert Auld.  
W. G. Leburn.  
R. D. Linton.

### Editorial Board.

D. J. Bogie.  
W. G. Leburn.  
W. Wills.

### Dance Committee.

R. D. Linton, *Convener*.  
A. Reid.

### Dinner Committee.

T. Irvine, *Convener*.  
R. D. Paton.  
R. Lamont Paul.

### Sports Committee.

W. Wills, *Convener*.  
W. G. Leburn.  
R. D. Linton.

Minute of Tenth Annual General Meeting held in the St. Enoch Station Hotel, Glasgow, on Saturday, 19th December, 1936, at 6.15 p.m.

Presiding—George B. Smith, Esq.,  
President.

THE Minute of the Ninth Annual General Meeting, dated 21st December, 1935, was read and approved.

The Secretary submitted the Financial Statement for the year to 30th November, 1936, which was approved.

The Meeting authorised the Treasurer to remit £99 9s. 6d. to the Trustees for investment.

The Chairman intimated that 24 new Members and 17 Ordinary Members had joined the Club during the year. Lists of the names were on the wall, and he asked the Meeting to confirm them as Members. The Meeting unanimously agreed.

The Chairman then gave a summary of the year's activities, mentioning *inter alia* the Annual Dance, Rugby Match, Commemoration Day and the Monday Luncheons.

The Chairman then stated that the Office-Bearers for the year 1937 required to be elected. The following were elected:

*Hon. President*: H. Riley, Esq.

*President*: W. A. C. Lambie, Esq.

*Vice-President*: David J. Bogie, Esq., C.A.

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*:

J. B. Maitland Cowan, Esq.

### Council

(Members of Council to retire 1939):

Messrs. Robert Auld, W. G. Leburn,  
R. D. Linton.

### Auditors:

Messrs. J. Callum McGeachy, C.A., and  
W. M. Shanks, C.A.

The Chairman moved that the Secretary be granted an honorarium of £15 15s., and the meeting unanimously approved.

Mr. Wills moved that the retiring Presidents should be presented with a miniature medal. After several opinions had been expressed by members, the meeting remitted the matter to the Council for their decision. Mr. Riley kindly offered to defray the expense of providing such medals if the Council decided in

favour of same, and the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the Club for his generosity.

The meeting remitted to the Council to decide the place and date of next year's Annual Meeting and Dinner.

The Chairman intimated that the Fourth Annual Dance would be held in the Burlington House on Friday, 5th February, 1937, and he trusted there would be a large attendance of members and guests.

The Chairman then called for any questions.

Mr. Samuel Dow suggested that the Magazine should be published at the end of a term, instead of at the beginning, as was the practice at present. After discussion, the meeting instructed the Council to consult Mr. Riley regarding the matter.

Mr. N. Guthrie Reid suggested that the Annual Subscription should be raised to 10/-, as in his opinion 7/6 was inadequate to meet expense. Mr. Robert Barr stated that, in his opinion, the Life Membership subscription should be raised, and that the ordinary subscriptions should remain as formerly, on the grounds that a Life Membership subscription of £5 was not paying the Club, as the interest from said sum was only approximately 2/- per annum, and he understood each member cost the Club considerably more than that.

The meeting remitted the matter to the Council for their consideration.

Mr. Archibald Barr enquired if there were any subscriptions in arrear, and the Hon. Treasurer replied in the affirmative. Mr. Barr then suggested that, in terms of the Constitution, names of members who were in arrear should be published in the Magazine, or their names posted on the wall at the Annual General Meeting. It was remitted to the Council to consider the matter.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

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**The Fourth Annual Dance of the Club will be held in the Burlington House on 5th February, 1937. Application for tickets (price 7/6 each) should be made to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. B. Maitland Cowan, 30 George Square, Glasgow. The Council trust there will be a large attendance of members and guests.**

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**The Council regret to intimate that several members are in arrear with their Subscriptions, and the Secretary has been instructed to print in the next issue of the Magazine, in terms of the Constitution, the names and addresses of all members who are then in arrear.**

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## Old Boys' News

WE learn that Mr. Alexander McCreadie, C.A., has sailed for India. He has obtained an appointment with Messrs. Steuart Smith & Allan, C.A., Rangoon. We wish him every success.

We learn that Mr. Ian Turner, of Kilmarnock, has been assumed a partner in the firm of Messrs. Turner & Houston, C.A., 90 Mitchell Street, Glasgow. Mr. Turner served his apprenticeship with Messrs. McClelland, Ker & Co., C.A., Glasgow, and qualified in 1935. We wish him every success.

A most welcome letter comes to hand from Khaur, in Northern India, from Mr. Willie Anderson, who is back in the north after spending five months in the oilfields in Burma, and passing through Rangoon

he met Messrs. Highet and McCulloch, both of whom he said looked remarkably fit. He tells of a rugger match played somewhere in the wilds of Burma at Yenangyoung, where a Rangoon side containing several of Messrs. Steel's employees—among whom is Mr. Highet, an Old Strathallian—played against the locals. Mr. William Morrison, who by this time must be approaching the veteran stage, figured in the local side, and he seems to be established in this region representing Steel Brothers at the new cement works which they have opened up. Mr. Anderson remarks that the unrest in Europe and the anxieties raised have repercussions even in his remote part of the Empire. He says that things in the Auxiliary Force have been considerably

tightened up recently and "that nowadays we even have gas lectures and all that."

It is most interesting to receive first-hand information from Strathallians overseas throwing light upon economic problems in their countries, and especially welcome is a contribution from Mr. Matthew Cameron, who is farming in the Bay of Plenty area of New Zealand. He says: "Our present Labour Government is causing great concern amongst the people of the country. It is true that most of the farmers voted labour, but I am afraid they were badly let down. The farmers wanted the guaranteed price for their butter and they have got it, but with it they have got excessive rises in costs, of which they little dreamed, and it is the general opinion that the farmer will be worse off than before. Practically everything one can think of has risen. In the farming line especially materials such as fencing timber have risen from £9 per 100 to £17 per 100; wire has risen about £4 per ton. Then this 40 hour week business which we have, has put everything up, to say nothing of labour for farms. Farm labour is extremely difficult to obtain. In fact, one considers oneself fortunate if one can get labour at all. Young single men were so hard to get that I decided to build a cottage, thereby doing away with single men and employing a married couple. I have found this more satisfactory." Mr. Cameron's two little boys, aged four and two years respectively, are evidently going to take after their father, for already they are showing a keen interest in anything with a ball in it, and no doubt one of these days we may find them figuring in first-class rugger and cricket.

Mr. Sandy Gray, of Trinidad, sends us an interesting account of a trip that he made to assist in an audit in one of the West Indian Islands. It would make the mouth water of any C.A. apprentice engaged in the ordinary humdrum routine of city work. The return journey was made by aeroplane, and the diversions after office hours in a West Indian Island are full of interest and glamour. No wonder Mr. Gray hopes to go back in the future.

Mr. Billy Roy, the old West of Scotland wing three-quarter, writes us from Travancore, in Southern India, where he is

employed in one of the tea gardens managed by James Findlay & Company. He makes the usual grouse about the voyage through the Red Sea. Temperatures approximating to 115 in the shade were experienced. In fact, he said, the heat literally stung. In his letter he became reminiscent of his stay at Gibraltar. Naturally, he made his way across no-man's land to see what could be seen of the Spaniard at war. Everybody had rifles, and every other person seemed to be an official of some kind, and he expressed disappointment that there was nothing exciting taking place. But there was one point that seemed to hurt, and that was the extreme misery of the Spanish refugees hearded like sheep in a pen without comforts of any kind. On his arrival in Southern India he experienced a motor trip to his tea estate of nearly 100 miles, reaching an altitude of 6000 feet over roads which were indescribably bad. When Mr. Roy says this, one must remember that he has had experience of some of the wicked mountain roads to be found in out of the way parts of the Continent. He describes his work as hard but very interesting, and already he has gained a reputation at cricket and golf. From our knowledge of his prowess at all games, we shall expect him to be figuring in inter-State matches. He winds up his letter by stating that he will be present on Commemoration Day in 1941 and indicates that he will absolutely refuse to run in the 220 in the relay race. As far as Old Boys are concerned, there seems to be something of a hoo-doo about this contest.

We offer our congratulations to Mr. Lindsay Guthrie, of Bridge of Earn, who matriculated at the University of London, and is at present at that University taking out a course in medicine. Mr. Guthrie has forsaken the banking profession, in which he had taken the full membership diploma.

Captain James Guthrie, of the Indian Medical Service, is now home on leave after having been medical officer to the expedition sent by the British Government to the Tibetan Government at Lhasa. Mr. Guthrie has taken many photographs and films of his journey, including well over 1000 feet of film of the city itself, and recently he gave a lecture to family friends in the Moncreiffe Arms, Bridge of Earn.

The boys at School are hoping that he will repeat this for their benefit in the School lecture hall. Mr. Guthrie has brought home to Scotland with him his Tibetan servant.

We notice that Mr. Weston J. Robertson, who has spent a good deal of time out in the West Indies, is now home at Ardnish, Lyonsdown Road, New Barnet, Herts. I am sure there must be many of his old friends not very far away in the London area who would be glad to get in touch with him.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wells have made their home in Coulsden, Surrey, their address being Kenamara, Hillside Road.

We notice that Mr. Allan M. Robertson has now entered into partnership as a motor dealer and engineer. The name of the firm is Messrs. Wylie & Robertson, Tulloch Crescent, Dundee.

Mr. Douglas Murray, of Edinburgh, is now employed by the firm of Messrs. Wm. Lamont & Co., C.A., 137 West George Street, Glasgow, C.2.

Of times at our sports meetings and annual dinners, speakers exhort Old Strathallians to give some of their time to civic duties, and we have great pleasure in offering our congratulations to Mr. A. J. Cruikshanks, who is now a town councillor of Aberdeen. He topped the poll with a thumping majority, and the Aberdeen Town Council will find that they have added to their number one who is widely travelled, widely read and well-informed, and a business man with a magnetic personality to wit. We hear, incidentally, that Mr. Cruikshanks' Company—the Sun Life of Canada—in Aberdeen has had a record year.

The School Library has received a very welcome addition of about sixty volumes, gifted by Mr. Ingram Brown, of Pollokshields, and I have been asked by the Library Committee to offer publicly its thanks to Mr. Brown and, further, to ask any members of the Club who have books which they no longer want, to put them into a box and send them carriage forward to Strathallan. On an average, we have about 200 books circulating each week, and the Library has become an institution which is used to the full. The boys themselves are always adding to the number of books and undertake repairs themselves to

damaged volumes. But we are hardly yet in a position to make it self-supporting, although the librarians keep a very sharp eye on books that are returned late, and never fail to exact the fine, which, of course, goes to the Library funds.

We are glad to see that Mr. Ian McIntyre, of Montrose and Blairgowrie, has recovered from the serious motor accident where a car collided with his motor cycle and he received injuries including a fractured spine. Mr. McIntyre has had to give up his former occupation of fruit farming and is now travelling for his father's firm which deals in fruit growers' requisites.

We are glad to note that Mr. Scott Brook who, owing to illness, gave up a post in industry in order to qualify as a chartered accountant, has passed the prelim. of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants. He is serving his articles in Sheffield. His brother, Heber, who took an Honours degree at Cambridge, is sitting the remaining half of his finals in Medicine in Cambridge and London.

Amongst many Old Strathallians colour photography is becoming quite popular and several photographs taken of the flower beds at School have come out exceptionally well. In particular, a print sent by Mr. Nelson Smith taken of a bed of tulips interspersed with forget-me-nots has come out particularly true to natural colours.

We congratulate Mr. W. Carrie, of Elgin, who is studying at the University of Aberdeen, on completing his law entrance examination. Mr. Carrie originally intended to qualify as a chartered accountant.

Messrs. Ian McKenzie, of Inverness, and John G. S. Forrest, of Glasgow, were chosen to play in the Scotland side v. the Rest at Galashiels. Mr. McKenzie played through all the trials and newspaper criticism spoke well of his rugby and physique which he used to great advantage, and when he failed to go further they pointed out that he need not be discouraged for it was only a knowledge of the finer points of the game that he required in order to become a real acquisition to the Scottish side. Mr. Forrest was prevented

by injury from playing in the match at Galashiels and figured in the Rest side at Murrayfield, where he gave a sound display. He, too, has youth on his side and has a first rate knowledge of the game acquired against some of the crack English sides.

We are pleased to note that the Glasgow University side contains three Strathallians as regular players. Messrs. W. B. McKenna and Alec Fleming are in the pack, while Mr. Robert McMath seems to have gained his place as centre three-quarter. At School, Mr. McMath certainly gave promise of going far in the rugger world and we hope this belated recognition of his prowess is only the beginning of his rise.

We congratulate Messrs. Frost, Mitchell and Steven upon their successes in the first year dental examinations at the Dental School in Glasgow.

The day before the Oxford-Cambridge match at Twickenham, Mr. J. G. S. Forrest sat and passed the Chemistry examination in the first year of medicine. An interesting sidelight is thrown upon the care with which the players are looked after. Mr. Forrest was motored from the University training quarters on the South coast to Cambridge on the day prior to the exam, and immediately it was over a car took him back to London where the Cambridge team had its headquarters before the match.

Perhaps the following can scarcely be considered Old Boys' News, but it is certainly an item of interest to all who have played games at Strathallan, and who have not? How many Strathallians have blessed the long walk back from the rugger field to the old changing rooms? Nowadays, the new changing rooms have cut that journey in half and it is to be made even shorter, for in the field immediately below the changing rooms which are opposite the boys' entrance to the house is under construction a rugger pitch which should be equal to any school pitch. Vickerstaff, the School groundsman and cricket professional, is keeping a careful watch over the progress of the operations and we have every reason to believe that he intends that

the new rugger ground should vie in reputation with his cricket square which is generally admitted to be one of the best in Scotland. Another rugby pitch is under construction in what is known as Charley's Acre, the field prior to the rugger ground as one approaches from the house, and it is hoped that both these grounds will be playable some time during the next rugger season. A new cricket square is also being laid out quite close to the present net ground and this is being reserved for coaching and practice of our Third XI. This innovation will be warmly welcomed by the younger elements in the School and by all those who have the welfare of Strath. cricket at heart, for it means that a real training in cricket under ideal conditions will commence at an earlier stage and this should make itself felt in the improved quality of the cricket elevens who represent the School.

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### From our Cambridge University Correspondent.

The Michaelmas Term has seen the Strathallan contingent at Cambridge increased by four members, Messrs. Forrest, Mackay, Johnston and Dow, and only one member of the School has gone down, Mr. W. W. Watt, who has entered a law office in London, after taking an excellent Second Class Honours degree in law. Mr. Forrest has entered St. Catherine's, where he quickly made his mark at rugger in the College side, which was immediately followed by his inclusion in the 'Varsity trial, and right away in the 'Varsity side itself. Messrs. Mackay, Johnston and Dow have entered St. John's, taking medicine, law and economics respectively, and in the sports world Mr. Johnston soon found his place in the College XV, and an unfortunate accident—a concussion—kept Mr. Dow out of the College pack. Of the older members, Mr. J. A. Smith has figured in the 'Varsity polo trials, and it is hoped that he will be successful in gaining his half blue, while Mr. Alastair Montgomerie has been elected captain of the Eskimos. There are now quite a number of us at Cambridge, and we foregather on a Tuesday at the haunt we

have chosen as the headquarters of our little club, which has been dubbed by one of the more facetious members as "The Spiders and Snake Club." We are quite pleased at being able to organise a side which beat the School 17 points to 3, though at the same time we came away with a great respect for school rugger. Perhaps the item of outstanding interest has been the rugger blue gained by Mr. Forrest, but we all felt that this was something in the nature of a certainty after his brilliant display against some of the leading English clubs, when London critics were proclaiming him as a real discovery in English football. Everyone now is looking forward to the time when he will figure at Murrayfield.

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### From our Edinburgh University Correspondent.

I am glad to report that Mr. J. W. Drummond completed his first professional in medicine, and that Mr. J. Breckenridge completed his second professional, and now joins Messrs. Balfour and Dawson in the third year. So far, Mr. Breckenridge has been in and out of the Hawick team owing to ill health, and naturally has not been playing up to his usual standard, but in spite of this he figured in the South side against the North at Perth and gave quite a sound display. Happily, he now seems to be completely recovered, and we may look forward to the old dash and skill which he showed at School being in evidence in the Hawick three-quarter line. Mr. Balfour continues to figure in the Jedburgh pack and now and again is among the scorers. Both these Old Strathallians figure in one of the Ward teams of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and they are quite proud about the fact that they have won the Ward Cup for the second year in succession, a success not a little due to their display in the final. This ward team paid a visit to Strathallan, and although it was not at full strength, yet a very hard game resulted, in which the School were successful by 8 points to nil, and I am sure the School team, indeed Strathallians as a whole, would have been proud to have heard the comments made by some of the visitors on the standard of rugger displayed

by the boys. We are wondering whether there will be any fellows coming up to Edinburgh this next session, and they will be especially welcome if they can add strength to our rugger, but in any case if they will hand their names in to Mr. Riley he will put them in touch with me, and perhaps I will be able to save them from one or two of the pitfalls into which newcomers usually fall.

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### From our St. Andrews University Correspondent.

I am afraid that this is rather a lean season in the year to provide much in the way of news from this University. At present there are five students from Strath. either here or at the University College in Dundee, and all are taking out medicine. They are Messrs. Lyall Fleming, W. Smith, Gordon Reay, H. E. Walker and Alastair Fraser. Mr. Fleming was in the First Rugby XV, but an injury to his ankle has kept him out of the game for several weeks. Mr. Walker continues to figure prominently in the golf side, and Mr. Smith still retains his prowess at tennis, having forsaken rugger altogether. In the Midlands trial versus the North, two Strathallians, Messrs. N. Gillanders and the international, G. F. Ritchie, figured prominently, whilst on the North side Ian Mackenzie, who recently left School, caught the eye of the selectors, and was chosen to play for Scotland in the international trial match at Galashiels, but, unfortunately, he did not go further. He is young and can afford to wait. I came across Mr. Leonard Galloway the other day, and his many friends among Old Strathallians will join in congratulating him on his engagement to Miss Ramsay, of Dundee. Unfortunately, we were unable to bring up a University side to play the School, and owing to clashing of dates it looks as though for the first time for many years the fixture will have to be left out for this season. It is a pity, for the match always resulted in an excellent game, enjoyed both by the 'Varsity and the School side.

### From our Glasgow University Correspondent.

This term we have been running the Charity appeal, and several Strathallians have taken a prominent part in the organising and running of the various activities connected with it. Mr. Alec Scott has been on the "Y'gorra" staff as well as having had charge of the running of the milk bar. He brought into play his advertising ability and was successful in persuading one of the stars from the Theatre Royal Pantomime to come and perform the opening function. Mr. O. T. Brown has been appointed Sales Manager of "Y'gorra," with Mr. James Dunlop as his assistant, while Mr. Hugh Fleming is taking quite a prominent part in the Conservative Club.

Mr. W. McKenna is now on the selection committee of the rugger club and is probably a likely candidate for higher office still. The executive committee of the Students' Representative Council has pressed into its service Mr. Oswald Brown, who should give it efficient help, having played quite a prominent part in various organisations whilst at School. Most of our fellows are in medicine or engineering, and we seem to have representatives in every year of the courses and our latest recruits are already attracting notice. Mr. Bobby Auld is giving promise of a distinguished academic career for so far he has been dux of all classes and class exams., while Mr. Gordon Harrington, who was captain of fives at School, is excelling at that game. Just now the 'Varsity rugger XV is playing three members of one of the old Strath XV's, Messrs. McKenna, Fleming and McMath, and in the games with some of the Border clubs there is quite a little reunion of Strathallians. From what I can gather I think there will be a strong university representation at the Strath. dance, a function which in the past has proved most enjoyable. I do not know whether rumours can be considered as news, but there is a persistent one here to the effect that it was a prominent Strathallian who rode on the fire engine with Miss Babette O'Deal, the pantomime star, on Charities Day.

### MARRIAGES.

**WALLS—KENNEDY.**—At Saint Columba's Parish Church, Glasgow, on 14th December, 1936, by Rev. Alexander M'Donald, B.D., assisted by Rev. John M'Lagan, B.D., James Gordon, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Walls, Dunardin, Newlands, to Morag MacArthur, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Kennedy, Sunnybank, Albert Road, Glasgow.

**CRAIG-DUNN.**—At Titwood Parish Church, Glasgow, on 23rd October, 1936, by Rev. David Preston, B.D., Ian Gordon, second son of Mr. John Craig and the late Mrs. Craig, 24 Monreith Road, Newlands, to Elizabeth Hutchison, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Dunn, 12 Glencairn Drive, Pollokshields.

**FERGUSON—DONALD.**—At St. Enoch Station Hotel, Glasgow, on 16th December, 1936, by Rev. J. K. Thomson, John M. Ferguson, of Craigview, Stirling, to Patricia Donald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Donald, of Fardalodale, Kilmarnock.

**KILPATRICK—MICKEL.**—At St. Brycedale Church, Kirkcaldy, Robert Meldrum, younger son of the late Mr. George Kilpatrick, Auchtermuchty, and of the late Mr. George Kilpatrick, Frankfield, Kirkcaldy, to Katherine Jean, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Mickel, Balwearie Road, Kirkcaldy.

### DEATH.

On the 18th November, 1936, James I. Mercer, son of Sheriff and Mrs. Mercer, 2 Victoria Drive, Glasgow.

### THE LATE MR. IAN MERCER.

Many Old Strathallians will learn with the greatest regret of the death of Mr. Ian Mercer, son of Sheriff and Mrs. Mercer, of Glasgow. He passed away on the 18th November after a very long illness where acute suffering was borne with great fortitude. During his first year at the University of Cambridge, Ian gave promise of a brilliant academic career, gaining honours in his Tripos Prelim., but continuity of study was denied him and he had to return home seriously unwell during the first term of his second year, where he went through several operations at the hands of leading surgeons. It became apparent that his strength was failing but he made a brave fight and refused to allow the gravity of his position to damp his good spirits, and maintained a cheerful demeanour towards all those who came in contact with him. Those who knew him intimately would well understand that one of his main delights latterly was obtained from his love of music which cheered him considerably even to within two days of the end. A brave and courageous soul has passed on and our sincerest sympathy is felt towards Sheriff and Mrs. Mercer.