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Editorial

ALL our readers will, we suppose, be familiar with their Nursery Rhymes, however far they may be removed from the days when those rhymes gave delight—not the delight of novelty, perhaps, but at least of familiarity. It occurred to us that one of them was singularly appropriate to the present situation, one from which a moral might be drawn. Need we say that we refer to that of Old Mother Hubbard?

If we had leisure to woo the Muse, we might be inspired to write a complete parody of that old favourite. As it is, only lines of that unfinished masterpiece suggest itself:—

To see what MSS. were done,
But when he got there,
The desk was all bare,
And so the poor mag. had none.

And even those lack the perfection of the original. But you doubtlessly catch the

idea of the parallelism between Mother Hubbard's fate, or rather her dog's, and the present case. We would willingly give you the wherewithal to feed your minds, but once more are called up to supply a demand without the means.

We made excuses for the senior members of the School, whose real duty it is to make contributions, on the grounds that their primary concern was with their Examination; but this excuse can no longer be made after the end of May, if it is acceptable even now that the worst is over. We would therefore appeal to all our readers for increased support, and particularly do we appeal to those seniors who in many cases are now presented with a last opportunity of seeing themselves in print while still at School. When once they have left, there are so many things to absorb their interest and time.

School Notes and Notices

THE Spring Term, 1937, has not been an uneventful one, though it must be admitted that several of the events could have been done without. The minor epidemic of 'flu—however mild in form and however quickly it was got under control—could easily have been dispensed with; so, too, could the snow and frost with which the concluding weeks of the term were blessed; for it led to the cancellation of all the rugby fixtures from the last week in February. Perhaps the weather was not an unmixed curse, however, for, robbed of the counter attraction of physical exertion on the rugger field, many boys put in extra time at mental labour in preparation for the

Scottish Leaving Certificate Examination, held during the last ten days of the term. The unfortunate candidates remain uncertain of their fate until after the oral examination has been held in May, but we trust that the little extra effort will have had a fitting reward.

One other event, regretted by the whole School, was the departure of Nurse McGuffie after more than fifteen years' service in the Sanatorium. We would express on behalf of the School our sympathy with her in her bereavement, which necessitated her retiring; while the School sought to show its appreciation of her kindness and care by presenting her with a suitably engraved gold watch.

With the last of the new classrooms in use at the beginning of the term, we anticipated that Mr. Riley would be calling a halt to the improvements at Strath.—which only goes to prove how little we know him. Inside the house new bathrooms are being constructed, and although the bath accommodation will not be increased yet, it is understood from one of the workmen who is engaged on the work that the baths are “grand” and that the whole thing will be “swell.” This man volunteered that he had seen the actual baths and drawings of the completed room and he was most enthusiastic.

Meanwhile, big improvements have been begun in the grounds. When the weather has permitted it, work has been begun in the somewhat gigantic task of levelling the field below the changing rooms, and that adjoining the present cricket nets, for the purpose of constructing new rugby pitches, and all things considered, excellent progress has been made. As a forerunner of the greater scheme, a new cricket square has already been laid down, and it seems only a matter of time until cricket for all the boys will be possible on the lawns immediately surrounding the house. We shall look for material improvement in the standard of junior cricket as a result of the abandonment of the more “natural” wickets at the field, which, level as they may be, tend to crack badly in dry weather and give the bowler an exalted opinion of his own prowess. Further, the saving of the journey down to the field for rugby, and even more the return journey after a genuine “mudlark,” will be much appreciated by the rugby sides.

The Rugby teams, as already indicated, have been singularly unfortunate in the cancellation of many matches; and this has rendered somewhat difficult the task of estimating the true worth of the School team. The record for the whole season shows it to have been almost up to the average, though with a single drawn game as its best performance last term, such an estimate may seem flattering. Some there are who consider the preceding estimate as an understatement, and point out in evidence of their contention that the matches played this term were against the recognised more formidable of our opponents. Perhaps the mere spectator is

prejudiced by the fact that they were not nearly such an interesting side to watch as last year's, because they lacked any brilliant individualism. The attack has been definitely weak, sometimes almost negligible, but in defence the side has been almost consistently sound, a sure sign that the side was playing as a side. While there is no denying that the team failed to fulfil the promise made in the closing weeks of last term, it must be realised that their development was necessarily checked by the numerous changes in the side occasioned by illness in the early weeks of the term, and by lack of continuous practice in the later weeks. The majority are still young and will serve again at least a further year, so that with this season's experience behind them, the team should face the future with considerable confidence.

The various School Societies have enjoyed quietly busy terms. The youthful members of the Debating Society have already begun to mature, judging by its later debates, which have had the virtue of being lively and entertaining. The Staff debate was again the outstanding item in its programme, and also the most successful of these annual events. The Mock Trial, however, hung fire this year on its opening night. The ignorance or obtuseness of the witnesses for the prosecution must have been most disconcerting to the Counsel for the Crown. The concluding session, witnessed by the whole School on the last night of term, was a much livelier affair, and was apparently enjoyed even by the very junior members of the audience, particularly the female impersonation by G. Knox. Full credit must again be given to I. Smith for the continued smooth running and sustained interest of the activities for the past two years.

The Dramatic Society, too, has passed an enjoyable term, though their work has been in the main preparatory to their greater activities in the Christmas term. Several promising newcomers have been discovered among its temporarily enlarged membership, and have been given as much practice as possible. Its programme included two lectures.

The first of these was by Edward Shackleton, son of Sir Edward, and told of his organisation of an expedition to

Ellesmere Land. Wisely keeping in the background the technicalities of the discoveries, Mr. Shackleton entertained the School with some excellent slides and films; the activities of Oswald the husky, and the seal fishers being but two of the many outstanding features of his lecture.

For the second lecture we passed from polar regions to the Tropics, when Commander D. Blair held the School for two hours as he conducted us over the 30,000 mile course of the "St. George" expedition to "The Lonelier Isles of the South Seas." We have never been

privileged to hear a lecture more varied in interest, for it combined Geography, Geology, Botany, Zoology, History, and even Literature, and yet the lecturer never lost grip of the story he had to tell. He appealed to our love of adventure with hints of buried treasure on Cocos Island, and he left us with a sense of wonder at the mysteries of past civilisations, the dying race on the Marquesas Islands, ancient forts of unknown origin on Rapa, and the huge images of Easter Island. The whole lecture was most profusely illustrated with admirable slides.

The School Nurse Retires

After nearly sixteen years of service at Strathallan, we regret to announce that



Nurse McGuffie retired at the end of last term. This step was rendered necessary owing to a domestic bereavement at her home. Nurse McGuffie has given the School splendid service and there are few

Strathallians from 1920 onwards who do not have a very soft corner in their hearts for the School Nurse. It was long the practice of newcomers to find their way to the Sanny to have a chat with her and receive something in the nature of maternal comfort, for home-sickness can be a very sore disease, as many of us very well know. But she had a wonderful way with her and could always manage to send us away comforted and ready to face up to the trials of school life with renewed confidence and vigour. Those who have passed a week or two in the Sanny under her professional care know what it means to receive efficient and kindly treatment from as friendly a soul as ever donned a nurse's uniform. Everyone had confidence in her judgment and her opinion was always very weightily received, even when it was in conflict with that from professional sources even of the highest character. She took a great pride in her Sanny, and there are lots of us who feel that we owe her a deep debt of gratitude. Strathallians all over the world wish her the best of health and happiness in her retirement.

Our President

Mr. Alastair Lambie, of Glasgow, was elected to the office of President at the last Annual General Meeting, after many years of service to the Club, dating back to the days of its inception. At School he was a member of the First Rugger XV, and many



the relay race, after having leeway to make up, and gave the Club the deciding points.

He passed the Cambridge School Certificate examination and left School in 1927 to enter the firm of Messrs. John Brown Ltd., textile manufacturers, and in 1931 joined his uncles in their stockbroking business. In October, 1934, he was elected a member of the Glasgow Stock Exchange Association, and since that date has been the sole partner in his firm. He kept up his sporting activities and played for Glasgow Academicals at rugger for ten seasons, and for the same club at cricket for three seasons, after which he decided to turn his attention to golf. In the season 1931-32 he was chosen to play for Glasgow against the South Africans at rugger.

Mr. Lambie's many-sided activities bring him into contact with a wide circle of friends, and in spite of the many calls upon his time he has never spared himself in his endeavours to further the interests of the Club and the School. We wish him a successful year of office.

CORONATION DAY AT STRATHALLAN

The weather was on its best behaviour and the lawns and cricket grounds were looking superb when the School celebrated Coronation Day. There was a short twenty-five minutes' service in the School Chapel, with an address from Mr. Riley pointing out the religious aspect of the ceremonial at Westminster Abbey. He stated that the King and the people entered into a solemn act before God mutually to defend our heritage and Empire. Afterwards the boys were free to play games, and at several parts of the grounds little groups collected around wireless instruments listening to the coronation ceremonial as it came through from London. In the evening there was a ciné show in the common room, which had been most effectively darkened by Mr. Bain and his assistants, and at the end of the day everyone was thoroughly tired. The only fly in the ointment was prep. at 7.20 next morning, but needs must!

a fine performance did he put up as one of the leading forwards in what is generally considered to be one of the best sides the School has ever placed in the field. His exploits on the cricket field are not likely to be forgotten by those who witnessed them, nor indeed by those who suffered them, for many a first rate bowler with an excellent reputation in Scotland has had some of his most fiery deliveries knocked right out of the ground, to the great delight of the School. He was a swimmer and polo player of outstanding merit, with more than just a school reputation, and in the 1935 Commemoration Day sports it was his prowess in that direction that prevented the School from being the winners of the Melrose Cup for the first time. He beat his man by the touch in

The Dramatic Society

THE Easter term is a comparatively quiet one for the Dramatic Society, but a varied and interesting programme was arranged, and the meetings were well attended considering the urgent call of examinations. The only change on the Executive was the departure of the Secretary, J. Beatson, late in the term, so that it was deemed unnecessary to hold an election for the vacancy.

The term opened with the customary trial readings for new members, "The Dear Departed" and "Shivering Shocks" being the plays selected. This was followed by a rehearsed reading, under the Chairman's direction, of "Money Makes a Difference," which was a distinct success.

There were three lectures in the middle of the term. Two of these were by outsiders, the first being Mr. Edward Shackleton, son of the late Sir Ernest Shackleton, and the second, Commander Blair, R.N. The former took us into the snowy wastes of the Arctic and held us engrossed by his story of exploration, his humour and charming personality. Commander Blair, by way of contrast, took

us to the South Sea Islands, where we learnt much of the tropics in a profusely illustrated story of a 30,000 miles cruise.

The third was Mr. Norton's Presidential Address. This year he chose as his subject, "The Plays of John Galsworthy," and gave readings from the plays illustrative of the peculiar genius of the playwright. "The Silver Box" and "Loyalties," the latter much abbreviated through lack of time, were the chief sources of the extracts.

The later meetings were of a very varied character. Two were devoted to a rehearsed reading of a three act play, "Three Wise Fools," under the direction of Mr. Norton, the first half particularly causing great amusement. The last meeting was held in co-operation with the Debating Society and took the form of a Mock Trial, G. Knox scoring a veritable triumph: and on the conclusion of this on the second night, I. Macdonald and his Seven Sinners Band concluded the term on a cheerful note, and his contribution was enthusiastically received.

T. MACFARLANE,

Acting Hon. Secy.

The Debating Society

THE first meeting of the term was much delayed by the unavoidable postponement of the Masters' Debate with which the session was to have opened. Instead, however, a series of two minute debates was held and these proved very successful. Of the more serious ones, "That the School as a whole should support the Library" was outstanding, and the Library will doubtlessly benefit from the constructive criticism levelled at it.

The Masters' Debate was, as usual, a great success. The motion before the meeting was "That the Present Nationalistic Spirit is to be deplored" with Messrs. Pendlebury and Wenham supporting the motion, and Messrs. Ward and Cole opposing it. Each speaker was restricted to ten minutes for his oration, so that there

was left time for discussion and summing up, an almost unprecedented event in the history of staff debates. The motion was carried by 28 votes to 16.

"That Jazz is Crippling the Progress of Music" was equally successful, the speakers being I. Smith and H. Rowan for the motion and R. Peacock and N. McLeod against it. The motion was carried by 18 votes to 10.

The final meeting took the form of a Mock Trial. Douglas Lee (F. Anderson) was put on trial for the wilful murder of Jonathan Preeger on board the S.Y. "Caligula," cruising in the Mediterranean off Gibraltar. The two Counsels were R. Peacock (Crown) and J. Methven (Defence); and on the first night of the trial, during which the Crown presented its

case, the witnesses provided considerable amusement (to the audience, not the Counsels) by forgetting their evidence and doing their utmost to know nothing, lest the Counsels should successfully entrap them. The efforts to extricate themselves from the consequences of these tactics were extremely laughable. On the second night, proceedings moved more briskly, and the humour was provided by G. Knox as Miss

Hopkins, a stewardess, who seemed unmoved by the seriousness of the crime and answered her Counsel's questions with paroxysms of laughter. After the Judge (Mr. Norton) had summed up, the Jury considered their verdict and found the prisoner guilty, thus bringing the trial and the Society's session to a successful conclusion.

I. M. SMITH, *Hon. Secy.*

Coronation of their Majesties King George VI. and Queen Elizabeth.

May 12th, 1937

IT was my privilege to attend the Coronation as a representative of the 6th Battalion H.L.I. I was also honoured to carry the King's Colours.

We left Central Station, Glasgow, at 8.45 p.m. on Sunday night, after a good send-off. The journey to London was rather uneventful, with practically no sleep. We arrived in Euston at 6 o'clock and marched straight to our camp in Hyde Park. Three members of our party, who were taking part in the Procession, left us at Kensington Gardens, where they were to be in camp during the week.

On arrival in Hyde Park, where the whole Scottish command was in camp, I got my first impression of the wonderful organisation of the whole Coronation proceedings; we were simply handed a slip of paper showing our tents, and were escorted to our lines without delay. After dumping our kits, we went straight for breakfast, which was awaiting us. Monday morning was chiefly spent settling in.

My tent was actually situated between the Serpentine and the Rotten Row, the latter providing a constant source of entertainment and interest. During our spell there, we saw the Duke of Kent and the Earl of Athlone riding up and down the Row, besides detachments from the various units, including the King's four Indian Orderly Officers, Canadian North-West Mounted Police, Australians, together with a number of dignitaries.

On Tuesday morning, we had a rehearsal at lining the route, which took place in a downpour of rain and we were absolutely soaked, but it did not seem to damp anyone's enthusiasm.

In London that night, scenes of enthusiasm were commencing; people were riding about on the tops of taxi cabs, viewing the various decorations. At 5 o'clock that evening, I saw several people taking up their stances in preparation for the Procession the following day. By 10 o'clock that night, all the space at the side of the pavements was taken up by people lying asleep, covered with rugs, with picnic baskets beside them.

We awoke on Wednesday morning with reveille at 4 o'clock, but, fortunately, this did not apply to us, as our reveille did not sound until 6 o'clock. It was a gray, cold morning, but with prospects of the sun breaking through. We paraded at 8.30 a.m., eventually moving off about 9.15. Just before we moved off, we witnessed the Indian troops forming up in their spectacular uniforms. We marched up to Hyde Park Corner, where we got a great reception from the spectators (which, of course, made the Jocks put that little bit extra into their marching!). From Hyde Park Corner, we went up East Carriage Way, through the Marble Arch and along Oxford Street, where we had to take up our position. We were in our position about 10.30 and about 11 o'clock, lorries

came along distributing food to everyone lining the route, and half an hour later came back again collecting all the empty bags. We stood there for approximately six hours, but the time passed surprisingly quickly, as there was always something happening of interest. We were also fortunate in having a loud speaker opposite us, by which means we heard practically all the Service in the Abbey.

At about 3.15, the head of the Procession entered Oxford Street. This, of course, was a sign for great enthusiasm by the crowd. All the troops got a wonderful reception, especially the Colonials and the Indians. The first of the carriages soon appeared, containing the various Prime Ministers and, at this point, it is worth recording that, apart from Royalty, undoubtedly the person to receive the next greatest ovation was the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin. After the last carriages containing the Prime Ministers, an escort of the Metropolitan Mounted Police followed, then we had our first glimpse of the Royal Family, preceded by the Captain's Escort. After Her Majesty Queen Mary's coach, in which were the Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Margaret Rose, we had the King's Escort, which alone was one of the most spectacular parts of the Procession, as it contained so many different uniforms, the most outstanding being the Yeomen of the Guard in their picturesque old-fashioned costumes. As this part of the Procession was passing, we got our first glimpse of the famous State Coach drawn by the Windsor

Greys. By this time, the crowd was worked up to a high pitch, and as the State Coach grew nearer, the applause reached crescendo. We had a very good view of Their Majesties as they passed. Immediately behind the State Coach was the Royal Standard and four officers of the Life Guards, followed by the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent and other notables, the Procession ending with a Sovereign's Escort.

The whole Procession was a wonderful sight and one which will never be forgotten.

We marched back to Hyde Park about half an hour after the Procession had passed, in a downpour of rain, and despite the fact that everyone was soaked, no one seemed to worry; personal feelings had been submerged in the privilege of witnessing such a thrilling and wonderful sight.

London at night really went gay, taxicabs driving with the occupants mostly on the roofs, waving and cheering at every opportunity.

Thursday morning was spent in packing and tidying up the camp. In the afternoon, we took our Unit for a drive round London on a sight-seeing tour. We left Euston that night at 12.40 a.m., taking with us happy recollections of the wonderful occasion.

To my mind, the two most striking points of the whole Coronation were the warmth of the reception accorded to Their Majesties and the wonderful organisation.

N. G. R.

A Naval Picture (continued from following page).

these boilers, the "Hood" carries 4000 tons of oil fuel, but even this large supply would only last a short time if the battle cruiser was pressed for speed, as when her turbines are running at maximum capacity, she consumes no less than 1200 tons of oil fuel per day; quite a bill in itself.

The total weight of her machinery is over 5000 tons. In order to convey an idea of her size, imagine a ship nearly 100 feet longer than the "Empress of Britain" and 15 feet wider. The weight of one of the 15 inch gun barrels is as heavy as the average locomotive and its tender.

The "Hood's" funnels, of which there are two, are oval in shape, and are approximately 36 feet by 24 feet. In other words, it would be a simple matter to run two lines of tramcars inside one funnel.

If the "Hood" were lying at Princes Dock, it would be quite easy for her to land 15 inch shells in Gourock, nearly twenty miles away.

A realisation of these points gives one a good idea of what represents at present the last word in warship construction.

T. B. D.

A Naval Picture

HM.S. "Hood," Flag Ship of the British Battle Cruiser Squadron, was laid down by Messrs. John Brown & Co., Clydebank, in 1916, and completed late in 1920. She is not only the largest Battle Cruiser in the British Navy, but the largest warship ever constructed. Laid down only a few hours before the Battle of Jutland, her design embodies many improvements resulting from examinations of the damage sustained by the British warships at that action, the most outstanding feature of her construction being:—

1. Her full load displacement of 45,200 tons, and
2. The dimensions of the hull, which is 864 feet long over all, and 850 feet between the perpendiculars, while the beam is 105 feet, which includes the width of the anti-torpedo "bulges," and also the enormous areas covered by heavy armour plating.

The "Hood" was one of four sister ships which were laid down in 1916, being Britain's reply to certain large ships which Germany had laid down a short time before. The sister ships were to have been called "Anson," "Howe," and "Rodney," but owing to Germany ceasing construction on her large ships, this squadron, with the exception of the "Hood," was cancelled.

As a result of the Washington Treaty, no warships exceeding 35,000 tons normal displacement can now be built, and it is unlikely therefore that the "Hood's" supremacy will be challenged for many years. The next largest ships are the British battleships of the "Rodney" class, which have a full load displacement of approximately 40,000 tons, which ships are the newest capital ships in the British Navy.

The "Hood," like most of the other British battle cruisers and dreadnoughts, is armed with a main battery of eight 15 inch guns. The range of these guns is only limited by maximum visibility. They have an angle of elevation of 35 degrees, and an angle of depression of 5 degrees. Her secondary battery or anti-torpedo battery,

is composed of twelve 5.5 inch guns, which are housed in caissons on the main deck, underneath the super structure. This battery is a protection against light cruisers, destroyers and submarines which, when at near range, are too low in the water to receive the direct fire of the main battery.

As a protection against aircraft, the "Hood" has very heavily armoured decks, especially over the magazines and engine rooms. At the same time she mounts an anti-aircraft battery of 4.7 inch guns and six 3 inch anti-aircraft guns. The guns of the main battery are disposed of in this way—four at the bow and four at the stern. They are placed in turrets, each containing two guns and one turret super firing over the other. In these turrets the heaviest armour of the ship is found.

One of the main protections carried by the modern warship against heavy fire of enemy ships, is her main belts of armour. In the case of the "Hood," on either side the main belt extends for a length of 560 feet by 9½ feet deep by 13 inches thick. These belts are situated just on the water line. The enormous weight of this side armour is difficult to realise, each belt weighing no less than 4000 tons. In addition to this, like most modern warships, this battle cruiser has bulge protection. This is a means of protecting the underwater part of the hull against torpedo attack, and takes the form of a longitudinal "blister," stretching practically the entire length of the hull on either side. This "blister" is subdivided into numerous small compartments by bulkheads which break the main force of the torpedo's explosion.

In keeping with its size, the engines of the "Hood" develop no less than 150,000 shaft horse power. Her quadruple screws are driven by steam turbines, which in turn are fed by no less than twenty-four oil-fired Yarrow boilers. This great power gives the "Hood" an average speed in all weathers of 32 knots, which, considering the vessel's size, is remarkable. To feed

(Continued at foot of previous page).

Public Menace No. 1

MY last prognostications concerning Adam have been fully realised. By that I mean he has become Public Enemy No. 1 by becoming the proud possessor of a motor car.

The "Call of the Open Road" was naturally heard but faintly during the winter months by most of us, but not so by Adam. He told us of his proposed visit to the Motor Show at Olympia last Autumn, and knowing Adam, we looked at one another. I must admit that the new impulse worked upon him in a somewhat unusual manner. Beyond saying that Olympia was a most impressive spectacle, he scarcely mentioned the incident—somehow the enthusiasm which is one of Adam's outstanding traits seemed lacking, and I for one wondered what would be the outcome.

I need not have worried. Soon after Christmas Adam became more normal. I noticed that his literature on the train suddenly changed. Instead of his morning paper and the latest popular novel, he now read "The Internal Combustion Engine Made Easy," "A Simple Guide to Motoring," "How a Motor Car Works." These he read almost surreptitiously, and as I watched the symptoms, I saw that the new interest was all the more wholehearted for being the more suppressed: banked fires invariably generate most heat in the long run.

About February the technical books disappeared, their place being taken by motor catalogues, from which I concluded that Eve did not yet know of the pleasures ahead. Like a true adventurer, Adam began in a big way. Rolls Royce, Bentley, Alvis, Daimlers were at first in evidence; later, the more plebian makes came in for consideration. At this stage he began to talk of the wonders of synchro-mesh gears, pre-selectivity, down draught carburettors, even-keel suspension and the like. I smiled and said little. Next came a heated discussion on the merits of an open and saloon car. Adam was all for the open car, "when full benefit of the fresh air could be obtained, when motoring was motoring." I still smiled and refused to

pass an opinion. I believe in the open car myself, and drive one of an early post war vintage. It was once a good car, had indeed seen service as a Staff car in the early days of the Rhine occupation, and though it is nothing much to look at, it serves my purpose well enough, and being built when cars were really built, gives me very little trouble—none indeed, for there is a reliable garage conveniently handy. I do not profess to understand the inner mysteries of its being.

In talk of this kind February passed. One day he had decided nothing would suit him but a Morris tourer; the next that a Hillman Minx might serve his turn. The early days of March saw him fall strangely silent, and then one day he told me rather sheepishly that he had bought a car.

"Nothing much to look at, old man, a little Austin Seven—open, of course; must have the full benefit of the fresh air, you know. I came to the conclusion a second-hand car is the best thing to learn on, and saw this at the — Garage for an old song. I'll invest in a new model in the Autumn."

I applauded his wisdom, for somehow Adam as a car driver filled me with qualms. However, I promised to look round that evening and say what I thought of the "old bus."

Frankly, I didn't like to. The proprietors of — Garage had evidently seen Adam coming, and ought to be severely rapped over the knuckles for fleeing the innocent. I should say Adam's car was the original model of the Austin Seven: you know the idea, a small rectangular box placed upon small wheels, and only lacking handles to complete the illusion of a perambulator. True, it was beautifully shiny of exterior, and if the upholstery was somewhat worn, at least it looked sound enough.

Adam threw up the bonnet with an air and a terrible clatter, above which I heard him say, "Clean little job." I bent down to inspect, as in duty bound, and grunted non-committally.

"Naturally," he went on, "after standing some time she's a little stiff at starting."

"Naturally," I echoed dutifully, as I watched him flood the carburettor, adjust the throttle, take the starting handle and swing her lustily. I managed to keep a straight face, but only with considerable effort, for as I have indicated before, Adam is height without breadth, and he seemed to tie himself in a knot to get low enough to insert the handle, and at every turn he almost lifted the car off the ground. His efforts were not conspicuously successful; indeed, beyond the fact that he became excessively ruddy of hue, nothing happened.

"Did you switch on?" I asked, helpfully.

"Naturally," he answered, somewhat huffily. "That is the first thing one does."

And he bent once more to the handle.

Some three or four minutes later, I ventured to look casually at the dash, and reaching over when Adam was busy mopping his face, I switched on the ignition key. Astoundingly enough, the result was overwhelming. As he bent again, a terrific bang answered the first turn, and the car started, filling the air with black and stifling fumes, and trembling even more violently than under Adam's energetic ministrations.

Adam, too, was trembling with excitement, and flushed with success and exhaustion. Like some ancient war horse, he was pawing the ground with impatience. In another minute he was in the car and busily explaining to me which was the brake, which the gear lever, the clutch, and so on.

"Jump in," he said, "and we'll go for a little run." And then, seeing my hesitance and questioning look added, "A car is easy enough to drive when once the mechanical principles have been fully grasped, but old Hore-Belisha, you know. . . ."

I didn't like the idea at all, but at the same time I could not leave Adam to run amok. Moreover, I argued there was only about half an hour's daylight left, and if I indulged him now, I should have done my share and could not reasonably be expected to be in attendance at future trials. With considerable misgivings, therefore, I climbed into the left hand seat. I overflowed the seat in all directions, and had to sit with my chin on my knees. Still, Adam was thin and seemed not to notice my encroachment.

His eyes shining, Adam pushed in the gear, let in the clutch, and the car stopped with a jerk. Without looking at me, Adam sheepishly released the hand-brake and pulled the self-starter. To give the car its due, it responded almost immediately, and we started down the short drive to the gate. Nearly taking the off side gatepost with us, we careered madly into the road. Had Adam lived in a busy thoroughfare instead of a quiet semi-country lane, a collision would have been almost inevitable. As it was, Adam swung the car just in time to miss the opposite bank, and noisily changing gear, Adam headed for the country.

It was a nerve-racking ordeal. Adam, to give credit where credit was due, certainly appeared to have mastered the intricacies of gear-changing, but he certainly had not yet the feel of the steering. Adam, looking very grim but with an ecstatic light in his eye, gripped the wheel as if his life depended upon it, and put his foot hard on the accelerator. The "old bus," trembling in every limb, progressed noisily at some thirty miles an hour, swaying wilding from one side of the road to the other, and invariably taking the corners on the wrong side. At least twice we all but climbed the hedge, and once the car took a fancy to a telegraph post. My heart was more often in my mouth than its proper location, but I suppose I might have trusted to Adam's lucky star. We met nothing on our drive, round corners or elsewhere, and at the last second Adam seemed to clear the obstacles.

Then, suddenly, as we ascended a slight gradient the car coughed once and fell silent.

Adam frowned, applied his brakes, almost putting the pair of us through the windscreen (I'll say that the brakes were really good!) and descended to the road. Up went the bonnet, and in the fast gathering twilight he began tinkering within. He used the starter, but a half-hearted cough was the only response—the use of the handle proved even less effective. I ventured the suggestion that there was no petrol, and subsequent investigation revealed an empty tank. Adam was somewhat annoyed, and muttered impolite things about inefficient garages.

It was not an easy task pushing the car round in the narrow lane, but somehow we managed it, and, of course, facing down the incline, she fired very cheerfully. In another moment we were headed for home, vainly hoping that the petrol would hold out. Naturally, our hopes were not realised, and we had to push the car the last three-quarters of a mile, and I speak with authority when I say that even an Austin Seven is a heavy car to push, particularly when the road is slightly uphill. Fortunately, it was almost dark

when we ignominiously pushed the car into the garage.

By that time Adam was more or less himself again, and invited me to go round the next evening for a further run, "after he had had a word or two to say to those confounded garage men." I pleaded a prior engagement, and for the rest of the week. I took my way home, renewing my nerve at the local coffee-house, and resolved to leave Adam to learn to drive himself—unless the Ministry of Transport saw fit to interfere in the matter before that task was accomplished. M.

March, 1937. Germany

WITH the fleeting of time, the month of exhibitions, when the industrial world is on its toes, had attracted a host of buyers from home, the colonies, and foreign countries to its shop, the B.I.F. I begin my reminiscences towards its close.

Friday, February 26th, at 8.30 p.m., I boarded the express bound for Harwich. Every seat was booked, chiefly by Dutch returning home from the B.I.F., or Britishers going to the Leipzig and Prague Fairs.

In my compartment I saw little of my fellow passengers as they hid behind newspapers and spoke to nobody. By that I presumed they were typical British travellers. I had spent a tiresome day at the White City, so, after meditating for some time on my good fortune on being part of the human cargo, I fell into a peaceful doze, and was awakened by the jolting of carriages at the port.

At the first barrier I felt that mild thrill on reading the first notices written in three languages. After showing my passport and tickets to quiet but competent officials, who incidentally inspired a brilliant French lady to write that book "I Discover England," I found myself on board. Disregarding the notice "Sea moderate," which I had seen at Liverpool Street Station that evening, I went straight to my bunk to prevent, at all costs, that unpleasant experience, known to all bad

sailors. Seven hours later we disembarked at the Hook of Holland, and no time was wasted in arranging the passengers in their respective seats bound for Leipzig.

This time my travelling companions included a London manufacturer of cotton goods, who explained that he was making this trip "to see what the other fellow was doing"; and a Swiss, who during the day's conversation seemed to have agents for various electrical equipments throughout Europe. He was on his way now to take over his stand for the supplying of batteries at the Fair. During the course of the day he spoke in French, German, English and Italian. He told us of one experience which I thought smart business. A few months ago he had a stock of goods from Switzerland lying in the Customs House in Dover waiting to be cleared. Suddenly the import duty on these goods was reduced. He telephoned the Customs House; had the goods returned to Switzerland; had them redespached to England, and imported them a second time at a saving of £40.

Among other things we discussed the meagre English kitchen. I said the Mitropa Restaurant Car Co. would welcome the British to Germany with roast beef. I was right again—I had had it already on three previous occasions.

At Bentheim, after declaring how much foreign currency each had, to extremely

pleasant officials without uniforms and loud "Heil Hitlers," everyone scrambled on to the platform to change Reichmarks, a special exchange to facilitate travel in Germany.

To the minute at 18.30 we said our "adieux" at Leipzig, Hauptbahnhof, the largest station in Europe with its twenty-four platforms in one row. There I was met by my old friend, Heinz Gentsch, who when I knew him first in 1930, captained the Leipzig Sports Club at rugby and hooked that year for the German Student International Rugby Team. At his home I assure you that I understood and felt proud of the look on his mother's face when I gave her a souvenir book of our King and Queen; his brother, Bobby's, of 14, when he opened a package containing Edward VIII milk mugs; and Heinz' himself, at his box of Capstan cigarettes—I felt I had left a Motherland but had arrived in a Vaterland.

The following morning, Sunday, February 28th, the Leipzig Fair was officially opened by Herr von Rippentrop, German Ambassador in London, whose speech everyone must have read. At this point I would say that any opinion I give is my own, urged by no oratory or literature, but by an open mind, believing in, as Garvin titled his "Sunday Observer" article, a policy of "live and let live."

The immensity of the Leipzig Fair is almost impossible to visualise. In the actual town some eight buildings resembling "Gamages" are used for one week during the Spring Fair, and one week during the Autumn Fair, for the display of glass, tops, leather goods, textiles, furniture, etc.

The Technical Exhibition has twenty-four halls, each varying in size from half to the size of the Kelvin Hall—can you imagine a space twenty times the Common Room, devoted to typewriters?

One hall is for designs of town planning and suburban houses and flats; another for inventions by amateurs, who one day may become world-famous; tracks of 300 yards to demonstrate locomotives, cranes, borers, all in operation in the open air.

I did not see the exhibitors inviting their

clients to refreshments as I did at the B.I.F.!

During the course of my stay I visited the firm where I worked for twelve months. The chief and his son expressed their satisfaction with business. They were extending their premises, just as I see a man in this country building, and financed up to 90 per cent; but I sensed a stillness like a smouldering rafter which in a draught would burst into flame.

I learned that an old friend, who had played international rugby for twelve years, including several games against Oxford Greyhounds and the famous wing three-quarter, Ian Smith, had criticised the Führer before his private secretary, who reported him. He was warned; he repeated the offence; two agents arrived at his house to take him away for interrogation. He took his life before them in his house. The question arises—are the allies not indirectly responsible for such appalling occurrences? It is impossible to reduce a first class power to a suppressed third class nation.

Another clubmate who had recently returned from farming in Africa to find both his parents dead, I found acting as a doorman in the Mess Haus, and earning 7 r.m. for a twelve-hour day. His brother was discharged from the navy as his grandmother was a Jewess, and now to pay his studies in medicine, he was selling cigarettes and postcards in one of the exhibition halls. Both these boys were as fine fellows as ever I have met. Their brother-in-law, a doctor, lost his hospital job because his wife's grandmother was a Jewess—definitely a case of injustice; but an example of the ultimate end of the feeling growing in our country to-day.

As arranged by letter before my departure from Scotland, I called one morning at the Neues Rathaus, to leave half an hour later with blue prints of the latest houses in Siedlungshäuser, and in the company of one of the town architects—Herr Dürr. He said, "What would you like to see most?" I explained to him that the self-satisfied attitude of my people did not allow them to think seriously of my assertion that slums, by that I mean infested

property, cases of overcrowding, were non-existent in Germany compared with Britain, and that I was looking for still more confirmation of my belief. My reason, which was not exaggerated, for this visit pleased Mr. Dürr, who took me to the Kregel Str. which, he explained, five years ago housed the most unruly and dangerous people among Leipzig's population of 700,000. I was prepared for anything, even a rough house, slouchers at every corner, streets littered with old sporting chronicles, windows broken and covered up with cardboard, "poetry" scrawled on the walls, initials chipped on the doors. Truly I saw none of these. The men folk were all out. I wouldn't suggest that strictly speaking there was no unemployment among them; but as unemployed, in exchange for the "dole," is it not better that they respect discipline and keep physically and mentally fit by even digging a hole in a field and filling it in again?

In a great space between these three-storied flats I saw what resembled a Swiss chalet, and seeing children around it my curiosity was aroused. Unheralded, we went in, and I found the origin of many nursery rhymes in real life. All children below school age, whose parents are out of work, must attend this house. Some arrive as early as five in the morning. If anyone comes with an unwashed face or hands, torn or buttonless dress or shirt, he or she is immediately sent home again for the parent to put matters right. Here the Germany of to-morrow is growing up. In the main room I saw about forty children in a large circle round a young nurse, not in uniform, all singing, hopping round, and clapping hands. The matron, a very kind lady, showed me the little beds where the children all slept after dinner from two till four. In the schoolroom, those who attended school in the forenoon, prepared the next day's work in the afternoon. In the kitchen the children took turns at drying the dishes—all the food arriving prepared from a central depot every day. In the bathroom each child had its tumbler and toothbrush in ledges.

Our next destination was Meusdarf, which we reached after a twenty minutes

run in a very fast tramcar. On this estate already 2000 houses are occupied—5000 is the intention within the next three years. Each house has its 1000 sq. metres of ground, all placed at right angles or in great sweeping crescents—the positioning of our corporation tenements makes me shudder.

We picked out one house to look through—from outside it resembled the old English style, the first floor being of stone, the second of wood with a steep slate roof. Herr Schäfer, the tenant, lived with his wife, his aged mother, and two children. The largest room was a living room—kitchen with a hand basin in a recess. His mother occupied the other room downstairs, it being 11 ft. by 10 ft., while his wife and himself had a bedroom 14 ft. by 10 ft., and his children one, 10 ft. by 9 ft., both upstairs, and above that was a loft. A washhouse led off the small porch downstairs, and off it, a lavatory. Joined to the house with an outside entrance was a small barn where Mr. Schäfer kept a goat for milk and hens for eggs, and beside it a rabbit hutch with ten Angora rabbits. He told me that he turns over the ground three times in the year, while six fruit trees went with the house and grounds. His proudest possession was a good dung of manure. For the whole he pays 12/- a month, and 26/- once he gets implements; while his "dole" allowance is 17/9 per week. To get the house he has to promise allegiance to the "Führer," and had worked 2500 hours without pay in the construction of the house. If during the first three years he worked the land, and kept the house to the satisfaction of the overseers, it would automatically become his property, while should he wish to leave, the town would have the first option to buy.

There was a slight drizzle falling now, so we decided to retrace our footsteps to the tramcar. In a clearing we came upon a number of young men in khaki uniforms digging the drains in readiness for the new batch of houses to be built. As our press had warned me on several occasions of compulsory labour camps—Germany preparing for war—I stopped and spoke to the leader, a young fellow of about 24.

When I told him I came from Britain he could not explain enough. He invited me to inspect his quarters: I felt sorry I could not spare the time. He was of the permanent staff, while the other lads, knee deep in mud, were future medical and business men doing the *Arbutsdienst* work on the land before pursuing their careers. Here every man learns the lesson that one man is as good as another, and the old school tie in after life is of little or no consequence.

We had still one call to make, but to do it justice we felt that something to eat first was necessary. The *Thüringer Hof*, an ancient monastery of the 15th century, now has one of the finest kitchens in Germany. Its stone statues and wood carving are priceless. Over the lunch table a German now resident in the Argentine, and the image of Buffalo Bill, was drawn into our conversation. He said, "To-day in Germany the head of a firm has become the head once again." He prophesied darker days for Britain in the case of trade unions. We must think ahead, and see the importance of the saying "United we stand, divided we fall." It appears to me that we shall fall, and if my assumption is correct, we fall easy prey to the first invader. To complete the lunch I bought two good cigars at 25 pfennig each, and put them on the table while I paid for them. I put out my hand to take a cigar and offer one to Herr Dürr, but with a certain amount of presence of mind I took out my pipe and lit it—Herr Dürr had already put one cigar in his pocket and was smoking the other.

The German is very fond of little Aberdeen stories. I am beginning to wonder in which country Aberdeen really is.

I had always wanted to see a home for old people. To fulfil this desire we directed our steps to the *Johanishospital*. Here reside over eleven hundred people. Admittance is only allowed on attaining the age of 65. Each person pays £50, and for this they get a room, or in the case of a married man and woman two rooms, which they furnish with their own belongings, and free food until the end of their

days. The governor was extremely kind, and spent two hours with us. The kitchen was a model and up-to-date to the minutest detail, even to a cold water spray which automatically sprayed over the surface of the boiling soups once the lids of the 700 litre pots were opened, and this prevents the steam from filling the kitchen. I had expected to see a colossal dining hall, but the governor informed me that after great consideration it was thought better to let each inmate take his food in the quiet of his room. Each corridor has its common kitchen with about a dozen gas rings where the old people can make themselves a cup of tea or coffee, or cook a *Frankfurter* sausage for breakfast. The home is served by fully qualified nurses. In the case of illness, the patient rings a bell which at once lights the electric bulb outside his or her bedroom door. The bell rings in the night nurse's room at the end of the corridor and also in the patient's bedroom until the nurse turns it off with a special key in the sufferer's room.

At this point I think I have written enough matter for the reader to reply to and criticise it, or add to it, but before ending I should like to tell of a novel experience I had before returning home. While in the Postamt at the *Augustus Platz* in Leipzig, I read that from there I could telephone by television to Berlin for 3/- for three minutes. I went into a cubicle in blackness, I should say 8 ft. by 6 ft., sat on a chair resembling very much a dentist's. As I knew no one to whom I particularly wished to speak to in Berlin, I just lifted the receiver and a female operator replied. I saw her on a 2 ft. by 1 ft. screen, 3 feet in front of me, while below, a pale blue light shining on me transmitted my appearance to Berlin.

I should like to take this opportunity of suggesting to Mr. Riley that he organise summer tours for the senior boys, in various European countries, or arrange for them short stays with some families on the Continent, where they could automatically learn to argue fairly the demands and opinions of that particular country.

W. W.

Sports Notes

RUGBY.

OWING to illness and bad weather only four matches were played in the second half of the season. Of these we lost three and drew one. Apart from the loss of W. Pringle, the team was the same as in the previous term, but weakened sides had to be fielded in the first two games; and lack of practice may account to a certain extent for the poorer form shown. J. Mackie came into the scrum to take Pringle's place, and played well in a position that was strange to him. For the last two matches E. Watt, who had played well in the Second XV and in practice games, displaced J. Steel in the three-quarter line, and showed better form than he did when given a trial at the beginning of the season. Steel had lost all his thrust, and his defence was lamentably weak.

The 1936-37 season was only moderately successful, but the side gave some very creditable performances against good opposition, in the games against Heriot's, Dollar and Allan Glen's, for instance. They were a sound rather than brilliant side, and most of the games were evenly contested. A glance at the summary of results will show that with seventy-five points "for" and a hundred "against," the defence was the strong point; the attack, indeed, was very ordinary, and only on two occasions did the fifteen score more than ten points, while only on four occasions did they concede more than ten.

The form of the forwards was unreliable, because they had a tendency to take too many rests; but they proved they had ability by standing up to heavier opponents. Their lapses affected the play of the halves, who gave poor displays when under pressure.

The majority of the side will be available next season and should profit by this year's experience.

Summary of Results.

Played 14; won 5; lost 7; drawn 2; points for, 75; points against, 100.

Team Criticism.

R. Houston (Captain and full back). The fact that he followed Forrest as Captain, and of a more moderate side,

made his task more difficult; but he performed his duties well and showed great keenness. The soundness of his play at full back gave confidence to the rest of the side. His sense of positioning and fielding the ball were good, and he was calm in his methods of eluding an oncoming opponent. His kicking lacked length, but was safe. 1st XV Cap awarded 1935-6-7.

R. Peacock (Vice-Captain) has always been outstanding in his position of wing forward, and did not play one poor game throughout the season. As leader of the pack he set the others a fine example. His speed enabled him to cover the ground for spoiling and attacking purposes. 1st XV Cap awarded 1936-7.

J. M. Peden, packing in the second row, could generally be relied upon to use his weight to good purpose. Although he was not fast, he was usually up with the play, and was fearless in falling on the ball. He frequently did excellent work in the line-out. 1st XV Cap awarded 1935-6-7.

D. McColl played consistently well on the other wing to Peacock, as whom he was often as prominent. He was quick on the ball, but through over-eagerness was often caught off-side. Towards the end of the season he showed a tendency to resort to the favourite tricks of wing forwards rather than do some honest work. 1st XV Cap awarded 1936-7.

T. Macfarlane has improved considerably as wing three-quarter, and now always tries to do something with the ball, using his speed well. He was the chief source of danger to an opponents' line. His defence is sound, and he excels in falling on the ball. With practice he will become a useful place kicker, but must take more care with the supposedly easy kicks. 1st XV Cap awarded 1936-7.

G. Knox is a player who revels in a fierce game and adopts bustling methods with marked success. He packs well and makes the most of his weight. He is particularly good in the line-out. 1st XV Cap awarded 1936-7.

J. Donaldson, with Knox, has formed the basis of a solid front row and did a great deal of work in the tight scrums, though

he has a tendency to pack too high. His line-out work was good, and he frequently broke through with the ball. 1st XV Cap awarded 1936-7.

N. Thomson has plenty of speed for his position on the wing, but his form has scarcely been sufficiently reliable. He finds it difficult on occasions to take his passes, although his fielding of a kick ahead is good. He is inclined to let one bad lapse affect the rest of his play; but some of his displays have been very good, showing that he has the ability.

G. Sharp has been a tower of strength in defence in his position of centre three-quarter, and this was his chief asset. His attack is only moderate, although he has shown plenty of thrust on occasion. His greatest fault is hanging on to the ball too long after making an opening.

F. Anderson, at stand-off half, has not really come up to expectations. He has an eye for an opening, but is too slow to make full use of his opportunities. However, he takes his passes well and has been an adequate link with the three-quarters. His kicking has been very useful.

D. Macnaughton has shown great promise at scrum half and has time to develop with experience. His passes have been accurate on the whole, and greater length will follow. His defensive covering has been good, and there have been signs of a development of individual bursts. At present he is poor when harassed by opposing forwards.

I. Galbraith has performed his chief task as hooker reasonably well, obtaining more than his fair share of the ball. The rest of his work was done without being conspicuous, but he is rather on the slow side.

J. Mackie played well after being introduced to a strange position. He was energetic and did plenty of work in tight and loose scrums, besides making good use of his height in the line-outs.

E. Watt is the type of player who may be brilliant or very bad, since he is prepared to take risks. His displays at the end of the season were more convincing than those at the beginning. He has a useful body swerve, and his defence is sound.

J. Steel shared with Watt the centre three-quarter position, and at his best was just as dangerous. He showed up well in attack when the team was on top of its opponents, but his defence was hardly adequate, and later in the season was so poor as to lose him his place in the side.

Strathallan v. J. G. S. Forrest's XV, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, January 9th.

J. G. S. Forrest brought up a strong side for the opening game of the term, including several players who had figured prominently in recent school teams. The Strath. side was considerably weakened by illness, and was at a further disadvantage in that they had been unable to get a practice game before it. Moreover, the ground was very heavy, and the game, though keenly contested, produced few really good movements.

There was little combined effort in the play of the School forwards, and their heeling was slow. Donaldson was prominent individually, and of the newcomers to the side P. Methven was the best. Macnaughton, at scrum half, was slow in getting the ball away, even when the heeling was clean, and the backs were consequently handicapped in attack, though Sharp and Thomson made some good runs. These two gave the best all round display among the three-quarters, Sharp's marking of Forrest being particularly good.

In the first half, Graeme Sharp scored two tries for the visitors by dashing over the line from close in. Forrest kicked a penalty goal to make the score 9-nil at the breather. Strath. opened strongly in the second half, and held a territorial advantage for some time, until eventually Donaldson broke away, to set the three-quarters going on a movement which ended by Thomson scoring a good try in the corner. The kick was unsuccessful. The visitors rallied in turn, and Forrest broke through the defence twice to score twice before the close, one of the tries being successfully converted by the scorer.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; J. G. S. Forrest's XV, 17 pts.

Strathallan v. Glasgow Academy, played at Glasgow on Saturday, January 16th.

Strath. fielded a much depleted side for this game, six of the regular side being

down with influenza. The fact that five of the six were forwards had an important bearing upon the run of the game. The substitutes were clearly below first team standard, and the Academy won nine out of ten of the set scrums, thereby providing their backs with many opportunities. In spite of this seemingly hopeless task, Peacock tried hard to rally his forwards, and played an excellent game himself, being well supported by McColl and Peden, though McColl tended to get off-side too much.

After constant pressure in the early stages of the game, the home side took the lead with an unconverted try, but thereafter the defence prevailed, and later the School began to take a share in the attacking. Unfortunately, dropped passes broke up several very promising movements. In the last ten minutes the Academy three-quarters scored two more tries, one of which was converted. This seemed inevitable in view of the innumerable opportunities they had.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Glasgow Academy, 11 pts.

Strathallan v. Aberdeen G.S., to be played at Aberdeen on Saturday, January 23rd, was scratched owing to the ravages of the 'flu.

Strathallan v. Dan Stewart's College, played at Edinburgh on February 6th.

The team was again at full strength for this game, but seemed to be suffering from lack of practice, since it took them a long time to settle down. We were completely outplayed in the first half, when the three-quarters had few chances. The forwards were not playing together, Macnaughton was slow in getting the ball away, and Anderson was not linking up with the three-quarters. In the second half there was a considerable improvement, notably among the forwards, who were getting a fair share of the ball, Peacock and Peden being outstanding. The halves, too, played well, and Anderson's kicking was very useful; but the three-quarters lacked thrust, and their defence was weak. Steel was very poor in this respect. Houston played his usual sound game at full back.

Stewart's attacked at the start, and scored by means of a penalty goal, but the

first half generally lacked interest. The second half developed into a keen struggle, in which the School was definitely on top, but failed to take full advantage of the opportunities. Eventually Anderson kicked a penalty goal from outside the twenty-five to level the score, and it was quite against the run of the play when in the last five minutes one of the home centres ran right through the defence to score a try which was converted. Strath. fought back, and with the last kick of the match Anderson hit the post in an effort to drop a goal.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Stewart's College, 8 pts.

Strathallan v. Robert Gordon's College, to be played at Forgardenny on February 13th was scratched owing to the unfit state of the ground.

Strathallan v. Perthshire, played at Forgardenny on February 20th.

Strath. had the benefit of a strong breeze and soon had their heavier opponents on the defensive. The forwards worked like Trojans, and, despite their weight handicap, contrived to give the backs a reasonable share of the ball. The 'Shire halves, Norwell and Alty, were an obvious source of danger, but were very carefully watched, while the three-quarters looked too slow to cause trouble. After a quarter of an hour, following a neat interception, Watt and Sharp broke away on the left, and the ball came back into the middle for Anderson to drop over close to the posts, and Macfarlane safely to convert. Though Strath. continued to hold a slight advantage, there was no further scoring up to half time.

With the wind, the 'Shire were expected to win comfortably, but once again lack of speed at three-quarters nullified many chances. Both visiting halves made dangerous onslaughts, and, despite heroic work by Anderson and Macnaughton, the scrum half finally hurled himself over. A nice kick improved his effort. With the score level, the visitors continued to press, but eventually from a loose maul near the School line, the home pack broke away by neat interpassing, and the ball was thrown out to Thomson, who sped to the half way line, where a well timed inside pass to McColl left the latter in a good position to cut clean through to score, but Macfarlane

missed the convert from an easy position. A fine run by Alty brought the score level, but towards the end Strath. again took the initiative, though without tangible results.

Houston was outstanding at full back, giving his best display for a long time. Watt did quite enough to justify his inclusion in the centre, whilst Peacock, McColl and Peden were the pick of a pack which worked hard and well throughout.

Result: Strathallan, 8 pts.; Perthshire, 8 pts.

Strathallan v. Scottish Wayfarers, to be played on February 24th at Forgan-denny, was scratched owing to snow.

Strathallan v. Morrison's Academy, to be played on February 27th at Forgan-denny, was scratched owing to snow.

Strathallan v. Hillhead High School, to be played in Edinburgh on March 20th, was scratched owing to the unfit state of the ground.

SECOND FIFTEEN.

Only two of the six fixtures of the second team this term were played, and both games resulted in wins. At Aberdeen, the team showed marked superiority to beat Robert Gordon's 2nd XV by a goal and a try. E. Watt made a brilliant interception, to run through the opposition and score a try, for Smith to convert. In Perth, the side, while playing hardly such convincing football, beat Perth 2nd XV by thirteen points to six. J. Steel, H. Thomson and F. Waterston scored tries, Smith converting twice. It is regrettable that the side had so little match experience, for it was beginning to show great promise and combination. Some of its younger members will be watched with considerable interest next season.

2nd XV Caps were awarded to:—G. Sharp, E. Watt, D. Macnaughton, I. Galbraith, J. Mackie, R. Taylor, J. Steel, I. Smith, W. Steel, R. Gillanders, P. Methven, J. Kelly, S. Scott, F. Waterston, J. Wilson, G. Carrie.

HOUSE MATCHES

It cannot be said that any of the House games reached a very high standard: indeed, good football was at a discount in

the early ties, and only in the final Sevens game was any open play indulged in, and then by Ruthven who deservedly emerged the winners. Actually, it may be questioned whether either of the finalists really deserved to have won their first ties.

Freeland admittedly had slightly the better of the play territorially in the first half of their match with Simpson, but missed their chances, Macfarlane failing with a penalty, and somehow Simpson's defence held out. In the second half good kicking by Simpson put them on the attack, and thanks to Thomson play was kept on the Freeland line for a considerable period. In the closing minute, Houston made a grand run along the touch-line and Macfarlane converted the try to give Freeland the victory. In the other tie the lighter Nicol forwards, beating the formidable Ruthven trio, carried play into the Ruthven "twenty-five", and a penalty in an easy position should have given them an early lead, but Steel elected to drop instead of place the goal, and pulled his kick badly. Half-time came without a score, and after Watt had carried play into the Ruthven "twenty-five," Mackie failed with a penalty kick far out. Nicol maintained the pressure but no side came without their being able to turn their ascendancy to advantage. The first half of the extra time saw play confined to mid-field, though a run by Steel put Nicol again on the attack before the whistle blew for the change over. In the opening minute of the fourth period, a wild pass from E. Watt to A. Watt was intercepted by G. Sharp, who ran over for an unconverted try, at which point the game was stopped.

In the final the early exchanges favoured Ruthven, but when play swung to the other end, Macfarlane was just short with a difficult penalty. Freeland now used their threes and maintained the pressure, Waterston making a fine tackle to save an ugly situation when Houston broke away. The interval came without a score, and in the second half Freeland mistakenly ceased to play the open game. To the surprise of every one it was Ruthven who now swung the ball out to the threes. Sharp was forced into touch almost on the line soon after the start. Waterston and Sharp were

all but over before Milroy touched down after Methven had dribbled over from a scrum near the line. Freeland rallied but to no avail, Houston being brought down by Waterston who played a magnificent game in defence and attack, showing an amazing turn of speed in both spheres. One could only feel that Freeland had themselves to blame for the defeat, though Ruthven deserve all the credit possible for their excellent victory.

The Junior matches were somewhat one-sided. After an initial pressure by Ruthven, Nicol had all the better of the game, a try by Chapelle in the first half and a penalty by Nicholson in the second giving them a 6-0 victory. Black and Scroggie caught the eye for the losers and Jack was always to the fore for the winners. Chappelle, though playing a good game, nullified this by his selfishness: chance after chance was lost both in this game and in the final by his failure to pass after having made an opening. In the other tie Simpson did practically all the attacking and deserved more than their five-nil victory, a good break-through by Don and a determined run by Reid giving them the try for K. Grant to convert and give them the right to enter the final.

Here the first half was a desperate forward battle in which Jack for Nicol and Molison for Simpson were prominent. A good run by Reid gave Simpson a definite superiority in the closing stages of the half. In the second half Nicol dominated the game, Gregory being the star of the side. He was nearly over in the opening minute, and it was only fitting that he should win the match for his side by a determined dash for the corner in the last minute.

FIVES

The Fives courts have been well patronised this term, particularly since the unfavourable weather conditions made Rugger impossible. Moreover, the individual Fives tournament attracted considerable attention. The Junior Championship was completed when H. Scott defeated G. Carrie 15-9 in the final. The Senior tournament, however, was held up by injuries to competitors and the call of examinations, but since only four more

games have to be played, the championship will quickly be decided in the early days of the Summer term. F. Anderson, M. Binnie, W. Leburn, J. Mackie and I. Smith are the survivors.

It is hoped that more time will be devoted to the game next term when the Doubles tournament will be played with a view to picking the team for Commemoration Day, when the Old Boys will undoubtedly bring a strong side up to School in order to avenge past defeats.

I. S.

CRICKET PROSPECTS

Record breakers and mainstays of the School Cricket for three seasons—Forrest, Johnstone and Murray—are no longer with us, and so we face what must be an experimental season. The choice of Captain has fallen upon R. Houston, who, although out of the game for the whole of last season, best possesses the qualities of leadership so necessary for the task. His fine fielding will certainly set a good example, and we hope he will do the same with the bat.

Bowling should not present a problem, for we still have the well tried and trusty Taylor to keep one end going. To help him there will be a selection from Mitchell, Leburn, Macfarlane, Wilson and Reid, all of whom can be relied upon to get wickets.

There is, however, a very serious dearth of prolific run getters, and our chief hopes must centre on Thomson and Sharp, who did so well against H. B. Rowan's last season. The former will be well advised to concentrate upon his batting, although he has showed some promise as a bowler. Another promising bat is J. Steel, who went forward along the right lines throughout last season. His elder brother will no doubt figure again as "long handle" expert, as will Taylor, and we wish them that little slice of luck which all hitters need. Leburn will certainly step into Murray's shoes as a reliable opener, but Houston will have difficulty in finding his partner. Wicket-keeping will also present a problem, and at the time of writing it seems that F. Anderson is the most likely candidate—but he has a lot to learn. Further, he must pay his way with the bat, which means concentration at the nets, a remark which also applies to Mitchell, Reid and J. Wilson.

The Second Eleven is entirely in the air, so there is ample opportunity for unknowns to jump from obscurity. We saw strong possibilities in J. Shanks and the younger Wilson last season, whilst J. Macgregor, V. Lowden and D. McColl are others who should make their mark. R. Peacock, too, should be useful.

It is too much to expect that we shall be able to emulate the success of last year's side, though all things are possible in cricket; but special efforts must be made to atone for the series of defeats at the hands of Heriot's, and the severe trouncing of last year's side at the hands of Glasgow Academy. We sincerely hope that the increased interest which the middle and lower school showed in the game last season will be fully maintained. The need for the quick development of new material has never been greater than it is now.

Therefore, anyone with an aptitude for the game should get out his bat, roll up his sleeves, and get down to work.

The fixture list is as follows:—

- May 8th.—R. Gordon's at Forgardenny.
- May 17th.—D. Stewart's at Forgardenny.
- May 22nd.—G. Heriot's at Forgardenny.
- May 26th.—Stirling County at Forgardenny.
- June 2nd.—Dollar Academy at Dollar.
- June 5th.—Aberdeen G.S. at Forgardenny.
- June 12th.—Glasgow Academy at Forgardenny.
- June 15th.—Hillhead H.S. at Glasgow.
- June 17th.—H. B. Rowan's XI at Forgardenny.
- June 19th.—Allan Glen's at Glasgow.
- June 23rd.—Dunfermline H.S. at Dunfermline.
- June 26th.—Old Strathallians at Forgardenny.

Scout Notes

THIS term the Clerk of the Weather has acted in a most knavish manner towards the Scouts. Most of the week days during term have been fair, but each Friday evening, when we were looking forward to a decent Saturday for the Troop meeting, Strath. has been visited by a downfall—snow, sleet and rain. Scouting has thus been greatly handicapped, and Saturday after Saturday with almost unbroken monotony the programme arranged has had to be abandoned. The “most unkindest cut of all” occurred at the end of term on the day when the term's work was to have been judged and the trophies presented. We were greeted by the worst snowstorm of the winter and reluctantly the arrangements had to be cancelled. As a result, points won by the various Patrols will be taken into account in allocating the trophies at the end of next term.

During the first two meetings of the term, which happened to be fine, some of the younger members of the troop took upon themselves the task of giving the outside of the hut a coating of creosote and performed their self-appointed task creditably—in many cases giving themselves almost as liberal a covering as the hut itself. The Hawks also continued putting up the rhones on the hut.

Corner work was again to the fore, although the high standard of the last few terms was not maintained. The Swifts, Hawks, Wolves and Owls put in a great deal of work and their corners looked well; the Eagles worked very hard on theirs, but the result did not justify the labour expended. Various Tenderfoot and 1st and 2nd class Tests were held. Recruits Turnbull and Petrie duly passed their Tenderfoot tests and were invested before the Troop. We wish them good Scouting in the future.

As most of the work this term has perforce had to be conducted inside the hut, formal drills and games have formed a fair part of the programme. These were well attended and much enjoyed by the Troop who entered enthusiastically into them.

The Seals Patrol have been unfortunate this term in losing two Patrol Leaders. P.L. S. R. Gillanders was promoted to Troop Quartermaster and J. Beatson elected in his place. On the latter leaving School, R. A. Peacock was appointed to take his place. J. Kelly was made 2nd of the Seals. Congratulations to these new officers.

L. P. W.

Strathallian Club

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



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Trustees:
 D. J. BOGIE, Esq., C.A., and H. RILEY, Esq.
 Auditors:
 J. C. McGEACHY, C.A., and
 W. M. SHANKS, C.A.

WE congratulate Mr. W. A. Snodgrass on passing his first year engineering subjects, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at the University of Glasgow this last Spring. At present Mr. Snodgrass is with Metro-Vickers in Manchester where he is working in the transformer department.

Mr. Jimmy Harley, of Wormit, near Dundee, has been the victim of a serious gun accident and we regret to say that he was shot in the hand and arm, with the result that he has lost all use of this limb. Those who knew Mr. Harley will remember that he suffered a disability on one side and this accident has now reduced his body efficiency on the other. We send him our deepest sympathy.

Perth is now to the fore with a branch of the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve and one of the first members to make his initial solo flight was Mr. David Wood who has been training at the Perth Aerodrome for the last three or four weeks. We understand that one or two other Strathallians are joining this centre for flying purposes.

From Nairobi we received a very welcome copy of the "East African Annual" and also cuttings from one or two newspapers giving prominence to Mr. Forrest gaining his Rugger blue at Cambridge after such a short period of residence. Mr. Hugh Hamilton, of Nairobi, has now joined the staff of the Vacuum Oil Company after having served a probationary period of six months. Unfortunately his leave will not

become due until September next year when he hopes to come to Scotland and renew acquaintance with some of his old friends.

We have great pleasure in offering our congratulations to Mr. G. Mitchell Grant, of Leven, who has qualified as a solicitor in the recent law agents' examination.

From the Argentine recently we have received many letters emphasising the very great economic improvement in that country and pointing out that while world crops generally have been failing, that part of the globe has been producing good crops. Mr. Walter Hird, who is with the Alpargata Company in Buenos Aires, writes a very interesting letter on the very wide ramifications of his firm. He is evidently very interested in his work. He mentions that Mr. R. Fraser and Messrs. R. and H. Botting are well and flourishing. If this should meet the eye of any of these gentlemen perhaps they may find time to let us have a few notes for this column.

Mr. Jack Beatson, who is residing at 252 Stanstead Road, Catford, London, is now engaged on the staff of Messrs. Steel Brothers, Fenchurch Avenue. Another old Strathallian employed by the same firm is Mr. Bobby Aikenhead, who is residing at the Caledonian Club.

Mr. Billy Edwards, of Newport, Fife, passed his second half of the intermediate examination of the Chartered Accountants' Institute. He hopes to complete his indenture in two years time.

Mr. Tony Howie, of Kilmacolm, passed his final examination as a chartered accountant. Mr. Howie has the distinction of having passed each of the four examinations at the first sitting. We offer our congratulations to both these gentlemen.

To Mr. Sam Dow, a past president of the Club, we extend our best wishes for his success in the conduct of the old established business of Messrs. Samuel Dow Ltd., of which he is now senior director.

Mr. Tommy Lang writes us from Halgolle, Yatiyantota, Ceylon, apologising for not writing earlier on the ground that his time has been taken up with what is commonly known at Strath. as WORK. This is certainly one way of putting it and what is more, he states that he is thoroughly enjoying it in spite of the fact that he has to start at six o'clock every morning and work on till half past five in the evening. "By a simple calculation *à la* Mr. Ward, you will find that I work fifty-seven hours a week," but Mr. Ward considers that there must be either a lack of data or some error here. Nevertheless, Mr. Lang must be pretty well occupied in looking after between four and five hundred Tamils where he explains that the greatest difficulty is in getting them to work. Here the writer recognises a kindred spirit and wonders which is really the greater problem—twenty Scotties or four hundred Tamils!

Mr. Stewart Ferguson from Karachi, who is with the Imperial Chemical Industries there, called at one of the Monday luncheons recently and gave us some very interesting descriptions of Indian life. Mr. Ferguson is acting as salesman supervising one of the areas behind the port and at the same time he seems to be taking full toll of yachting facilities from that port itself. By the time these lines are in print Mr. Ferguson will

be en route for India. Incidentally, he speaks well of opportunities in this country for young men with grit and initiative both in the services and in commerce.

The engagement is announced between Mr. D. Oliver Melrose, The Hirsell, Bridge of Weir, and Miss Phyllis Gee, Beverley, Bridge of Weir.

We congratulate Messrs. Wm. G. Rowan, W. Wills, and W. T. Paton, on obtaining commissions as 2nd Lieutenants in the 4/5th Battalion The Royal Scots Fusiliers. It is of interest to note that in addition to the above officers, Mr. R. F. Wilson, Ayr, and our Secretary, Mr. J. B. Maitland Cowan, also hold commissions in the same battalion. We think that it must be almost a record having five Strathallians serving in the same battalion.

We would like to ask readers to send us a few items of information about themselves or about Strathallians with whom they come in contact, for insertion in these notes. The aim is to extend them to six pages at least, and this can only be done by securing the co-operation of every member of the Club. Especially would we like to have incidents of life in foreign lands, more particularly where an old Strathallian participates in them. Club members at home might bear in mind that their fellows overseas are most interested in their doings and experiences.

From our Cambridge University Correspondent.

I am afraid there is very little news forthcoming from Cambridge for this issue of the magazine. Most of the fellows here are head over ears in studies for the examinations which are due to start next month. Mr. Alastair Montgomerie, who is captain of the Eskimos, as the ice hockey team is called, had rather a nasty smash

up during the team's tour in Scotland. He received severe facial injuries in the match at Perth, which required treatment at the local infirmary, but was afterwards allowed to proceed home. Messrs. Montgomerie and Forrest have been elected members of the Hawks' club. In the cricket section Mr. Forrest is figuring in the St. Catherine's XI, and I am afraid is not likely to go further this season for he has the remainder of his first medical Professional examinations to complete. Mr. R. Johnstone is playing for St. John's XI, and Mr. J. A. Smith is intimately connected with University polo. It is not an easy matter for freshers up from Scottish schools to force their way to the front in the various cricket sides at the University, for it is generally recognised that the standard of cricket at the English public schools is far in advance of that at schools in Scotland of a similar type. Generally speaking, the coaching is of a superior nature, but the main factor appears to be that English boys take their cricket very much more seriously than we Scots. I hear that there are several candidates from School coming up for examination in June, and although the term closes before their arrival, there are sure to be in residence one or two Strathallians who are studying in the medical faculty who would be pleased to welcome them.

From our Edinburgh University Correspondent.

This is the lean part of the year as far as news is concerned, for we are just between seasons as regards sports and are putting on the finishing touches to our studies in view of the examinations which lie ahead of us. We had a visit from Dr. Ian Chalmers, who is acting as assistant in Hawick, and I understand that Mr. George Balfour has been successful in getting his Argentine Army service postponed until 1939, which will allow him to

complete his medical studies, and at the same time make it safe for him to go out to that country for his summer vacation. Both he and Mr. Breckenridge are in Professor Sir John Fraser's surgery clinic. We made our annual trip to the Border country to see the Melrose "Sevens," and there were many Strathallians playing, and one and all agreed that the outstanding figure there was Mr. R. W. Dunn, of London Scottish, who were unlucky to lose the final. The only examination result on the board this last term was a pass recorded by Mr. James Drummond in anatomy in the second year.

From our Glasgow University Correspondent.

This term the outstanding event is, of course, the Coronation, and the students are running a show called "College Pudding" for one night, on the 11th May, in the Men's Union. They are also going to floodlight the University, and I have had the good fortune of being present at one or two tests carried out, and I have not the slightest hesitation in stating that it will show up the old building with its tower in a very remarkable way. The students are busy just now preparing for the Rectorial which, although it does not take place till October, is already dividing them into two rival camps. Strange to say, Socialists and Conservatives have joined forces to support Professor Haldane, the scientist, whilst Scottish Nationals and Liberals are supporting Professor Macneile Dickson, and it is noticed that Strathallians are to be found in both camps. I noticed the other day that Mr. K. G. McKenzie had qualified in engineering, and later I learned that he had accepted a post at Port Sunlight. Another member of the engineering faculty, Mr. A. Fleming, received his first rugger colours at the end of last season, for he has rendered excellent service in the scrum as hooker. Mr. McMath, who is in the law

faculty, has also figured in the three-quarters, and it is a great pity that he has decided to forsake the game for golf, of which he is a first rate exponent—a short time ago he won the monthly medal at Whitecraigs. Mr. A. R. Scott is becoming more and more engrossed in University affairs. He has now been appointed finance manager to the Students' Handbook, and I believe that this is the third University publication with which he is connected. We have representatives now in every year of the medical faculty—in the first year Mr. R. Auld gained a distinction in physics together with passes in other subjects. Mr. G. Harrington was also successful in his Professional and has the distinction of being the first Strathallian to get his colours for Fives. He also holds an official position in the Fives section of the Sports Club. In the second year are Mr. Hugh Fleming and Mr. A. R. Scott—the former holds the responsible post of secretary to the Conservative Club. In the third year, Messrs. Brown, Dunlop and McKenna hope to take their third Professionals at an early date. Mr. O. G. Brown has been putting in a great deal of work on the Students' Representative Council, as well as in connection with the International Students' Fellowship—he is becoming quite a figure in University life. Messrs. A. W. Harrington and R. Taylor are in the fourth year, Mr. Harrington being convener of the entertainments committee of the Athletic Club, which ran a very successful supper and dance a short time ago. Mr. Walter Linton, who is in his final year, hopes to take his examinations in September. In the next issue of the magazine I hope to be able to give you the complete list of the examination results, and, in the meantime, a lot of real hard work is being put in.

The only item of news from our St. Andrews University correspondent gives hope that Mr. Bertie Walker may gain his golfing blue.

BIRTH.

REID.—At Kinaeraig, Neidpath Road, Whitecraigs, on the 21st April, 1937, to Mr. and Mrs. N. Guthrie Reid, a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

PATON—GRANT.—At the University Memorial Chapel, Glasgow, on the 6th April, 1937, by the Rev. J. O. Westwater, M.A., assisted by the Rev. T. A. Bertram Smith, M.A., Robert Charlton, elder son of Dewar Paton, Rowallan, West Kilbride, and the late Mrs. Paton, to Mary Irene, younger daughter of Donald Grant, 5 North Park Terrace, Glasgow, and the late Mrs. Grant.

STRATHALLIAN CAPTAINS GLASGOW UNIVERSITY RUGGER XV.

We are pleased to make known that Mr. W. B. McKenna, who is studying medicine at this University, has been elected Captain of the First Rugger XV. Mr. McKenna gained his place in the side immediately he left School and has retained his position in the pack up to his appointment as leader. As vice-captain and leader of the forwards of the School XV he was always a force to be reckoned with, and we are confident that the University side will not suffer from lack of leadership and inspiration when Mr. McKenna takes hold next autumn. We wish him and his side the best of luck.

COMMEMORATION DAY

Commemoration Day, this year, falls on Saturday, 26th June, when the Council trust there will be a good attendance of Strathallians. It is proposed to hold the usual sports events, namely cricket, tennis, relay race, water polo, swimming, tug o' war, and fives. Members desiring to participate in these events might please communicate with either the Convener of the Sports Committee, Mr. W. Wills, 9 Montgomerie Terrace, Ayr, or Mr. W. G. Leburn, Edenshead, Gateside, Fife, or Mr. R. D. Linton, 1 Thorn Drive, Burnside, Lanarkshire, Members of the Committee. The Council trust there will be a large number of applications as they desire to field the best teams available and thus regain the coveted Commemoration Day Cup and re-deliver to the School the "Wooden Spoon."