

THE STRATHALLIAN

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Editorial

AT this time of the year, when homes are in the chaos resulting from that time-honoured institution of Spring Cleaning, so beloved by the so-called weaker sex, it is no bad plan for each of us to do a little overhauling of our own and brush a few cobwebs from our minds, delve into those odd corners of the brain and bring to light those half-forgotten treasures, ideas and good resolutions.

To speak no longer in metaphor, we feel that many of our readers have had an interesting experience, or have conceived an idea, suitable for reproduction in the magazine: several have confessed that such a resolution has been formulated in some bygone day, and what the few admit, the

many must have done. We would, therefore, suggest that now is the time to act. With the Summer term in the offing with its outdoor recreations, time becomes more precious, and contributions necessarily more scarce. But it should be remembered that it rests with our readers whether the criticism we hear so often of late that "The Strathallian" is becoming a mere record of School news, is to remain true. If other articles are submitted, the School news can easily be compressed to make room.

At present the fount of inspirations of such articles seems to have run dry at Strath.: now is the time to clean out the well that the pure stream may again flow.

School Notes and Notices

THE Easter term has at length drawn to a close amid the tumult and shouting of examinations, both at School and the Home and Cambridge Universities. Some very familiar face or other during the concluding fortnight of the term would suddenly disappear for a few days; and neither of the Senior forms had completed their Prelim. examinations when School went down for vacation. It seemed a longer term than it really has been because of the long continued winter weather with which it has been our lot to be blessed this year. It is universally agreed that it has been the worst winter hereabouts within living memory; and the resultant interference with normal school activities greatly increased the strain of work. For it has

been a term of hard work, for all those concerned in the examinations referred to above especially, and the necessary relaxation from mental effort by physical exertion upon the playing field was impossible during the first half of the term. Even skating was not always possible, for the sudden thaws and snowfalls made the ice unsafe on the ponds without rendering the playing fields fit for rugby.

It is particularly regrettable that under these circumstances the First Fifteen had several fixtures scratched. Four games have been possible, but by winning three of them, and losing the fourth to a strong F.P. side by only a single point, the team fulfilled all the promise of the first half of the

season; indeed the victory over Stewart's College is, we believe, the School's initial victory over the Edinburgh side. It must be frankly admitted that much credit for the team's success has been due to its captain, J. G. S. Forrest, who is the outstanding personality in the last decade of Strath. rugby, if not of all time. He should go far in senior rugby if he can keep free from injury, particularly as he proposes to go up to Cambridge. But this is not to suppose that the team is a "one man" side. The pack has provided the opportunities for the backs to work together; and we would venture to say that seldom has more beautiful football been seen than that played against Dunfermline High School earlier in the season. The winners of the 1st XV Caps, R. Johnston, G. Sharp, D. Hall and J. Peden, are to be congratulated upon their success when so many must have been near rivals to them. Nor is the First XV the only side deserving praise: the Second Team has gone through the season without a defeat, and if their scoring potentialities are not so great as that of the First, they moulded into an exceptionally sound team, the forwards being the most prominent section, both in covering work and attack. The House Matches unfortunately failed to produce anything like the high standard of play that might have been expected from the form of either team; but we congratulate the Freeland VII and the Nicol Juniors upon their success.

The lectures this term have been exceedingly popular. Our first lady visitor, the Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce, who opened the term with her "Flying Alone Round the World," was an enormous success and won an extraordinary ovation for the story of the courageous—if somewhat blessed-by-good-fortune—flight in her single-seater short range 'plane in those pre-Mrs. Mollison days, and with practically no experience: indeed to learn to fly seemed a mere incidental of the enterprise. Her natural delivery—sometimes almost casual—and her apt anecdote by way of contrast at moments of crisis in her story made her an assured success. She was followed three weeks later by Lieut-Colonel Harrison, and his laconic statement of the thrills of his

numerous escapes from various German prison camps was no less successful. Indeed, he could wish for no greater tribute to attention and interest of his audience in his lecture, than to be told that many of the boys have since tested for themselves the truth of his statements and their own inventive faculties. Mr. Martin Lindsay, who concluded this year's lectures, was perhaps unfortunate in following two such lecturers, for his story lacked the thrills of its predecessors. His activities called for appreciation of the dangers which beset the explorer and surveyor of unknown countries, and the risks entailed in attempting to complete a few contour lines amid Greenland's icy mountains. Everything seemed to go so smoothly for the expedition—even the prospect of a race between rival parties, national rivalry, failed to mature because the rivals were unable to start in the race owing to the ice packs—that the lecturer was robbed of many opportunities provided for Mrs. Bruce and Lieut.-Col. Harrison. At the time, therefore, the lecture was scarcely so satisfying as the others; later, one realised that the success was due to Mr. Lindsay's perspicuity in recognising that to cross the icecap was the only possible way to reach the destination, and that the smoothness was a tribute to the efficiency of the organisation of the expedition. But all could appreciate the excellence and beauty of the many slides with which the lecture was illustrated.

There has been considerable activity in the Common Room this term, when the Table Tennis championship has been played. The final game was not played owing to unforeseen circumstances, but we trust that Mr. Hallett and W. Pringle will arrive at a decision early next term, particularly since this is the first time a member of the Staff has been represented in the final. We congratulate Mr. Hallett upon his success.

The Debating and Dramatic Societies have both completed successful sessions. In the former—we suspect in part due to the inspiring force of its secretary—by the end of term members were clamouring for an opportunity to speak. Perhaps they recognised that time did not permit their

demands being granted. The latter has had a quiet term, but a very enjoyable one, and its members have been steadily gaining experience by means of its rehearsed readings, preparing themselves for the Christmas production.

So much for recognised institutions; but what of innovations, for what term would be complete without something new at Strath? The frosty weather seriously held up progress on the new class rooms, which had reached the plastering stage; and therefore it was not possible to occupy them this term. However, the first four are now complete, and will be ready for use next term: a further block has already been begun, so that it is only a matter of a further term or so before the School buildings have been transferred to the new site. Moreover, also nearly completed, is a stage, abutting the North end of the Gymnasium, which is to be heated so that in future it will house the Annual School Play and

Concert. The stage is to be fully equipped for theatrical productions. It will also be possible to hold the Prize Distribution upon it in the event of a wet Sports Day, but we trust that it will be long before it is called upon to fulfil this function. The two additional hard courts are also ~~are~~ nearing completion at the time of writing, and will be available for play when the season opens.

This term we lose several of our seniors for the wider world. The majority of them enter business circles, while others enter upon engineering courses. They are I. Wood, O. Watt, W. Steven, W. Wallace, D. Mackenzie, H. Tod, H. Frost, D. Irons, D. Kirkland and D. Hamilton. The first eight of these will be missed on the rugby field next season for they are regular members of the First or Second XV's and almost all of them have played an occasional game for the First with success. We wish them all Good Luck in their new occupations.



School Prefects, 1935-36.

R. Auld.
J. G. S. Forrest.

G. P. Sharp.
E. V. Mackay (Captain).

R. S. Johnston.
I. R. Wood.

The Debating Society

The Society was given a flying start this term by the annual Staff debate. The motion selected was "That the results of modern science are to be deplored" with Mr. Knox and Mr. Wenham supporting the motion against Mr. Cole and Mr. Ward. The debate was well contested, neither side sparing the other, and while we liked Mr. Cole's picture of Mr. Knox endeavouring to slay some rabbits with a sling and giving his music pupils lessons on the tom-tom, we also enjoyed Mr. Wenham's remarks when Mr. Cole spoke glibly of Richard the Conqueror. When put to the vote, the motion was defeated by 26 votes to 11, ten remaining open to conviction.

The next debate "That Sunday Sports should be abolished" was proposed by N. Thomson, supported by M. Paul, and opposed by R. Peacock and A. Milroy, who acquitted themselves creditably in view of the short notice at which they had undertaken to speak, Mr. Peacock making a really convincing speech. The voting, however, was astonishing. Only three votes were recorded for the motion, but only one member would vote against it, the remaining twenty-five being unconvinced.

At the end of term the two concluding meetings were taken up with a mock trial, which brought the session to a most successful conclusion. Using their own plot, the society put Mr. Brian Manderville (D. Murray) on trial for his life, and after a somewhat hilarious trial, found him guilty. The two counsels, W. G. Harrington (Crown) and R. S. Johnston (Defence), both missed opportunities, but of the two, the latter perhaps made most use of the evidence at his disposal, and gave a most convincing summing-up in defence. Of the witnesses, in which members of the Dramatic Society were conspicuous, special mention should be made of G. P. Sharp, who as Mr. J. Waters, gave the court an amusing time by his frequent weeping and by his references to a Mr. Payne (whose name seemed vaguely familiar) and his bees; and J. Forrest gave a clever portrait of an incompetent secretary.

I. SMITH, *Hon. Secy.*

The Dramatic Society

In view of the fact that there would be no dramatic production at the end of the term the first concern of the committee was to arrange an interesting programme for the concluding half of the session. Three weeks were taken up with lantern lectures, which coming at intervals of about three weeks formed a pleasant change from the usual order of things. The lectures were given by the Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce, Lieut.-Colonel Harrison and Mr. Martin Lindsay, and were much appreciated. The first two weeks of term were taken up by a rehearsed reading under Mr. Norton of "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde, the play being divided into two parts for the purpose. The innovation of a three act reading was a great success. At subsequent meetings a new play, of a murder trial, "In Evidence," was produced by J. Ritchie, and R. Peacock was responsible for reviving "The Boy Comes Home" by A. A. Milne.

Two further meetings were taken up with the Mock Trial given by the Debating Society, and the final meeting was devoted to the Presidential Address, when Mr. Norton spoke of the plays of A. A. Milne, reading selections from "Mr. Pim Passes By," "The Dover Road," and "Belinda," which were much enjoyed by those present.

There has been little by way of expenditure during the term, but the healthy balance at present in hand will in all probability be seriously depleted before the new stage is equipped in preparation for the Christmas production. However, the Society has the satisfaction of knowing that all further expenditure on stage equipment will be of a permanent nature, provision being made for the storing of scenery and properties undamaged.

Finally, we would express our thanks to H. Tod and Mr. Waters who have been making a table for us in the workshop in the latter weeks of the term.

R. A. HOUSTON, *Hon. Secy.*

The New President

TO a very large number of Strathallians the photograph shown in this article will form an ample introduction to Mr. George B. Smith, who is President of the Club this year.

Mr. Smith entered Strathallan in 1920, and in due course passed the usual school



examinations culminating in the Cambridge School Examination where, over and above the usual certificate, he gained a pass which in those days was highly coveted, namely in Higher Mathematics.

In 1925 he gained his cricket cap, and in the following rugger season he was again successful in gaining his cap, and he can justly claim to have been a member of one of the "best Strath. teams ever." On the cricket field he excelled as a fielder in a team which was recognised for its exceptional fielding prowess. Many a time in games against senior sides a glance down the score sheet showed the large number of batsmen who were run out—most eloquent evidence of keenness in the field. In the rugger sphere no Strathallian of 1926 will ever forget Mr. Smith's prowess as scrum half. It was a common saying in those days that he required a man and a half to look after him. Those were the days when Strathallan's opponents bought dummies

galore, and when one was on sale rarely did it fail to find the buyer.

For the session 1925-26 Mr. Smith was captain of the school, and he received great praise from the school authorities for the tactful way in which he carried out his duties and for the smooth running of school life and the various school activities which his genial personality made possible, and it is not to be wondered at that the Christian name George to a whole generation of Strathallians means only one person, Mr. George B. Smith.

After leaving school he took part of his training in a chartered accountant's office in Dundee, and from thence was put in charge of the financial side of Messrs. Smith Brothers, a well known firm in that city. Mr. Smith has kept up his rugger and has been a playing member of Dundee High School F.P.'s for many years, and during three seasons he was captain of the side. He has figured in the earlier Scottish county rugger trials and latterly has blossomed out as a centre three-quarter, where he has always been a thorn in the side of his opponents. In the Old Boys' games played at school the home side was always instructed to make sure that there was no loophole for Mr. Smith to find, otherwise he would be through. For many years it has been his custom to take up to school a side composed of distinguished East of Scotland players and many an enjoyable game at Strath. has been the result.

Mr. Smith joined the territorial army and is a 1st Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery.

There is not the slightest doubt that the Club will flourish under Mr. Smith's presidency, and it is to be hoped that there will be a first-class attendance at the next annual dinner over which he will preside. In days gone by a "stump" speech by "George" always commanded a large audience—his cheery manner, his pretty wit, and the fact that he always had something worth listening to to say never failed to get him a respectful hearing—and there are many who will look forward with pleasant anticipation to his Presidential speech.

A Visit to the Khyber Pass

THE smoke from the fires of the native city of Peshawar was mingling with the mists overhanging the course of the Kabul River as we set out on a visit to one of the most romantic places in India—the Khyber Pass. The rising sun, the haze over the plains, and the cloudless sky overhead augured well for another typical Northern India winter's day of sunshine, blue sky, and a penetrating wind from the snow-capped mountains in the north.

Our vehicle was a somewhat dilapidated car of American make, hired for the occasion from a local taxiwallah, and it was in this that we were rattling along the military road out of Peshawar at seven o'clock on a January morning. The first stop was Jamrud, twelve miles across the border and gravel plain which lies between the "City of a Thousand Delights" and this guardian of the entrance to the Pass. A rambling walled defence is the fort at Jamrud, little changed from the original erected by the Sikhs when they were masters of this province in the early nineteenth century before the influence of the British Raj had extended so far north. At the time of our visit Jamrud was garrisoned by the Corps of Guides, to the officers of which regiment we were already known, and it was in accordance with the customs of the sahibs on the frontier that we were accorded a hearty invitation to breakfast. During this repast—although at the time of this visit the Pass was closed to civilians owing to political trouble—we had no difficulty in arranging with the O.C. to let us through under an escort of two of his sepoys and a British officer. This arranged, we set off through the barrier and on to the road leading to Landi Khana. From Jamrud the hills through which the Pass cuts look impassable, but here and there "picquets" or smaller forts indicate where the road must go, and as we motored onwards the road wound upwards sometimes double and sometimes triple, until we reached the summit at about 1500 feet above the plains. Here we stopped to admire the view. The sun was high by now and the clear air lent itself to a magnificent panorama—the city of Peshawar with its fertile valley backed by ranges of foothills, these in turn dwarfed by the mighty snowcapped Karakorum Mountains

to the north; on all other sides of us were hills surmounting the more prominent of which were British "picquets." There are three main forts on the Khyber Pass—Jamrud, Shagai, and Landi Kotal, and under the control of each there are some six to eight "picquets" all garrisoned from and in wireless communication with the "mother" fort. These "picquets" are commanded by native N.C.O.'s with about twenty men in each, and are situated on all important points around the main fort under the control of which they come. The officer, under whose charge we were, seemed anxious for us to move on, hinting that it was not too "healthy" to stay in one place for too long, and we needed no second invitation to be on our way.

The next stop was Shagai Fort at which place our safe arrival was reported and we were allowed to proceed. The fort itself is a magnificent stone building, turretted and walled, with a large parade ground in the centre—a fine example of British military architecture.

From Shagai the road drops down into the narrow gorge of Ali Musjid where, at the narrowest point, two roads and the Kabul River pass through a gap about fifty yards wide with precipitous hills running down on either side. Here was the scene of many an ambush in which thousands of British and Indian soldiers lost their lives. Here a handful of tribesmen, well hidden amongst the abounding boulders, could hold up a regiment with ease. It was of such a place as this that Kipling wrote:—

"A skirmish on a frontier station,
A canter down a dark defile,
A thousand pounds of education
Falls to a ten rupee jezail."

The jezail or long muzzle loading musket associated with the frontier tribesman has disappeared to be replaced by copies of Lee-Enfields, Mausers, and other modern rifles usually made by local craftsmen; and the danger of the "dark defile" at Ali Masjid has also disappeared, for here are three small forts commanding the hills for miles around. And yet it was with relief that we entered the wider plains of the Landi Kotal section. The walled and turretted villages of the Shininaris, if drab in their mud coloured exterior, were

picturesque in their construction where neighbour vied with neighbour to erect the highest watch-tower—a useful asset in times of petty feuds as it enabled the owner of the highest tower to keep an eye on all the neighbouring courtyards.

A caravan of some hundreds of camels and donkeys with carpets from Yarkund, fruits from Afghanistan, and merchandise from Persia; black-shirted and red-trousered women drawing water from tanks erected by British engineers; swarthy tribesmen marching in groups, rifles slung over their shoulders; roadmen working on the roads, while one of their number guarded them and their stack of “dedi” (home-made) Mausers; and the railway, one of the finest feats of modern engineering, worming its way through the hills by mountains, tunnels, crossing over itself at places until it reaches Landi Khana, some forty miles from Peshawar; these things were amongst the many which attracted our attention on the journey. Just before entering Landi Kotal we noticed a mound of an unusual shape. It was the remains of a fort erected by Asaka, the Buddhist king of Sarila, a province in the Punjab, about 1000 B.C. Another such fort lies beyond Landi Kotal and is evidence that even so long ago the frontiers were a menace to civilisations beyond the River Indus. The fort at Landi Kotal at which we reported is a wall-enclosed area which, with the mud-coloured walls of the bungalows and military quarters, blends well with the barren wastes and rocks surrounding it. Now we were on the last lap of the journey and after passing through Michni Kandari, where we stopped to talk to a political officer and his khassadars or native boy, we descended rapidly to Landi Khana. From Michni Kandari the view was truly fine. Landi Khana, with its frontier post and white customs house, was in the near centre, backed by the plains of Afghanistan, and beyond that could be seen the snow-capped ranges of the Hindu Kush and the Safed Koh. On either side were mountains whose spurs converged on the banks of the practically dry bed of the Kabul River, while dotted here and there amongst them were more “picquets.” Two white specks on the topmost ridge of one of the hills over Landi Khana were pointed out to us as tents of an Afghan outpost—cold work with the maximum temperature at 50° Fahrenheit,

falling to below freezing point at night. At Landi Khana the frontier barrier stopped our further progress and here, face to face, were the grey-clad soldiers of the late Nadir Shah and those born fighters of Nepal, the King's Own Gurkhas.

At the customs house the Indian merchants were squabbling with officials as to the contents of their overladen lorries, wandering tribesmen with squealing children and loud-voiced women were examining their rifles and other arms before coming into British territory; and there also was the ubiquitous beggar with his alms-bowl and curses for those who did not “protect the poor.”

The winter sun sets early in Northern India and so it was not long before we were on our way back to Peshawar.

At Landi Kotal we watched the “Gay Gordons” parading, with kilts swaying to the skirl of the pipes. The tribesmen seemed to take an immense interest in this, and to look around the faces of the crowd was a study in itself. Here amongst the inscrutable aquiline faces of the Pathans one would see a look of admiration, there a look of hate and a fingering of a rifle as though the owner was calculating whether it was worth while killing an “infidel” British “Tommy” and so earning a quick entrance to a Mohammedan's paradise with its attendant reward. Only the thought that he might die wrapped in a pig's skin—a device which the British Raj has used to damp the ardour of would-be “Ghazis”—prevents many a tribesman from running amok amongst Europeans. But for all his failings, the tribesman is a man, brave and honourable in fighting, if inclined to be a puppet in the hands of his “wallah.” His best friend is his rifle which he carries everywhere, for the day of family feuds is not over and even in British-ruled territory his life is never really safe.

And so back over the same road until we arrived at Peshawar, tired but contented at having seen this Pass which from time immemorial has been the “Gateway to India” by land and the scene of many a battle.

Lunch at the Peshawar Club to the strains of the music played by a military band, then we were off on our journey southwards on the Grand Trunk road.

The "Queen Mary" from Within

FEW of us, despite all that we have heard and read of the famous ship, will ever really know the *Queen Mary* at first hand. I flatter myself as being of that lucky few, for after a good deal of persuasion and scrutiny, I was allowed to enter John Brown's shipyard some months ago, when her 79,000 tons loomed above us, a great grey mass; and yet it is difficult to conceive that for all its thousand odd feet of length it can at the moment be enclosing close on three thousand work people.

Passing under the gigantic cranes which were still lifting heavy plates into position with amazing speed and nicety, we first moved under the stem, which seen from below, seemed incapable of remaining upright. Here too hung the anchor chain, one link of which is too heavy for a single man to lift.

Of the interior equipments, that which impressed the most was the First Class Swimming Pool. The would-be bather will be able to choose between undressing in his cabin and proceeding to the pool by lift, or occupying one of the cubicles which lie along a passage adjoining. These cubicles are only fitted with the customary two pegs and a seat, but their white paint gives them a smart appearance, and a small green light which automatically goes on when the door is locked, serves to denote the occupied ones. At the end of this passage are branches to left and right, one way being to beauty parlours and the other to hot rooms, a massage room, and Turkish baths.

The pond itself is illuminated by the latest invisible lighting and is executed in tiles, including the fine staircase to the balcony. The pond itself is not exceptionally large but has a chute, three spring boards, one of which is on the balcony, and the usual assortment of sprays.

From the pond we cross the main entrance hall, which is to be the ship's main shopping centre. All the sites had been sold even when I visited it except for that of the florist. As the rent of one of these sites is approximately a thousand

pounds per annum, the holding of one is a dubious advantage as far as a profit-making concern goes.

The First Class Dining Room is situated immediately opposite the Swimming Pool, and is a magnificent room, the ceiling of which is supported by beautifully carved and decorated pillars. At one end is a somewhat modernistic map of the Atlantic which will show the position and progress of the boat by means of a clockwork mechanism.

The kitchen serving this room is wonderfully equipped. About fifty yards square, it is occupied with boilers, stoves, fires and hot plates of all kinds, and since everything is chromium plated, it has an exceptionally clean appearance. Straight through the Servery is the Tourist Dining Room, which if not so elaborate as the first class accommodation, does great credit to its designers.

By way of a lift, or by means of the modern stairway, we passed on to see the First Class Cabins. These are upon the suite principle, of bathroom, dressing room and twin bedrooms, each room being about five yards square and containing two beds and built-in electric fires.

The mention of fires brings forward a most interesting feature. Every few yards along the corridors a small knob can be seen protruding from the roof, and in the event of the temperature rising above a certain degree, the bulb would burst and sprinkle water over that particular section of the corridor, at the same time notifying the fire station of the ship. Here are hundreds of carbon dioxide extinguishers. Special precautions are taken about the lifts, for the *Normandie* disaster is still fresh in the builders' minds.

The First Class Promenade is about two hundred yards along either side of the main deck from the stern end. Off this are to be found cocktail bars and the lounge, which having a stage at one end and a projecting room at the other, serves at once for a concert hall or a cinema.

The Bridge may be compared with the look-out quarters of a castle, for it has certainly been built so that the whole of the ship is visible from a turret perched at the end of a bridge projecting from the central portion wherein is the actual wheel. The wall of the bridge is about five feet high and is specially constructed so that one can light a pipe or cigarette in absolute safety behind it. It would seem that at least four people will be required on the bridge at one watch to control it.

From the Bridge a true appreciation of the size of the funnels may be obtained. It is, by the way, untrue that one of them is a dummy; actually it is half dummy, but can be converted completely if required. The mast, too, is enormous, for at the foot it is as thick as the funnel of a Clyde steamer, and contains a door through which the crow's nest can be reached by means of a ladder.

We were taken inside the ship again to see the children's nursery. This is wonderfully equipped with every conceivable toy, including a chute, doll's house, climbing boxes, a pond for goldfish, and a small stage for would-be rivals of Shirley Temple. Then followed a visit to the gymnasiums and numerous cocktail bars at appropriate corners.

A striking feature of the ship is the extensive catering made for Jews and Roman Catholics. The lecture hall can be converted into a chapel, having an altar at one end. A special Jews' kitchen is provided and facilities for the killing of animals in the specified manner. There is also a special dining room, and a sound-proof room to be used as a synagogue.

Indeed, nothing seems to have been forgotten for the comfort of the passengers; but one could not help wondering whether it was really worth while. After all, it is anticipated that the crossing of the Atlantic will take little more than three days. If the liner were to be for a series of round the world cruises, there might be more reason for its elaborate construction.

D. F. (Form S.3).

STATISTICS

THESE statistics have been carefully worked out for the case of a boy who has been an inmate of Strathallan for the space of five years. They have been compiled from a "fundamental basis" by the application of first principles, and anyone doubting the integrity of the calculations is referred to "him above whom there are none."

He has eaten 52,500 beans, a height of six feet of "cork mats," half a ton of meat of various—very various—types, and roughly a quarter of a pound of salmon.

The bread devoured could easily cover the cricket square, while if all the tea (?) that he has drunk were changed into petrol it would last the lab. burners for exactly 2.3505 years.

If all the chips he has eaten were collected together, they could be used to re-construct no less than 200 feet of the main drive. For this last calculation we are greatly indebted to our respected foreman, Madam Bees.

By a process of "trick" arithmetic it has been calculated that with his tea he has imbibed a quantity of sugar. Let it equal x grs. which, if placed in a test tube and conc. H_2SO_4 (sulphuric acid) added, would result in exactly 3.25 grs. of Carbon in a very pure state (R.O.C.). Once again we are greatly indebted.

He has crossed and re-crossed from the house to the school no fewer than 6000 times. This is allowing for extra visits to the physics lab., etc.

He has slept at least two and a quarter years of this time. The quarter is added for that part spent sleeping in class, in which art he has become more accomplished as the years passed.

Adam Goes Hiking

MOST of you will remember my friend, Adam: some time ago I recorded something of his craze for gardening. He recently succumbed to a new fetish—the Glory of the Open Road. I regret to say that so far he remains uncured; indeed, I must say that for Adam, whatever idea he seizes upon, it dies hard with him.

It all began one Saturday morning some fortnight or so before Easter: the seclusion of our compartment was invaded at the last moment by a positive flood of young folks of both sexes in shorts and open-neck shirts, large haversacks bulging with tent poles, billycans, cooking stoves and so on upon their backs. After a moment's testiness at this violation of his privacy, Adam began to beam upon the newcomers, listening with both ears, and all eyes, to their talk of bearings, Primuses, camping sites, splendid vistas and the general Glory of the Open Road. His very absorption made me fear the worst; and by the Monday my fears were realised.

As we went up to town his conversation was no longer upon how he had done the tricky third in one—for his enthusiasm for golf has not diminished, and by dint of patient practice he now plays really brilliant golf for two holes per round—but of the immense pleasure to be derived from a walking tour. He almost thought of going one during his three days' holiday at Easter. He pooh-poohed my suggestion that the garden might need attention after the long ravages of the Winter. Later, when he refused my offer of a round of golf on Easter Monday, an offer he had never before refused, for my own golf is several degrees worse than his, and he never misses an opportunity of beating anyone he can, I knew the seed had taken root, and when he appeared one morning with his pocket full of guide books and road maps I knew it was a case.

Holy Week arrived. On the Monday he led me to believe that his wife had a bad corn which made it impossible for her to accompany him upon a projected walking tour of the Cotswolds, much as she would like to, of course. I may say that this version differed in several particulars from that given by Eve to my wife. On

Tuesday he suggested I might like to accompany him. I pleaded a previous engagement. On Wednesday he had decided there was nothing like a solitary ramble if one wished fully to appreciate the Glory of the Open Road. On Thursday I ventured to remark that the B.B.C. did not seem able to promise very good weather for Easter. Undaunted, "My dear fellow," he said, "you don't seem to realise that when you're hiking you don't feel cold: the fact that you wear the lightest of clothing proves that. And as for rain, well, what's that? There's nothing so pleasant as walking in the rain, breathing in the fresh smells of a rain-soaked earth. And, anyway, how often is the B.B.C. right in its forecast?" After which I didn't like to remind him what he said the last time he had had to walk up from the station in the rain when he had left his umbrella at the office by mistake. When a man begins to wax poetical about things he is beyond conviction.

I cannot say I saw him go myself, but Jones who was in his garden on the Saturday morning at eight o'clock—Jones, let me add, is one of those enthusiasts who regard "holiday" and "good day in the garden" as synonymous terms—told me over the wall when I came out about noon "to do a morning in the garden," that he had watched Adam depart in time to catch the 8.30 train for Oxford. He seemed highly amused over the whole affair: indeed, at the time I thought him unnecessarily rude, even vulgar. It was later that I withdrew my censures, for his remarks were really very mild considering.

I don't know if you are familiar with Adam; but in case you are not, try to imagine a gaunt-faced specimen (male), height six feet two, chest measurement very little over 31 inches, very near-sighted which necessitates his wearing glasses—the choice of almost square horn-rims is his own contribution to the *tout-ensemble*—clad in the shortest of shorts, blue, a bright yellow shirt open at the neck to show a rather protruding Adam's apple, a rucksack on his back, a portable tent slung rifle-wise over his right shoulder, and a mackintosh over his left, a stout stick in his hand, and then imagine him trying to

slink along the road to the station in the small hours of the morning. "Slink" was the politest word used by Jones to describe his passage, and hardly did justice to the method of perambulation if the departure in any way resembled the return on Sunday evening. I will admit the return was in a terrific downpour of rain and sleet, and as Adam seemed to have discarded his waterproof, he was scarcely looking his best. His knees seemed all over the pavement, and he looked like a drowned rat. Somehow I could not help feeling that the Glory of the Open Road seemed somewhat dimmed.

I have not yet heard the full history of that week-end: Adam has been singularly reticent for him. What he said about the weather was unprintable anyway; but Easter 1936 seems to have set up a record in many places, and he apparently had struck one of the places. Incidentally, it was three days before he said much to any one at all. His wife says he is a very bad invalid, and she should know for she had him in bed for three days and at home another two with an exceptionally fine specimen of the common cold.

It appears he left Oxford about thirty by bus, and finding himself at Cirencester and desiring to conserve his supplies of food, he had lunch at an inn before setting out in a westerly direction. At this stage he had his first experience of snow, a positive blizzard raging furiously for half an hour just when he was upon an exposed ridge on the way to Stroud. In it he seems to have missed his way, and also Stroud; for the next thing he sees fit to mention, apart from soreness of foot, and in no uncertain terms, is his struggle to erect his tent as it became dusk, apparently miles from anywhere. I believe it was raining at the time. I have heard indirectly that the tent collapsed during a further snowstorm in the small hours of Sunday morning, but Adam hasn't seen fit to admit the tent really baffled him. He was very bitter for some days upon the selfishness of landowners, by which I conclude the rumour that he had had a brush with the farmer in whose field of young corn he had inadvertently pitched his tent, and who had threatened him with trespass,

must be well founded. I believe his waterproof was lost on the horns of the same farmer's bull. He may have gone Spanish all of a sudden, but at all events his wife says being chased by a bull formed no little part of the delirium which raged periodically throughout Sunday night. I do know that a few minutes' walk in the refreshing rain took him to Painswick, from where, by the painful process of a Sunday bus and train service, he eventually arrived home as already narrated in the early hours of Sunday evening and another snowstorm.

Not that I would have you think Adam is discouraged by his misadventures. He still raves on the train about the Glories of the Open Road, and is even coming to speak of the Cotswold adventure with a certain pride; but he is thinking very seriously of making himself independent of public conveyances by letting Mr. Neville Chamberlain wait for his income tax while he invests in a car. If he decides to purchase, I'll let you know. M.

Do you have ears, yet cannot hear? If you have, you will not be able to assign the following contexts to their speakers.

"Take out your jotters for a test."

"What was your prep.? Contes et Récits?"

Take out your grammars."

"Why hasn't work started in here?"

"Dash me, boy, you don't know your facts."

"Get on with your work, will you?"

"Pass it about."

"Henry won a battle."

"9-30 on Saturday morning."

"Hurry up and get settled down."

"Do you see any green in my eye?"

"Anyone got any matches?"

"Er - er - eh - m-m - m-m yes!!!"

"Come on; get quiet."

"Is there anybody missing?"

"I didn't come down the Clyde on a banana skin."

"Get a line from Mr. Riley."

"Stay where you are, you're late."

"No more chips."

"Didn't you get a shirt yesterday?"

Anyone obtaining full marks send in their claims with their answers to,

The Forgardenny Advertiser,
Freeland Lane, S.11,
Bedroom B.

Sports Notes

RUGBY

THE full programme of matches was not completed this term owing to a prolonged spell of frosty weather in the early weeks. The results of the matches played, however, were again satisfactory; and the team maintained the high standard of play and understanding developed during the first term. When substitutes were necessary, the promoted players did not let the side down.

The only game which was lost was played when the conditions were far from ideal for good football, this point illustrating once more that the team preferred a game when open play was possible. Forrest again was the spearhead of the attack, but he received valuable support from the others, who, although not so prominent, did not rely on him alone. The defence has been outstandingly sound.

The forwards have provided the backs with many opportunities throughout the season; but it will be obvious from the criticisms of the forwards' play that the line-out work was not very satisfactory. Some who had the advantage of height disappointed in this respect; and in this phase of the game our opponents often showed greater ability. In contrast with this, the play in the set scrums and in the open left little to be desired. Mackenzie and Wallace played regularly in the pack during the Easter term, and were useful because of their size and vigour; but both of them have still something to learn about the finer points of the game. They should have been most useful in the line-out, but failed to make use of their potential abilities.

Summary of Results:—

Easter Term: P. 4, W. 3, L. 1, D. 0;
Pts. For, 34; Pts. Against, 17.

Season 1935-6: P. 15, W. 8, L. 6, D. 1;
Pts. For, 166; Pts. Against, 104.

Team Criticism

J. G. S. Forrest (Captain) at centre three-quarter, has been the outstanding player on the side, as not only the number of tries he has scored but also his defensive covering work will prove. He is much faster than anyone else in the team, and has shown a tendency to neglect his wing three-quarter, a fault which ought not to be apparent when playing in games of a higher standard. He has proved a good captain, and his keenness has been a fine example to his team. 1st XV Cap awarded 1933-4-5-6.

I. R. Wood, in the second row of the pack, was Vice-Captain, and as leader has set a splendid example to the rest of the forwards by the energy which he puts into his play. He knows his position well and makes full use of his weight in both set and loose scrums. Although not so prominent as some of the others, to a keen observer he was always playing his part. 1st XV Cap awarded 1933-4-5-6.

R. A. Houston, at full back, was a player in whom the team had complete confidence. His positional play, fielding of the ball and tackling are good; and his kicking is sound although lacking in length. In addition he knows when it is profitable to open out the game, and to come up into a three-quarter movement. 1st XV Cap awarded 1934-5-6.

G. P. Sharp has packed in different positions and has fitted in well with the rest at all times, but his best position is wing forward, where his attentions have often proved harassing to the opposing halves. He puts a great deal of energy into his play; and was one of the few successes in line-out play. His ability to support players in attack is a useful asset. 1st XV Cap awarded 1934-5-6.

J. Strang performs some of his duties of scrum-half faultlessly, but he cannot be called the complete scrum-half. His passes from the base of the scrum were generally excellent, and he developed a perfect understanding with Johnston, but he falls over

in the process, thus putting himself out of the game for the time being. He is dangerous near the line, but lack of speed prevents him from going through at other times. He is a fearless and untiring worker without being brilliant. 1st XV Cap awarded 1934-5-6.

R. S. Johnston, at stand-off half, is a well equipped footballer. At first he seemed only a satisfactory link between the forwards and backs, but later he showed individual qualities as well. He has a good eye for an opening, and also knows when to open the game out. His defence has left little to be desired. His kicking, too, has been of great value to his side, and on several occasions it has had an important bearing on the result. He has thoroughly deserved his 1st XV Cap awarded 1935-6.

R. Auld has proved himself an invaluable member of the side as a hooker, where he has more than held his own with his opponents. In spite of the fact that he is always in the middle of the scrum, his quickness enables him to be regularly in the front of forward rushes. His backing up is good as well as his defensive covering work. 1st XV Cap awarded 1935-6.

D. Hall is the heavy-weight of the forwards, packing in the front row. He has made good use of his weight and played with great energy; but he should cure himself of the habit of trying to deceive the referee. His size is compensation for his lack of speed, and this has enabled him to force his way through on many occasions. While not outstanding in the line-out, he has shown himself better than most, particularly in getting the ball back to the scrum half. 1st XV Cap awarded 1935-6.

J. M. Peden packs in the second row, and maintained his place in the team throughout the season by the soundness, if not brilliance, of his play. He is not gifted with a great deal of football sense, but makes up for this by the vigour of his play. He was useful in the line-out, and with Wood formed a very solid second row. 1st XV Cap awarded 1935-6.

E. V. Mackay. Although a neat player who was prominent when the opposition was slightly below his own standard, he really lacks the extra speed and thrust of a wing three-quarter. He has, however, been sound in defence, but has shown a tendency to be content with kicking the ball into touch, when there was time to make ground first. He might remember that kicking is the last resort of a wing three-quarter, and even then the cross kick is usually of more value than a kick for touch.

T. Macfarlane has some of the qualities of a wing three-quarter, but does not make full use of them. He has a bad habit of slowing down when faced by an opponent and not making an effort to get through. His tackling is good, and he is not afraid to go down on the ball. Some of his displays indicate that he might be useful next year after this season's experience.

D. Murray is a sound, rather than brilliant centre three-quarter. His ability to seize an opportunity more than compensated for his lack of speed. His handling is good, and his passes are well timed. In defence, too, he is sound.

W. R. Steven. Although light for a forward, being below the average weight of the pack, this did not prove a disadvantage to him. He has displayed good football sense, and as a wing forward has done his job well. He was usually in the front of forward rushes and did good work in defence.

R. Peacock gained a regular place in the pack during the Christmas term, but was prevented from playing in the second term through injury. He showed much promise, and his chief value lay in his quickness on the ball and in speedy backing up.

A. Forbes is another forward who did not appear in the side during the Easter term. He played as vigorously as any of the others, and possibly more intelligently than most. He was prominent in loose play and often gave support to the backs in defence.

Strathallan v. Dan Stewart's College.

Played at Edinburgh on February 1st.

The ground was in surprisingly good condition considering the long spell of frost. Stewart's pressed at the start but failed to make use of an easy penalty kick. Strath. then took up the attack, and Johnston dropped a very fine goal from forty yards to give his side an early lead. For the remainder of the half Strath. held the balance of the play, Houston by clean fielding and well judged kicking repelling any of the Stewart forward rushes.

Immediately after the interval, Strath. went further ahead with a typical try by Forrest, who cut through the home defence in a magnificent swerving run to score near the posts for Johnston to convert. Subsequently Mackay and Macfarlane were almost over. Towards the end Stewart's pressed but their backs never looked like overcoming a sound defence. Sharp, Wood and Wallace were the best in a sound pack, Forrest was always the most dangerous of a lively three-quarter line, and Houston was excellent in both attack and defence.

Result: Strathallan, 9 pts.; Stewart's College, nil.

Strathallan v. Scottish Wayfarers. Played at Forgardenny on February 26th.

For this, the second game of the term and the first at home, there were four changes from a truly representative side, Milroy, Wallace, Mackenzie and Knox taking the place of Houston, G. Sharp, Peacock and Forbes respectively. The substitutes, however, acquitted themselves well, Knox often being prominent in forward rushes, while Milroy made few mistakes at full back. Against heavier opponents the School forwards gained a poor share of the ball, but they played well in the loose. In the line-out play the visitors held a big advantage, and used it to good purpose. But the contrast between the two sets of backs was even more marked. The School three-quarters played well together and always looked dangerous, while the visitors seemed slow in comparison and wasted many opportunities when a score seemed certain. The play had not been in progress many minutes when Forrest went through the middle to

score a try for Johnston to convert from an easy position. He repeated his success soon afterwards following a good movement along the three line, but this time Johnston failed with the kick. He made ample compensation for this failure with an excellent penalty goal from the touch line, so that the School crossed over with a clear lead of eleven points. The second half was more evenly contested, but the School defended stoutly. However, with the visitors' threes showing better combination, they eventually reduced the arrears by a converted try.

Result: Strathallan, 11 pts.; Scottish Wayfarers, 5 pts.

Strathallan v. Old Strathallians. Played at Forgardenny on March 7th.

The only change in the side from the previous game was the return of Sharp for Knox. The ground was in a poor condition, due to heavy rain, and it was obvious at the start that the game would be confined to the forwards for the most part. While the ball was comparatively dry and open play was possible, some good movements by both sides were seen, the School backs looking more dangerous. Forrest made a characteristic burst through early in the game, Johnston converting. Subsequently play became scrappy, with frequent forward rushes. From one of these Lambie scored a try by smart following-up, but the goal kick failed, so that the School had a two point lead at half time.

In the second half the ground and the ball were so heavy that passing movements were almost impossible. In the circumstances the F.P.'s played the better type of game and made ground by repeated kicking. Frequent diagonal kicks caused the School wing three-quarters difficulty, and they seemed unable to deal with the situation. In the forward struggle the School pack more than held its own. Wood was outstanding and Auld was frequently prominent in counter rushes. No criticism of the handling by the backs is fair on such a day; but they might have used the short kick ahead with advantage. The defence was sound on both sides. Milroy had a difficult job, but came through with credit. The F.P.'s scored their second try through

Leburn who went over at the corner after a blind side movement from a loose scrum. The kick was again unsuccessful.

Result: Strathallan, 5 pts.; Old Strathallians, 6 pts.

Strathallan v. Hillhead H.S. Played at Glasgow on March 14th.

Houston resumed in this game, but Tod took the place of Auld at hooker. He was successful in his primary job, getting possession from the majority of the set scrums, but he was not so conspicuous as Auld in the loose. The heavier School pack heeled regularly at the start, but at first the ball came back slowly, through lack of co-operation in effort. Further, they did not show any eagerness to fall on the ball to stop their opponents. In the second half they improved in every respect. Wood, Sharp and Hall were the best of the forwards.

The play of the backs did not reach the usual high standard, although the defence remained sound, Forrest and Johnston often falling back to relieve dangerous situations. Strang varied his passes from the scrum in such a way that the customary understanding between the halves was missing. Even so, Johnston was inclined to keep the ball too long and indulged in kicking rather too much. Nevertheless, with the monopoly of the ball in the set scrums, the backs had plenty of opportunities, and some good passing movements were seen. Forrest made some good runs, and on one occasion he was most unfortunate not to score when the ball bounced awkwardly for him as he followed up his own kick. Strang scored one try from a scrum near the line, and Johnston converted with a good kick. Hillhead, however, went ahead before half-time with a penalty goal and an unconverted try. The second half was keenly contested, and the play was spirited. Towards the end, Johnston dropped an excellent goal, when the ball came back from a line-out.

Result: Strathallan, 9 pts.; Hillhead H.S., 6 pts.

Strathallan "A" XV v. Gordon's College "A" XV. Played at Forgandenny on March 21st.

Both teams were below full strength owing to examinations, each side playing five of the regular 1st XV. The School team was: Milroy; Auld, Forrest, Irons, Mackay; Johnston, Strang; Innes, Tod, Knox, Frost, Wilson, W. Anderson, Mitchell, J. Anderson. There was a definite end-of-the-season feeling about the game, with the visitors playing badly in the first half, and Strath. in the second. In the first half the School were absolutely on top, and many fine movements were seen. Tries were scored by Forrest (3), Mackay (2), and J. Anderson, three of them being converted by Johnston, who also dropped a goal. Thus at half time they held a comfortable lead of twenty-eight points.

Shortly after the resumption, Forrest was injured and had to leave the field, and subsequently Gordon's were always on top, for not only were the School's seven forwards regularly beaten for the ball, but also the visiting threes began to combine better, with a result that, aided by defensive lapses, they scored three times, one of the tries being converted. The absence of Forrest affected the side, and this game made his value to the team more obvious than ever before. Among the backs, Mackay played his best game of the season and ran strongly. Johnston was good in the first half. The two Andersons, Frost and Knox were most prominent among the forwards.

Result: Strathallan, 28 pts.; Gordon's College, 11 pts.

Second Fifteen

The Second Team concluded a most successful season with four further victories, two of them at Aberdeen, and thus retained an unbeaten record. Against the Grammar School a clever score by M. Wilson, straight through the middle in the opening minute, shook the home side and they never recovered; for the defence of the School backs and the dashing work of the forwards in spoiling and covering gave them a well merited victory by 11 clear

points. Against Gordon's College, F. Anderson was chiefly responsible for a victory by a similar margin, for he snapped two beautiful dropped goals, while E. Watt crossed for an unconverted try. The game against Perthshire 2nd was played at home under deplorable conditions, and the side emerged with great credit from the forward struggle in the mud to win by two tries to one, F. Anderson and M. Wilson being the scorers from kicks ahead. Finally Hillhead were beaten by thirteen points to three. Frost scored in the first half for F. Anderson to convert, while the visitors recorded an unconverted try. In the second half Lyle secured the touch after a kick ahead, Anderson converting, while a fine passing movement by the backs ended in N. Thomson scoring. W. Anderson has led the team excellently, and F. Anderson has been the most thrushful of the backs. 2nd XV Caps were awarded to W. Wallace, T. Macfarlane, A. Forbes, W. Anderson, F. Anderson, T. Donaldson, H. Tod, G. Knox, D. Irons, D. Watt and A. Milroy.

House Matches

The Senior Seven-a-side House Competition was played off on Wednesday, March 11th, and was remarkable for the poor standard of play revealed, as well as for lack of scoring. The Ruthven-Simpson tie was a continued forward maul, the former house failing entirely to make use of their superior back division. The only time when they were used ended in Mackay going over in the corner for an unconverted try which settled the issue, despite the fact that apart from this incursion into Simpson territory, Ruthven were seldom out of their own twenty-five, much less their own half. The other tie was won by a similar margin by Freeland, who went into the lead when Houston went over right by the corner flag half way through the first half. Contrary to expectations, the Freeland forwards did not have matters all their own way, and Nicol attacked strongly through Forrest, but he had too much to do, and Freeland's defence was excellent; Macfarlane's splendid marking of Forrest being, indeed, the high light of the tournament. In the second half Nicol were in their opponents'

"25" most of the time, and Mackie and Watt were almost over, but despite Houston's being injured in saving his line on one of these occasions, Freeland held on to their slender lead.

The Final saw Freeland triumph by a penalty goal kicked by Johnston, but honours belong as much to Ruthven as to the victors. Johnston was a tower of strength to the winners, but was inclined to neglect his wing men, whereas Mackay, Murray and Milroy combined well in carrying out prolonged raids into the Freeland "twenty-five," but lacked just that extra speed to turn their good work to account. After a pointless first half, Freeland put up a strong attack, and Johnston held on just too long when nearly through. He made amends by his penalty from the twenty-five line, and thereafter Ruthven pressed hotly, relief coming only just before the final whistle.

The Junior tournament was played on the following Tuesday, and Nicol won a well deserved victory, in the main due to the brilliant individualism of A. Watt who claimed all five tries scored by his side. In the first tie with Ruthven, indeed, it was all against the run of play when Watt ran through from his own "25" for I. Smith to convert. In the second half, however, they overran their opponents, Smith narrowly missing with a penalty and hitting the post in an effort to convert the third of Watt's tries. On the other wing to Watt, Nicholson showed considerable speed and promise, and for the losers O. Stewart was most conspicuous. The other tie had been much slower and much more of a scramble, for despite their effectiveness behind the scrum—and Carrie and H. Thomson are very promising three-quarters who combined well—Freeland could win by only five points to nil, Thomson being the scorer; and a little greater level-headedness in front of the line, and greater dependence on their forwards might well have enabled Simpson to turn the tables in the second half. For the losers, N. Brown and N. McLeod were conspicuous in an excellent pack, and Sandeman proved an intelligent and plucky three-quarter.

In the Final, Nicol's heavier pack held the advantage in early midfield play, but good tackling by the Freeland team broke up several promising movements, and indeed, Freeland went ahead when D. McColl, who was always prominent among the forwards, seized upon a missed pass to dribble the ball away and score under the posts for Thomson to convert. Thereafter play swung definitely in Nicol's favour, and after pressing throughout the second half their efforts were rewarded by two fine individual efforts from the half way line by A. Watt. Neither try was converted, but they sufficed to give Nicol a well-deserved victory.

FIVES

While the game has continued to be popular during the halves, chief interest this term has centred upon the individual championships. There were only fourteen entrants for the junior event; and the competitions served to show W. Pringle's undisputed superiority, for he lost but seven

points to G. Shanks, the other finalist, who himself had never conceded more than seven points in the earlier rounds.

Two dozen entrants fought out the Senior event, and here the contest was a keen one. Harrington had an easy passage to the semi-final, but then he conceded eleven points to Innes, who had beaten I. Smith in the previous round by a matter of four points. Mackie, last year's champion, passed easily into his semi-final, where he met W. Leburn. The latter had had the most difficult task of the draw and had disposed of Pringle and Wallace by 15-10 before meeting Mackie. Mackie established a commanding lead early in the game, but then for some reason cracked badly and finally went down 13-15. The Final was something of an anti-climax, for after losing the first four points, Harrington ran out a comfortable winner without losing another point.

G. H.



Rugger XV — 1935-36.

CRICKET PROSPECTS.

It looked as though this season (1936) was to be a good one, but we have lost several players, among whom are Ian Wood who was really a first-class bowler, to say nothing of his ability to keep his end up for a considerable time and on occasions to gather a few runs, and Bobby Aitkenhead, who was our most successful slow bowler and perhaps the most successful bowler of his type since the days of Sinclair who came from Shanghai, who will ever be remembered as the only Strathallian to take ten wickets in one innings, a feat which he performed against Auchterarder a few years ago. We have also lost our fast bowler, Willie Hood, of Kilmarnock, who was quite capable of going through a side himself if the wicket were at all fiery. Even in senior games he caused first-class batsmen to play him with the greatest care. David Irons also left last term and he was our opening batsman who has figured in one or two very fine stands. He is playing for Strathmore.

On top of these losses comes the news that Houston—probably our best fielder—is not to be allowed to play cricket this term. He damaged his thumb at rugger and his doctor has ordered him to give it a rest the whole season.

So on the face of it our cricket prospects do not look too bright. Yet Forrest is back as captain and that in itself means a lot,

for he is a fighter to the last ditch and no match is ever lost until it is won. Besides that, he is quite capable of hitting up runs very quickly and can bowl a good length ball which is fast and has plenty of pep in it. Bobby Johnson will be keeper, and we shall expect some good scores from him, especially as he will have with him for the greater part of the season Douglas Murray who gained the school bat two years in succession. Mr. Jack Hobbs spoke highly of the way in which Murray collected his runs. Our slow bowler will be Watty Leburn who would do much better if he were a little taller, but he lacks nothing in guile; and those batsmen who look upon his size may find that they would have been wiser had they been more concerned with his astuteness. We have a tear-away bowler in Robert Taylor, who comes from Trinidad, and a good slogger in Donald Hall, but the rest of the side have to establish a reputation before we can make any comments with certainty.

This season we have a match at Forgandenny with Stirling County for which we are indebted, in all probability, to Mr. Ian MacEwen, an old Strathallian, who is secretary of the County side.

Another new fixture is with the 1st and 2nd of Glasgow Academy on the home ground which the boys now are in the habit of calling the "Oval"—a name which was given it by one of the world's famous cricketers.

CRICKET FIXTURES, 1936.

Saturday, 25th April	-	George Heriot's	-	-	A	George Heriot's	-	-	H
Saturday, 2nd May	-					Morgan 1st	-	-	H
Saturday, 9th May	-	Robert Gordon's	-	-	A	Robert Gordon's	-	-	H
Saturday, 16th May	-	Kilmacoll C.C.	-	-	H	Stirling High 1st	-	-	H
Monday, 18th May	-	Daniel Stewart's	-	-	H				
Wednesday, 20th May	-	Stirling County	-	-	H				
Saturday, 23rd May	-	Aberdeen G.S.	-	-	A	Aberdeen G.S.	-	-	H
Wednesday, 3rd June	-	Dollar Academy	-	-	H	Dollar Academy	-	-	H
Saturday, 6th June	-	Morrison's Academy	-	-	A	Morrison's Academy	-	-	H
Wednesday, 10th June	-	SPORTS DAY							
Saturday, 13th June	-	Glasgow Academy	-	-	H	Glasgow Academy	-	-	H
Wednesday, 17th June	-	Hillhead H.S.	-	-	H				
Thursday, 18th June	-	Mr. H. B. Rowan's XI	-	-	H				
Saturday, 20th June	-	Allan Glen's	-	-	H	Dundee High 1st	-	-	H
Wednesday, 24th June	-	Dunfermline H.S.	-	-	H				
Saturday, 27th June	-	OLD STRATHALLIANS							

73rd Perthshire Scout Troop

IT was with a feeling of deep regret that the Troop heard of the death of His Majesty King George V, the Patron of the Boy Scout Movement. They showed their respect for his memory by a two minutes' silence.

During the Easter term inclement weather confined Scouting activities exclusively to badge work and "Corner" work. It speaks well for the morale of the Troop that they have adapted themselves so well to the conditions. The improvements in the Hut and the number of badges won are eloquent testimony of the Scouts' industry.

Besides the purely "Corner" work this term, the Patrols have endeavoured towards improving the Hut and giving it an interest of permanent value. The Eagles are to be heartily congratulated on their work on the East end of the Hut, and the Lions, Eagles and Seals for their improvements in the P.L.'s room and elsewhere.

The trophies this term were won as follows:—

Trophy for the Best Patrol: Hawks (130 pts.); 2, Eagles (123); 3, Otters (77).

Shield for the most improved Patrol: Eagles.

Cup for best "Corner" work: Eagles.

Cup for best Individual work: Scout Johnstone, of the Owls Patrol.

Badges gained this term number eighty, and four Red and White All Round Cords have been awarded. The badges include three Ambulance, five Public Health, five Fireman, seven Engineer, four Electrician, twelve Cyclist, nine Horseman, eleven Missioner, three Farmer, seven Friend to Animals, five Healthyman, two Swimmer, one Artist, four Poultry Keeper, and two

Weatherman. Seven recruits: C. Lyle, G. Ferguson, A. North, W. Kerr, J. Lowden, R. Barrie, and E. Nicholson, have been invested as Scouts this term, bringing the total of the Troop up to eighty-four, a record number.

During the term we have had visits from Mr. Mackie and Mr. Macfarlane of Perth. Mr. Macfarlane examined those taking the Ambulance, Public Health, and Fireman badges and First Class Signalling. He reported a 100 per cent. pass. Our grateful thanks are offered to Mr. Riley (for presenting the trophies), Mr. Hallett and Mr. Langstaff (for judging the corners), Mr. Ward, Mr. Norton, Mr. Cole, Mr. Waters, Mr. Alty, and Mr. Bain for taking and examining for badges. A.S.M. Mackay has been responsible for the First and Second Class Signalling, and Troop Leader Hall for Second Class Observation and parts of the Trackers Badge.

The Troop Camp has been arranged this year in Borrowdale, near Keswick, in the English Lake District, from August 25th to September 5th. The officers of the Troop hope that as many Scouts as possible will attend. The site chosen is among the most beautiful scenery in England, and excellent bathing and climbing facilities are close at hand.

This term we lose the services of Patrol Leaders H. Tod, H. Frost, and D. Irons. They have proved themselves loyal members of the Troop, and we wish them good scouting in the years to come.

L. P. W.

YE TUCKE SHOPPE.

Shut Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday.

OPEN SATURDAYS between the hours of — sh! That is a closely guarded secret.

Strathallian Club

Telephone: Central 794.
Telegrams: "Defence."

Hon. President - H. RILEY, Esq.
President - GEORGE B. SMITH, Esq.
Vice-President - W. A. C. LAMBIE, Esq.



Secretary and Treasurer:
J. B. MAITLAND COWAN, Esq., Solicitor,
30 George Square, Glasgow, C.2.

Trustees: D. J. BOGIE and H. RILEY,

Auditors:
J. C. McGEACHY, C.A., and
W. M. SHANKS, C.A.

MR. NORMAN S. WOTHERSPOON, who was at Strathallan in the Bridge of Allan days, has returned from Manila on holiday. He tells us that there does not appear to be any security of tenure in the Philippines at the present time in view of the fact that the United States of America may grant full independence to the Philipinos in about five years time. This is causing anxiety owing to the uncertain attitude of the Japanese. Mr. Wotherspoon says that the main hope seems to lie in the fact that the Islanders would prefer to stay in the U.S.A. Commonwealth and, further, the Americans have no desire for the Japanese to establish a naval base in the South Pacific. Mr. Wotherspoon's address will be 10 Keir St., Pollokshields, Glasgow, until the early part of June.

Mr. Walter J. Hird, who has left Tanganyika Territory, has taken a post with the Alpargatas Company in Buenos Aires, where his old school chum, Mr. Robert Fraser, is Managing Director. This firm is one of the largest of its kind in the world and produces shoes by the million for the indigenous population of South America. There are several Strathallians in the Buenos Aires area who will no doubt give Mr. Hird a hearty welcome.

Mr. Duguid Morrison, of the India Tyre Company, Inchinnan, has gone out to Ceylon in connection with the tyre trade there. We have already received a letter from Mr. W. B. Thomson, who is with Finlay's in Colombo, telling us that he has been in touch with Mr. Morrison and, no doubt, the usual pow wow took place over school chums and school affairs.

A wedding of interest to Old Strathallians took place at Wellington Church, Glasgow, on 2nd April, when Mr.

T. M. Hart was married to Miss Eileen S. Lawson of Glasgow. Another April wedding was that of Dr. N. J. Wilson Smith to Miss Marie L. Crow of Cleethorpes on the 23rd at St. Peter's Church, Humberston, Lincolnshire. We have also to announce the wedding of Mr. J. M. McGregor of Dunlop, Ayrshire, to Miss Amy McPherson of Glasgow, at Merrylee Church, Glasgow, on 29th April. We extend the Club's heartiest congratulations and best wishes to these Old Strathallians and their good ladies.

We learn that Mr. John Campbell of Edinburgh has obtained a three years' contract with the Imperial Airways. The contract, we understand, is for service at home and abroad, and at the present time Mr. Campbell is on the Le Bourget route. Should he find himself at any time in the Near East we trust he will have an opportunity of getting in touch with Old Strathallians, whose addresses we will be delighted to let him have at any time.

Mr. Francis W. Grant, C.A., of Glasgow, has secured an appointment with the Imperial Tobacco Company in Bristol, and we wish him the best of luck in his new sphere.

Early in February this year we were very pleased to notice that Mr. J. A. S. Martin, latterly of Perth, qualified for the triple degree in Edinburgh as a surgeon dentist. Mr. Martin is serving as a dental house surgeon at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, a post which has been created as a new venture providing for the systematic examination and care of the teeth of the patients. This should be invaluable experience. We offer to Mr. Martin heartiest congratulations on behalf of the Club.

Old Strathallians who are casual visitors to the Old Boys' lunch always remark upon the absence of one familiar figure, that of Mr. D. Oliver Melrose. His presence has been taken as a matter of course, but now a new business appointment takes him away to distant parts of Scotland. He has been appointed as salesman to Messrs. Schneiders, Wholesale Clothing Manufacturers, London, and on behalf of this very well known firm he covers the whole area of Scotland. Mr. Melrose, who is a past president of the Club, must have many Strathallian friends in all parts of his territory, and we are sure he will give them a look-up when business takes him in their districts.

Mr. C. L. Roy of Perth has received an appointment at the Central Agency in Glasgow, an organisation which is closely connected with Coats, the cotton thread people.

Mr. Harry Tod of Perth has become an apprentice to the contracting firm of Messrs. Frasers of Kirkcaldy. This is another case of an Old Strathallian, Mr. Alex. Fraser, stretching out a helping hand to a member of the younger generation, and our experience has proved that this kind of partnership invariably proves satisfactory.

We have a note from Mr. Sandy Gray of Port of Spain, Trinidad. He is employed with a chartered accountant in Port of Spain. But for his slight build, Mr. Gray would certainly have been a member of our 1st Rugger XV, for he always proved himself an adept at the game, and we are glad to hear that he is not losing touch with the game where he is now figuring as a wing three-quarter.

We hear that Mr. Willie Watt of Glasgow, who is taking his Part II in the Law Tripos at Cambridge, has fixed up with a well-known firm of London lawyers, Messrs. Watson, Sons & Room, as an apprentice. Doubtless he will make contact with London Strathallians when he arrives.

We hear that Mr. Leonard Frazer of Hillcrest, Antrim, Ireland, is to be married at the Charing Cross Presbyterian Church, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, on Tuesday, 2nd June, at 2.30, to Miss Mair Davies of

Carno, Montgomery. We wish Mr. Frazer and his good lady every happiness in the future.

London Strathallians will be interested to know that Mr. W. S. B. Mount is now residing at 17 Parkside Drive, Edgware, having left his address in North London.

We had a visit to School from Mr. Johnny MacMillan, late of Newburgh, who is now employed on a tea garden in Northern India. He is home on furlough and hopes to be present at one or other of the functions during this term. He came along with his friend, Dr. John Ross, and they met two other Strathallians of different periods, Mr. Norman Wotherspoon and Mr. James Cochrane. Next to meeting fellows of one's own generation, the most interesting pow wow must be between fellows who have spent their days at Strathallan at periods a considerable amount of time apart, and these gentlemen soon found topics of absorbing interest. Dr. Ross, who has been doing hospital work in the South-east of England, is now at Bruntsfield Terrace, Edinburgh, while Mr. James Cochrane, who recently took his B.Sc. in agriculture in Glasgow, is looking for a post where his abilities will find scope. If this should meet the eye of Mr. James White, who is on the staff of McGill University, Montreal, perhaps he may like to get in touch with Mr. Cochrane through the School.

The Royal Air Force seems to be attracting quite a number of Old Strathallians, and it would be an advantage if in applying to the School for their usual references with regard to educational qualifications, that they give the name and date of examinations passed, together with distinctions earned. This would ensure a speedy return of the documents to the Air Ministry, for this information would enable the matter to be dealt with in a routine manner without calling for the personal attention of the Headmaster.

Dr. Jack Young gives notice that his present address is now at Breaston House, Warrington Road, Leigh, Lancashire.

Mr. Jim Findlay of Forfar is now a law apprentice and hopes to proceed to Edinburgh in the near future for university

classes. Mr. Findlay left Strathallan in 1931.

We congratulate Mr. James Grosset in passing his degree examination in constitutional law in history. Mr. Grosset is in attendance at the university of Edinburgh.

Mr. Scott Brook of 16 Canterbury Avenue, Fulwood, Sheffield, who was formerly with the India Tyre Company, is now studying in that city for the English chartered accountant's diploma. Mr. Brook has recently recovered from a very serious illness.

Many Strathallians would notice in the newspapers recently that Mr. Robert Neill (Fido) reached the final in the Scottish Amateur Golf Championship. In the final he met Mr. E. D. Hamilton. Mr. Neill was beaten by the very narrow margin of one hole, and next year we hope to see him Scottish Amateur Champion.

We had a call at a recent Monday luncheon from Mr. J. McFadzen, who has just returned from India. Mr. McFadzen is with the Indian Steam Navigation Company whose vessels run on the waters of the Ganges Delta.

We announce the engagement of Mr. J. B. Rowan of Birmingham, to Miss Mary Symington Davie of Whitecraigs.

We also announce the engagement of Mr. Ian G. Craig of Newlands, Glasgow, to Miss Elizabeth H. Dunn of Pollokshields.

We also hear of the engagement of Mr. David Smith of Newport, and perhaps he will send us details for insertion in the next issue.

Strathallians will be interested to hear that Mr. Stephen Brand, C.A., has now a post with British Broadcasting Co. in London.

The attendance at Monday Luncheons which are held every Monday from 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. in the balcony of Cranston's Tea Rooms, Renfield Street, Glasgow, has been good but we trust that more members will in the future take advantage. Table-d'hôte lunch (4 course) at 1/6 is served, or members may have à la carte if they so desire.

Eighteen new members (eight life and ten ordinary) have joined the Club this year to date. There are still a number of

Old Boys who have not joined and the Council trust that the members will do their utmost to rope these fellows in at an early date. Applications for membership should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, J. B. Maitland Cowan, Esq., Solicitor, 30 George Square, Glasgow, C.2. Subscriptions: Life Member, £5; Ordinary Member, 7/6 yearly. The Council desire to intimate that under Section 32 of the Constitution, Ordinary Members who have paid five years' annual subscription may join as Life Members for a single payment of £4 4/-.

Club Colours. The new Club Tie is now on sale at Messrs. Rowans Ltd., Glasgow, and Messrs. Smith Brothers, Dundee. These firms have the Membership Roll of the Club and from now onwards only members will be supplied with the tie and other Club colours.

Commemoration Day this year falls on **Saturday, 27th June**, when it is hoped that there will be the usual large attendance of Strathallians. Last year the Club was successful in winning the Sports Cup and we are naturally anxious to retain possession of it. The Council make an appeal to Strathallians to attend and give their whole-hearted support. Unfortunately there must be a large number who have not been back to School for some considerable time, and it is to them that a special appeal is made this year. It is proposed to hold the usual sports events, namely, cricket, tennis, relay race, swimming, polo, tug-of-war, and fives, and therefore a large number of active participants will be required. Will those who desire to take part in any of these events please communicate with the Sports Convener, W. Wills, 9 Montgomery Terrace, Ayr, or T. Irvine, 3 Blythswood Avenue, Renfrew, or R. Lamont Paul, 67 St. Andrew's Drive, Pollokshields, Glasgow, members of the Sports Committee. The Council have arranged that the dining room of the Salutation Hotel, Perth, shall be reserved after 8 p.m. for the Club on the evening of Commemoration Day. Members may have dinner table d'hôte or à la carte. Any member desiring to stay the night at the hotel should write to the manager direct.

We hear that Mr. Dyke Lindsay, who has been with Messrs. Finlay & Company

in Ceylon, is arriving home in this country shortly preparatory to settling down in Australia where he has purchased a sheep farm. Mr. Willie Thomson, who keeps us in touch with Strathallians' movements in Ceylon, says that "Mr. Lindsay complete with wife and family will doubtless be calling at school within the next week or so."

Most of the letters which have come from Strathallians abroad contain one pronounced wail. It has reference to the Scottish team during this last rugger season. These exiles evidently follow closely the reports of Scottish rugger for here and there are suggestions of players who might have been chosen. Only in one letter was reference made to the fact that Scottish rugger may be down in the doldrums owing to a dearth of talent, and the probability is that this is the right note to strike. The poor selectors have a difficult time and always get more kicks than ha'pence.

Mr. George Dickinson, whose address is 25 de Mayo 347, Buenos Aires, has sent us a long chatty letter. He has completed his military service and has joined his uncle in the brokerage business on the Stock Exchange in Buenos Aires, as well as in the Grain Futures Market of that city. Mr. Dickinson himself is specialising in that very complicated business—foreign exchange—where, over and above the very great difficulties inherent in the business itself, governments with exchange permits, different regulations for importers and exporters, freed currency and tied currency, make confusion more or less confounded. Mr. Dickinson tells us that there is a considerable amount of government interference in prices out there where they have established minimum rates for wheat, maize and linseed and, unfortunately for the business man, these prices are considerably above the world parity prices for the respective articles. We are asked to mention that Mr. Dickinson's home address is 2346, Amenabar, Buenos Aires.

Mr. Billy Lacey is now working on the Pacific Railway in the Argentine and resides in the town of Mendoza which, although it enjoys a very fine type of climate, does not provide the amenities

that one would like in a city after business hours.

Mr. Tom Docherty, whose brother, by the way, is stationed somewhere near Rosario, is working on the Southern Railway. We hear of Mr. Storie Docherty's impending marriage, and we hope to publish full particulars in our next issue.

Rugger enthusiasts at home know little about the troubles of their confreres out in the Argentine where grounds are like concrete and breakages and damages to players more frequent and more serious than those we meet with at home. Practically all the Strathallians who were members of various rugger sides at school joined teams out in the Argentine but now find that they cannot afford the risks entailed in rugger out there, especially as they are beginning to occupy positions carrying more or less responsibility.

From our Edinburgh University Correspondent.

The main item of excitement at the University this term was derived from what one might call an extra mural activity and perhaps I may be allowed to make reference to this right away. I am referring to the kidnapping of Renee Houston. I often remember being told at school never to believe all that was reported in the newspapers and now I am convinced that they are purveyors of something more than the truth. Shall we say that they are guilty of exaggeration? From inside knowledge I am able to state that at the outset the students laid it down that there was to be nothing in the nature of violence, and we students feel that we misjudged entirely the spirit in which the rag would be taken, and we resent very much press statements making reference to violence, bad language and improper behaviour. We had great excitement in the way of police enquiries, identification parades and a meeting of the 'varsity discipline committee, and I feel when the truth is made known that people will not think too badly of students at Edinburgh University. There is one phase in university life which is causing a certain amount of consternation, and that is the

fact that there is an abnormally high number of failures in some of the university professional examinations. Fortunately this has not affected more than one or two Strathallians, for the majority are taking their examinations in their stride. I noticed that Mr. J. M. Dawson got through his anatomy in the second professional examination last March and I believe Mr. Grosset was successful in one of his law exams. Rugger enthusiasts here had a real field day at Melrose on the occasion of the Sevens where three or four Strathallians really put up very good shows. G. M. Dobson, for Melrose, played quite a considerable part in helping his side to reach the final, R. W. Dunn figured in the London Scottish side, while Jack Breckenridge was one of the three-quarters in the Hawick Seven, and R. W. Buchanan was playing for Gala. We are now taking part in cricket, although no Strathallian is figuring in the first teams, G. Balfour being opening batsman for 'Varsity "A." Should there be any boys coming up from School this coming October perhaps they will make themselves known to Strath. F.P.'s whom they may meet at the 'Varsity. A school tie is very helpful in this respect.

From our Glasgow University Correspondent.

I have very little to report this term, for examination results are not likely to be posted until some time in June. I noticed that Dr. Archie Morrison and Dr. Ian Henderson are now acting as housemen in the Royal Infirmary. In the medical finals this September there should be at least two candidates from Strathallan, Messrs. Ian Scott and C. Maclay, while Mr. W. Linton will be taking his fourth professional in September. Messrs. Robin Taylor and Wilson Harrington are expected to take their third professional in September. In the second year in medicine there will be quite a number of Strathallians who left school in 1934 who completed their first professional in 1935—Messrs. A. Scott, J. Dunlop, W. B. McKenna, and O. T. Brown being among them. Mr. Billy McKenna's many friends will congratulate him on getting his blue for rugger and will join in

wishing him further successes on the rugger field. I am glad to be able to report that Strathallians still continue to figure on the Students' Representative Council, Mr. O. T. Brown being one of the two members appointed to represent second year students. In the engineering section Mr. Alex. Fleming successfully negotiated his degree examinations in March and incidentally has been playing regularly for the University 2nd XV, while Mr. K. G. McKenzie, who is in the same faculty, was also successful. He is playing regularly for Whitecraigs R.F.C. In the law faculty Mr. George Turner, who is a first year student, has passed in constitutional law, and in first year medicine Mr. Hugh Fleming has passed his physics and zoology and presents botany and chemistry in June. There is a feeling here that there is a considerable stiffening up in the pass standard of degree examinations in all faculties, and in some cases over fifty per cent. of the candidates have failed. This last year many of the students, including Messrs. Taylor, Harrington and Linton, from the medical faculty paid a visit along with students from other universities to several German hospitals. They seem to have enjoyed their experience and speak highly of their reception by the German authorities.

From our Cambridge University Correspondent.

Cambridge news at this period of the year is necessarily brief as most of the out-of-door activities as far as Strathallians are concerned seem to be rather curtailed in view of the forthcoming examinations. Mr. Willie Watt and Mr. J. A. Montgomery are taking Part II and Part I of the law tripos, while Mr. Sandy Carswell is taking the law qualifying examination. In medicine, Messrs. J. M. Wilson and J. A. Smith are taking the preliminary examination for the natural science tripos. Mr. Jimmy Smith's many friends, both among the old boys and at school, will be delighted to hear of the success which he is meeting in his polo. Everyone hopes that he will be successful in getting his place in the Cambridge team.