

THE STRATHALLIAN

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School Notes and Notices

OUR first duty this term is obviously to wish all our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year; and though these wishes may be belated, they are none the less sincere.

Before passing on to a review of the term's activities, we would remind readers that this issue of the "Strathallian" concludes the third volume; and as we feel that some of them may wish to preserve the records of their schooldays in a permanent form, we would also remind them that "The Strathallian" is tastefully bound in blue cloth by Messrs. Wood & Son, High Street, Perth, to whom the numbers should be sent.

The Autumn term has been a bad one from the point of view of weather: not in our memory can we recall such a term for rain, which has fallen in such quantities that for weeks the rugby pitches have been under water. We do not remember the transfer of a match to another ground on account of a waterlogged ground before; yet that actually happened in the case of the match with Allan Glen's. At least, the heavy rainfall has severely tested the drainage of the new rugby pitch; and the work of remedying the defect that developed over a comparatively small area in midfield is well in hand. Meanwhile, however, the second pitch has been completed, adjoining the net practice ground, and the turf thereon has had ample opportunity for settling.

What with the lack of practice thus occasioned, the 1st XV was long in finding its form. In the early matches, numerous experiments were necessarily made with the back division, where thrust was sadly lacking. Eventually a formation was arrived at, which, besides strengthening an already sound defence, considerably improved the attack. Edmonds, Binnie and Chapelle have all developed with every game as individual attackers, catching the eye with flashes of real football sense; but not until the game with the F.P.'s was seen much combination of effort. H. Thomson and Waterston have always shown the ability to find a gap in the defence, but repeatedly they have lost touch with their team-mates, or preferred running into the forwards to exploiting the open side. How well all the backs can work together was clearly seen in the Old Boys' Match, for the final try, by Chapelle, was the result of some of the best play seen at Strath. for some years. We hope that the value of combination will not have to be relearnt next term. The forwards have played soundly throughout the term, and often brilliantly; never better than when up against a heavier pack. A word of individual praise must go to Macnaughton for his captaincy; he has not hesitated to make changes in position in the middle of the game if he thought it desirable, and his game generally possesses that extra bit of "devil" which is an inspiration to a side.

Indoors, there has been great activity. Boxing has proved immensely popular, and the instruction by an expert on Thursday morning has done much to transform mere fisticuffs into a science. Next term Mr. R. H. Leithead joins the Staff, and part of his duties will be those of Boxing Instructor.

With many of the Senior Boys already feeling the anxieties of Leaving Certificate examinations, the Debating and Dramatic Societies have drawn most support from the younger members, and those whose major worries are over. Nevertheless, the former, under the inspiration of the Secretary, W. Hunter, has enjoyed a highly successful term, a greater degree of fluency of expression being noticeable, and far greater care in the preparation of speeches.

The Dramatic Society, too, has found its attendance somewhat smaller but not less enthusiastic, than usual, and for the same reason. The rehearsed readings have allowed these younger members to gain experience, and six newcomers made their debut in the end of term play "They Came by Night" by Barre Lyndon, a "thriller" obviously appealing to the majority of the School. A full criticism is to be found elsewhere.

During the term we had a welcome return of Dr. Habberton Lulham, this time to lecture on "The South Downs." If his lecture had not quite the same depth of subject matter, and his slides the novelty, of those of his earlier visit, it was universally agreed that the lecture was more entertaining, partly perhaps due to the wonderful collection of exhibits with which Dr. Lulham prefaced the lecture proper, but chiefly because of the doctor's personality and his fine sense of his audience which enabled him to lead it easily from one mood to another, from grave to gay, from comedy to tragedy.

Of a more serious nature was Miss E. Cherry Garrard's lecture on "Corsica and Sardinia," given on Nov. 1st. She has an excellent delivery and an interesting, if little known, subject to talk about. A historical and geographical account of Corsica

and Northern Sardinia, with the industries and customs, was superbly illustrated by slides, some of which must be regarded as the most beautiful seen at Strath.

As a conclusion to the term the English Classical Players again visited the School, this time to present Henry IV, part 1. This was an entirely admirable performance, presented with a "slickness" that not even the fusing of the lights could mar. The standard of acting was so universally high, that it seems unfair to discriminate, but particularly memorable was the delineation of Harry Hotspur, King Henry and Prince Hal; while we have no doubt that Sir John Falstaff's performance will remain vivid in the mind for many years: at least we trust so.

Strathallians Killed in Motor Smash

It is with the deepest regret that we record the deaths of Mr. Graeme Pender Sharp and Mr. Jack Strang as a result of a motor smash on the Glasgow-Edinburgh road on the 20th of November. They were returning from a rugby match in company with two other Strathallians who fortunately escaped with very minor injuries when the car skidded and there was a collision with a car coming in the opposite direction. The news cast a great gloom over the School where many of the present pupils were personal friends of both the deceased. They were buried on the same day and representatives from the School and the Club were present. Both had been chosen to play in the Old Boys' match against the School and prior to the start of the game there was a two minutes' silence, present pupils and old boys as well as the two sides standing at attention. It was most impressive.

The Annual Dinner

THE Annual Dinner of the Strathallian Club was held at St. Enoch's Hotel, Glasgow, on the 11th of December, when the attendance broke all previous records, just touching the hundred mark. The occasion was a notable one, for it marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the School. The guest of honour of the evening was Dr. John Morrison of Bannockburn, the father of three Old Strathallians who have rendered great service to the School, especially on the games field. The President, Mr. David Bogie of Kirkcaldy, was in the chair and after the usual annual meeting which is reported elsewhere, the guests dined in the large banquetting hall which was most tastefully decorated in School colours. Throughout the dinner animated discussions taking place in various parts of the room showed that Strathallians had not lost their old faculty of getting together. After the toast of "The King," Mr. Stewart Gowans of Bunrannoch, Kinlochranoch, who is now the "oldest" Strathallian, having joined the School on the day of its opening in 1913, in a witty speech proposed the toast of "The School." He blamed the Duchess of Atholl for the election that was taking place in his district, and his wife in particular for having misplaced the speech that he intended to make, but nevertheless his memory and imagination helped him to spin a few interesting yarns of Strathallan in its earliest days. He told of the hardships and the methods taken to overcome them and he told of the fun that the boys in those days were able to have owing to the fact that they lived in four or five different houses while the Boss was only able to live in one! He told of the early struggles that the School had to make and he declared that he was proud to have been a member of an organisation which had so well made good in the world, and in proposing the toast he coupled with it the

name of Mr. Riley. Then followed a delightful little ceremony, an account of which is found elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. Morrison proposed the toast of "The Old Boys' Club," and as the father of two Old Strathallians "in exile," he was able to speak with authority on the value of the Club to Strathallians scattered throughout the Empire. He urged the members of the Club to stick together and to help one another, and at the same time not to be afraid of taking part in public affairs of which they and their fellows of a similar character were the natural leaders. In the course of his remarks Dr. Morrison told of the early days of Strathallan when there were real difficulties to overcome, and he mentioned the fact that he had been up to Forgandenny quite recently, where he had seen, "in the flesh" as it were, what must have been Mr. Riley's dreams in the Bridge of Allan days. The President, Mr. Bogie, in his reply pointed to the fact that during his year of office the Club had attained a record membership and a financial position which was really very encouraging. Taking the Melrose Cup in his hand and with a whimsical look towards Mr. Riley on his left, he drew the attention of his audience to its presence and he again emphasised the great need for a full turnout on Commemoration Day in order to make sure that next year it would still be in their possession. On this occasion there was present on the table a second cup, that gifted by the President for Club members at their annual golf tournament which was won by Mr. Jack Mackie of York.

The toast of "Our Guests" was proposed by Mr. I. M. Turner, and was replied to by Sheriff David R. Scott. After the toast of "Absent Friends," proposed by the President, the proceedings were terminated by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." As usual, many lingered in the lounges and corridors, doubtless exchanging experiences and living old times over again.

Presentation to Mr. Riley of his Portrait in Oils

ON the occasion of the 12th Annual Dinner held in Glasgow the continuity in the Toast List was broken in order that the President, Mr. David J. Bogie, acting on behalf of the Old Boys' Club and the present members of the School, should have the opportunity of making this presentation. Immediately after the proposal of the toast of "The School" Mr. Bogie addressed the gathering in the following terms:—

"It is now my duty to present Mr. Riley with his portrait in oils on behalf of the Old Boys and the present pupils of the School, and this gives me great pleasure.

"That Mr. Riley is held in high esteem by those with whom he has come in contact is clearly demonstrated by the remarkable response the Council had to their invitation to subscribe to this presentation, and we were fortunate in being in a position to engage the best portrait painter in Scotland—Mr. Stanley Cursiter. I am sure when you see the portrait you will be well

satisfied with it, both from a likeness and artistic point of view. Mr. Cursiter has summed up Mr. Riley pretty well in the few hours he had with him, for he portrays him not only as the stern and serious-minded headmaster, but the gentle, human and understanding type of man, and he has not missed the twinkle in his eyes we all know so well.

"Mr. Riley, I ask you to accept this gift which is a small token, but a lasting reminder of our high regard for you. We see in you a dominating personality and an upright character. We fully appreciate that your efforts have always been directed towards getting the best out of each boy who has passed through your hands—from the stupidest and most deceitful to the cleverest and most scrupulous. Your interest in and help to each one of us at and after school is unique, and you hold a record of which you have reason to be proud. Many stories could be told of the



PRESENTATION GROUP.

Mr. J. B. M. Cowan.

Mr. H. Riley. Mr. R. Barr. Mr. D. J. Bogie.

quiet help and counsel you have given to the unfortunate. Your recent act in providing for the future of the School and handing over the heritage of Freeland is but a further demonstration of your unselfishness in this, a rather selfish world. Mr. Riley, my words are quite inadequate for this occasion, but I hope you will appreciate the feeling behind them. Our little gift, which I now formally hand to you, carries with it our goodwill and best wishes. May many more boys have the good fortune to pass through your hands and have the benefit of your counsel."

At the close of these remarks Mr. Bogie, supported by Mr. J. B. Maitland Cowan, the Secretary, and Mr. Robert Barr, the President-elect, invited Mr. Riley to come forward to the picture, which was there-upon unveiled and presented, amid loud applause. Then followed the usual photographing ceremony, after which Mr. Riley accepted the gift and addressed the meeting as follows:—

"Mr. President, Mr. Gowans, Dr. Morrison, and gentlemen,—I must tell you that this magnificent gift, and especially the nature of it, simply overwhelms me—I really don't know what to say—racing through my mind one emotion follows another—I feel very proud—tremendously happy and very, very grateful.

"This occasion is a very personal one between you and me, and on my side it is so highly charged with feeling that I am afraid to let myself speak—but I have got to face up to this situation and I ask your kindly indulgence so that I may try and collect my thoughts to deal with first things first.

"While I greatly treasure Mr. Gowans' tribute as coming from one of the first three Strathallians, and I deplore the fact that Strathallians numbers 1 and 2 have passed on—they gave their lives to their country during the last war—and while I am deeply touched by the spontaneous and wholehearted endorsement which you gentlemen have placed upon his words, yet there is something deeper in the thought which actuated this wonderful gift—its very nature touches a whole series of chords deep down in my heart.

"You know that deep down in the hearts of each one of us there comes a longing for something in the nature of immortality—to preserve a name—to perpetuate oneself in some way or another. This is not selfish nor arrogant, but it is a profound intuition, the necessary offspring of a human being's knowledge that he is mortal and perhaps of his faith that he is not—I must die—I will not—and what does he do—he builds a cathedral, or further down the scale he carves his name upon a tree.

"I built a school. There was nothing arrogant, nothing selfish in the motive. There was not a speck of vanity, and yet I confess that there was this longing for something in the nature of immortality in this world, and now in this magnificent gift I find coming from you an answering, a complementary thought—a thought that there is something worth while perpetuating in what has been accomplished. And how I do value this! It is the realisation that my life's work has received from you recognition that there is something in it, something worth while preserving that touches me so deeply. It is as though the whole of my life's work were an organ theme which I have played to you, and from you has now come an answering, an approving, Grand Amen. I do value this, and I can only say to you a very real 'Thank You' with the hope that what I have said will help you to realise more fully how deeply I appreciate what you have done.

"I ought to say more—I would like to be reminiscent—I would like to speculate as to the future—but I cannot. I have been speaking under the stress of very great emotion.

"Please, every one of you, including those of you who are not present in person, please accept my simple 'Thank You' for your good wishes, for your wonderful gift which is the crown upon my labours I value most in this life. Please accept my simple 'Thank You,' it is brimming over with gratitude and thanks, and may God bless and prosper you all. Thank You."

It was obvious to everyone that Mr. Riley had been speaking with deep feeling and when he sat down he was given another ovation.

Mr. Robert Barr, Junr.

Our President, 1939



AT the last Annual Meeting of the Club held in Glasgow prior to the Annual Dinner, Mr. Barr was elected President of the Strathallian Club for 1939. Mr. Barr was at Strathallan from 1921 to 1926 and obtained his School Leaving Certificate with honours and distinction in July, 1925. He prepared for entry into the medical profession and actually spent two years in this faculty at Glasgow University, passing all the necessary examinations. In 1929 he decided to give up this study and entered the shipping industry. He spent a portion of his apprenticeship in London where he was favoured with special facilities for studying the chartering and ship-broking side, and when this was completed he returned to Glasgow and joined the firm of Barr, Crombie & Company, Limited, of which he is now a director. Mr. Barr's business activities are not confined to shipping for he is a director of six companies operating in London, Glasgow and elsewhere, and although an extremely

busy man, he has always taken a very active interest in the Club and its proceedings and there is not the slightest doubt that under his presidency it will continue to flourish.

At School, "Bobby," as he was affectionately known to everyone, was a member of the School Rugger XV and School Cricket XI, and those who were among his contemporaries will be able to recall the many exciting games in which he played a vital part. During his student days at the University he figured in the University XV on several occasions, whilst the Old Boys' teams visiting the School were never really looked upon as complete without he was a playing member. Mr. Barr, who is married, has settled down at West Kilbride where his favourite hobby is yachting.

Strathallians far and wide will wish Mr. Barr a successful presidential year. "Bobby" was always one of the most popular and yet modest fellows with integrity and first class ability behind him, characteristics which he still retains to-day.

From our St. Andrews University Correspondent.

We were very sorry that Mr. Neil Gillanders did not get into the final rugger trial this year, although those who have seen him playing regularly in club matches declare that he was well worth a place. The St. Andrews scratch 'Varsity side which visited Strathallan this last term formed a high opinion of the School side and are at a loss to understand why they have not been more successful against school sides. We were very distressed to hear the sad news about Messrs. Strang and Sharp, and I am afraid it caused a few of us to think deeply.

The Dramatic Society

President: Mr. M. Norton.

Chairman: D. R. Hood.

Vice-Chairman: J. Scott.

Secretary: A. M. Gordon.

Treasurer: V. Lowden.

Committee: N. McLeod, K. Grant, C. Turner, W. Hunter, K. Jack and H. Lowden.

Having elected officers for the year at the first meeting, and given trial readings to new members during the succeeding two, the Society got down to the main business of the Christmas Term, the production of the end of term play, the ultimate choice falling on "They Came by Night" by Barre Lyndon, which was successfully performed on Tuesday, December 13th, and seemed well to the taste of the audience, whom we would thank for the generous donation of £3 7/4 towards expenses.

The weekly meetings were, with three exceptions, devoted to rehearsed readings of various plays, produced by various members of the Committee. Among these were old favourites, such as "The Blank Cartridge," "Snobs," "The Dear Departed," and "Sentence of Death," while "A Traveller Returns" made a welcome reappearance. We are greatly indebted to V. Lowden, H. Lowden and T. Blair who played a prominent part in these readings.

We were very pleased to welcome once more Dr. Habberton Lulham on Friday, 21st October, to lecture on "The South Downs," while Miss E. Cherry-Garrard gave a magnificently illustrated lecture on "Corsica and Sardinia" on November 1st. The term drew to its conclusion with a return visit of the English Classical Players, this time with Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part 1, which was much appreciated; but fuller criticisms of these "open" nights are to be found elsewhere, as also of the production of "They Came by Night."

A. M. GORDON, *Hon. Secy.*

The Debating Society

President: Mr. M. Norton.

Chairman: A. M. Gordon.

Secretary: W. R. Hunter.

Committee: D. Hood, N. McLeod, S. S. Brown, C. M. Turner, M. Thomson and J. Sim.

THE first debate of the term was, as is perhaps fitting, the Prefects'. D. Hood, supported by D. Macnaughton, proposed "That Mr. Chamberlain has given peace in our time," and were opposed by Messrs. A. Gordon and S. Brown. Perhaps the subject was somewhat above the heads of the meeting, and Mr. Riley and Mr. Ward were quoted by both sides with great finality. Little enthusiasm was aroused, however, and the motion was eventually carried by nine votes to six, with four unconvinced.

"That Advertising justifies its existence" was proposed at the next meeting by W. Hunter and C. Turner, who emphasised how difficult modern life would be without advertisement. R. Fernie and R. McColl constituted the opposition, the former introducing a humorous treatment of the subject which appealed strongly to the House; but which, while swaying some of its members, failed to defeat the motion, by four votes.

The final debate of the term, "That Steam has robbed the sea of its Romance" proved the most successful and drew a large gathering. J. Scott and J. Aitken were the proposers, and J. Sim and S. Fraser the opposers. Sim's speech must be regarded as the high light of the term, not so much for its content as for the care with which it had been prepared. The debate which followed was most animated, and Mr. Norton, who was in the chair, must have been very gratified with the number of quotations that were bandied about during its course. The motion was eventually defeated by fourteen votes to ten.

Although most of the speakers this term have been newcomers, they have acquitted themselves well. True, we have missed many of last year's speakers, but the enthusiasm shown by the new members augurs well for the future.

W. R. HUNTER, *Hon. Secy.*

Dramatic Notes

"THEY CAME BY NIGHT," by Barre Lyndon.

THE annual production of the Dramatic Society was presented in the Gym. to the usual appreciative audience on Tuesday, December 13th, 1938. This year's choice of play was better than that of last year, the story being more dramatic and clear-cut and, since it was of the "crook" variety it had an instant appeal to those present. The actual plot, has, however, so many improbabilities that it is difficult to see why it should have been considered worthy of a not inconsiderable "run" in London last year.

The Strath. production invited some obvious and pertinent criticisms. A play to be successfully "put over" by amateurs must be learnt so well that in the actual production everyone is word perfect. Except for Mr. Norton, who, besides, knowing his own part faultlessly, appeared to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of everyone else's, the players stumbled on many occasions. Though the "gagging" was good, it could be detected and, as a result, the even tenor of the dialogue was constantly broken and, in a building such as the Gym. where the acoustics are bad, the effects of this marred the play.

Secondly, faults could be found with the scenery. The "vault" scene was excellent and the stage managers had obviously exercised considerable ingenuity to obtain such a realistic effect: the scene in Voltaire's apartment in the hotel was also good. Fothergill's workshop was, however, somewhat inadequate. It was too tidy and bare to represent a workshop realistically, while the safe, which played such a prominent part in the plot, was quite patently incapable of resisting the blandishments of even the most inexperienced burglar. A suggestion—could not the door of the safe have been made flush with the wall, thus eliminating the necessity of having it protruding into the room and making it possible for it to have a really close-fitting door?

When, however, these two criticisms have been made, the worst has been said. Except for small blemishes, the characters themselves were well drawn. Mr. Norton,

as Fothergill, again carried the play on his shoulders and gave an excellent study of a middle-aged silversmith aroused somewhat precipitously out of his dreamings by (a) a woman (Pattullo), and (b) a bunch of crooks (Turner, Hunter, McNaughton, Gordon and Scott). The latter were very convincing. Gordon as a German dope-fiend captured well the varying moods of exaltation and depression. Hunter as the expert American "safe-cracker," with streaks, both of vanity and kindliness in his character, was well cast and dominated the scenes in which he appeared; his "wise-cracks" were especially appreciated. Turner, both as a cigar-smoker and as the arch-crook, was outstanding, and but for the fact that he so often forgot his "lines" would have given a really polished performance: his German accent was very attractive. Scott, as the adventuress, would have looked better in a wig and, though quite convincing as a woman, was not so convincing as the particular type of woman "he" was intended to portray.

Of the remaining characters Pattullo made an excellent Miss Grosvenor, until betrayed by "her" manly strides; Jack, as Edward Smith, an old safe-maker, was unconvincing until he engaged in the drinking bout with Mr. Fothergill, which resulted in them both becoming inebriated. Here he was most entertaining and brought the house down with his antics. H. Thompson was a good Sergeant Tolley—perhaps a little too good-natured; V. Lowden a most convincing Inspector Harvey in appearance, but he could with advantage have introduced more incisiveness into his speeches. K. Grant (Milner), D. Hood (Lynn), and J. Lowden (Jackson) had small parts which they adequately filled.

In his speech at the end of the proceedings, Mr. Norton thanked all those—actors, stage hands, Mr. Bain and his workmen—who had helped to make the evening a success, while Gordon led the School in giving Mr. Norton three very hearty cheers for the patient and painstaking way in which he had produced the play.

L. P. W.

Photography as a School Hobby

SCHOOL boys have many hobbies, some of which are simple and commonplace, others enterprising and original. Few of them, however, are at all self-supporting, and less are profitable. Indeed the profitable ones soon seem to lose their attraction, as do all pastimes when put to a commercial use. When a hobby pays for itself, however, there is the added advantage that the most shallow-pocketed individual can enjoy it.

Now the mention of spare time occupation paying its own way may conjure up visions of advertisements in American magazines, of selling things to your next door neighbour, along with other unpleasant ideas. It is not proposed that the reader should immediately provide himself with a portable doughnut factory, and hie him hence to the highways and byways, paving his way with gold; nor should he start mushroom farming in that disused cellar, which all American magazine readers are expected to possess. The proposal is nothing more astounding than that the reader should indulge in the delights and heartbreaks of that venerable hobby, photography.

Naturally the most important part of the photographer's kit is his camera; and it seems safe to assume that everyone has had some experience with that pioneer, the box Brownie. At least, John had (we call our prospective photographer "John" because we must call him something, and "John" is so much shorter than "prospective photographer" and so much more human than P.P., to which the latter might be abbreviated). He read articles upon photography, but decided that to make his hobby pay was too complicated a business, until he had a talk with his chemist and his photographic friend, both of whom are only too pleased to advise him; and one actually sets him on the way by picking up an old-fashioned camera, second hand, far more pretentious than his first box Brownie. After being duly initiated into all the mysteries of apertures and exposures, depths of focus and the like, John strikes out to conquer new fields.

Having taken his cumbersome camera, complete with the inevitable tripod and black cloth, to a suitable part of the country, John views the landscape with an air of an artist, and finally decides on a certain view. With a great deal of juggling and adjusting, and numerous clumsy fumbblings under the black cloth, our hero delights himself with gazing at the wonders of Nature, in full colour and upside down, gliding sideways over a little piece of glass. Everything looks so delightful that it seems a pity he has only six plates. Eventually the six photos are taken, and John's excitement is without bounds as he runs home for his first lesson in developing from his friend. Rapt, he listens to the spells and incantations muttered in a faint ruddy light, and one by one the images appear. Never in all his life, he swears, has he seen such clear negatives; and he puts them to dry with all the tender care of a cat for her first family of kittens.

Needless to say, these landscapes had for the expert several glaring errors. Even John himself sees them now, but only at the cost of several dozen plates and uncounted hours in the dark room. He has long ago experimented in the various branches of photography — landscapes, portraits, etc., and has settled down to portraiture as his main interest. He knows all the curious results obtained by having lights wrongly placed, and unfortunate expressions on his sitter's face; and he can now judge his exposures fairly accurately. His dark room was a little cupboard with a red electric torch as a safe light, a pail of water for his water supply, pie dishes for developing, and the kitchen measure for pouring out his chemicals; and with these his results had been gratifying. But these are now a thing of the past since he won that prize in the newspaper snapshot competition; he has now an imposing array of developing dishes and measuring glasses, a real mains safe-lamp, and he can afford the best materials. All his family have their portraits hanging about the house in all their favourite attitudes.

He has delivered weekly a favourite photographic magazine, and has already won a number of small prizes in competitions organised by it. He obtains much helpful advice from its columns, and knows from its advertisements exactly what kind of camera will be bought when he wins a

larger prize. He has infected many of his friends with his enthusiasm, and many of them find great enjoyment looking through fat albums of cheery prints, recalling happy days and memories of camps and picnics, dances and parties.

R. G.

No. 3 Squad

THE conscripts of No. 3 Squad of the 5th Artillery Regiment shuffled to attention and 1st Sergeant Mendez addressed them:

"Soldiers! this afternoon the Inspector of Artillery is visiting the 5th Regiment, and to Squad No. 3 has fallen the honour of giving an exhibition of accurate firing with the new guns recently acquired by the Commission for the Acquisition of Armaments Abroad. I know you will demonstrate that the choice of your Colonel has not been mistaken. Dismiss."

Lance-Corporal Casey approached the 1st Sergeant. "My 1st Sergeant, those guns have never been fired, and I understand they are different from other guns in that the projectile explodes on its own some seconds after the charge has gone off."

"I know that, Lance-Corporal, and I also know how to fire them, for I have the directions in my pocket." Silenced, if not entirely satisfied, the Lance-Corporal went his way.

Under a blazing summer sun No. 3 Squad lay perspiring nervously in a shallow trench. Soldier Gomez held in his hand the end of a length of string, the other end of which was attached to the gun, a safe ten yards away. The 1st Sergeant gave the order "Fire!" Soldier Gomez jerked the string, and all hands were clapped to ears. A second passed. Another. The 1st Sergeant glanced at Soldier Gomez whose face had gone a sickly green pallor. "Soldier Gomez, why did you not pull the string?"

"I did, my 1st Sergeant."

The 1st Sergeant's glance followed the soldiers' to the limp twine in the latter's hand, as the awful truth broke on No. 3 Squad. The string had snapped and the shell would shortly explode, blowing them and the gun to pieces. . . .

Soldier Belloni broke the silence: "We will all be blown to pieces," he moaned.

The 1st Sergeant was a man of action. "Soldier Gomez, you broke the string, go and tie it up before the shell explodes."

At the thought of leaving the comparative safety of the trench, Soldier Gomez fell on his knees: "No, no, my 1st Sergeant, my mother is a widow and depends on me."

The 1st Sergeant's glance fell on Soldier Belloni: "You have courage, Soldier Belloni, go and tie the string."

Soldier Belloni failed to see why he should be sacrificed, and commenced arguing when Lance-Corporal Casey broke in, "My 1st Sergeant, as the shell has not gone off yet, it is possibly a dud." It was.

Some minutes later a length of rope replaced the treacherous twine, and with a deafening roar the gun went off, the recoil making it come leaping back towards the trench, whose occupants broke and fled.

The 1st Sergeant telephoned the observation box:

"Did we hit the target?"

"No, my 1st Sergeant."

"By how much did we miss?"

"By a hundred metres, my 1st Sergeant."

"Has the Inspector arrived yet?"

"No, my 1st Sergeant."

"Then move the target to where the shell landed."

It was the evening of a memorable day. The Inspector addressed the shaken No. 3 Squad.

"Soldiers! you have to-day shown by the mathematical precision and accuracy of your firing that you will prove, if need be, men to be relied upon for the defence of your country. Great credit is also due to 1st Sergeant Mendez who, by his great knowledge of artillery, has trained you to handle so efficiently the latest guns. I have requested your Colonel to grant you two days' leave. Dis-miss." G. A. D.

About Bermuda

HAVE you ever tried "job-hunting?" It certainly is a most depressing pastime. After three weeks of it in London, nearly seven years ago, I could not believe one of the many people who "would be glad to let me know if they heard anything," really had heard of something. A friend of theirs had turned down some sort of a job in a place called Bermuda, and they wondered if I was interested. If you have "job-hunted," you will know my reply.

A hasty reference told me "Bermuda was a small group of islands noted for arrowroot and onions." My mother was a staunch supporter of this invalid diet even in this age of patent cereals and foods, and I hoped it might be a big industry; so off I went to meet an Arrowroot King. Instead, I met a quiet, polite man who thought I might like Bermuda and suggested that I went out for six months. It was a new way to be handled. After a friendly luncheon, where I met other Bermudians and liked them, I was "sold" on Bermuda. Little was said of what I would be asked to do: I was told that Gibbons Company operated several stores, and the owner needed more assistance.

A few weeks later I was due to arrive. Have you ever imagined some place where you would like to live, a place made up from all the most attractive memories of other places visited? It was curious how near Bermuda approached to my completed picture—a sunny climate without extremes of heat or cold, with surroundings easy to look at, and where plenty of exercise was possible. You have to see the sea at Bermuda to know what blue really is. I felt "at home" immediately.

There are three main islands, joined by bridges, where the thirty thousand inhabitants live, and some three hundred and sixty-two smaller islands dotted about in the surrounding blue. Some are very small with hardly room for a tent: others have small summer cottages on them. All have the indigenous evergreen cedar trees which effectively dispel the palm tree and

South Sea atmosphere which prevails among the islands further south. Bright blue sky and water with a background of dark green form the colour scheme.

If the atlas is large enough you will see a tiny spot half way between Nova Scotia and the West Indies. That is Bermuda. It is west of the Gulf Stream, so that snow is unknown, nor any of the rigours of the winter of the American mainland. Ships leave New York on a Saturday afternoon in the winter covered with snow and ice—9 a.m. on Monday finds them in Hamilton Harbour, basking in warm sunshine. On the other hand, ocean breezes keep the islands cool in the hottest summer.

Arrowroot is no longer grown to any extent. Possibly a ton is exported in a year. A few years ago tons of vegetables were shipped to New York. Tariff barriers closed the markets, and farming is no longer a profitable business. Only for three months in the year, at the height of summer, are vegetables scarce: at all other times there is abundance of luscious green vegetables. Potatoes grow four crops a year. Incidentally, trial shipments were sent to England recently with considerable success. So if you are offered Bermuda onions or tomatoes, buy 'em; they are good!

What do we do? One can live on vegetables and fish, but it is preferable to vary the diet occasionally with the products of Canada, the Argentine, and the United States. This is possible even if there are no exports. We receive a surplus from our "imports." In short, the prosperity of the islands depends entirely on visitors. Over ninety thousand Americans come to Bermuda every year, some for a few days, others for a few weeks; others have built houses there, and live in them for months on end. Only the better class American can afford Bermuda, and those who come spend freely. America has a sincere respect for Britain and things British, and the merchandise they can buy here is fifty per cent less expensive than it is in New York. As you

know, there is a high protective duty on all English goods entering the States: thousands of yards of tweed are sold yearly—thousands of Kashmir and Shetland knitted pullovers and cardigans. Naturally, Bermuda sells these at a profit and so derives her income.

There is no income tax. The only form of taxation is *ad valorem*. Every article of food, clothing and merchandise is taxed from ten to twenty per cent of its value, which is paid by the merchant and recovered by him in his selling price. In this way everyone pays taxes—including ninety thousand visitors.

“Trade” is the only occupation of importance. In other words, everyone is a shopkeeper. The larger owners are comparatively wealthy and are able to keep racing yachts, and Bermudians as a whole are famous for their seamanship. There is no great poverty—a labourer earns ten shillings a day; and neither is there any extreme wealth.

The particular firm with whom I am employed owns five stores in Bermuda, one in New York, and a buying office in London. The London office has a permanent staff of three, but every year six buyers from the islands are added to this number, for they are over in England from six to ten weeks. Everything except food is handled by the firm, which if the five locations were one, would be classified as a department store. The business is known as the “Bermuda Shop” in New York, and handles English merchandise exclusively, and two Bermudians and three Americans run it, overseen by Mr. Gibbons, the owner. Now that there is a six-hour 'plane service to New York, it is planned to open other branches in the United States.

My own duties are varied, though none of great importance, but they are sufficient to keep me occupied eight to ten hours a day. And one of the secrets of the company's success is that its members have

been made to realise that, whatever their position, there is always something to be learnt.

A few bald facts about Bermuda may interest. Half a battalion of British troops is permanently stationed here; the Navy has a floating dock, and all cruises to the North and South Atlantic start and finish here; two-thirds of the population is coloured, descended from the African slaves. They are polite, educated and independent. At present they offer no problems—Bermuda is Britain's oldest self-governing colony. Hurricanes hit the island occasionally as they did in the “vexed Bermoothes of Shakespeare's ‘Tempest’”; but it is six years since the last bad one occurred. It seems that the islands are so small that most hurricanes miss us. One curious thing is that there are no rivers or streams on the islands. All the water is caught on the white-washed roofs and led into tanks under the houses. My own cottage, newly built, has a twelve thousand gallon tank, and we keep two gold fish in it to eat up any possible mosquito larvae. The mosquitos are, however, non-malarial. There are six excellent golf courses, international yachting facilities, but no motor cars. An ambulance and a few government trucks are the only motor cars allowed.

In addition to motor boating and all other seaside pastimes, soccer and rugger are played, and round about Easter time the famous American Universities, Harvard, Yale and Princeton send down teams to play the local sides.

To set down facts like this fails to give an adequate description of Bermuda, however: Bermuda is so different, as the visitors always find. A hearty welcome and a grand holiday is certain for anyone who ventures to see for themselves.

A. C. D.

Sports Notes

RUGBY.

THE 1st Fifteen, under Macnaughton's captaincy, were young and inexperienced, only a few having played previously in the senior team. It was obvious from the beginning that the material for team building was limited and that the problem would be to find the most satisfactory formation for the backs. In the early part of the season the midfield play was poor; and H. Thomson, whose play suits the wing position better, had to be moved into the centre. After vainly trying Binnie and Macnaughton at stand-off half, Waterston eventually moved to that position from the centre to partner his captain, and Binnie filled the vacant berth in the centre. Chapelle, who improved in each game, and Edmonds, brought in when an injury put Mortimer out of the running, filled the wing positions.

The forwards were well led by J. T. Paton and remained unaltered except for enforced changes. Criticism of their play in various matches could be made, chiefly with regard to slow heeling in set and loose scrums, but in the last game of the term they played really well together, which we hope is an auspicious omen for the games next term. In a hard working pack, Paton, Turner, Molison and Jack have been most prominent.

Don, after playing one game as a centre, was moved to full back and proved to be a sound last line of defence.

The actual results can hardly be said to be very satisfactory, but the experience gained this term should prove useful for the future.

Summary of Results: P., 11; W., 4; L., 6; D., 1. Pts. for, 25; Pts. against, 89.

Strathallan v. Aberdeen G.S., played at Forgandenny on Saturday, October 1st.

Aberdeen were the better side at the beginning and went ahead with a dropped goal. Later, however, the sides proved to be evenly matched, though the visitors

possessed the greater thrust in the centre; and it was this that turned the scales in their favour. At half time they had added a goal and a try to lead by 14 points to nil. The score might well have been much larger but for good defence and covering.

The School's great weakness was in the centre, where Binnie at stand-off half was too slow, and Hood at right centre was frequently out of position. The wings, H. Thomson and Mortimer, had few real chances but looked dangerous on occasions. Macnaughton, at scrum half, played well, excelling in defence and relief kicking. D. Fulton did not come up to expectations as full back, his tackling being surprisingly weak, and he was slow in gathering kicks.

The game among the forwards was very even, though in the closing stages the home pack was definitely on top, with Paton, Turner and Jack prominent.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Aberdeen G.S., 14 pts.

Strathallan v. R. Gordon's College, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, October 15th.

Changes were made in the team for this match. Scroggie took the place of Fulton at full back, and Waterston was fit to be included at centre three-quarter. Hood moved into the forwards in the place of Edmonds who played on the wing deputising for the injured Mortimer. The greater pace of the visiting backs was evident throughout the game, and they established a lead of eleven points, a goal and two tries, before half time; and later added a further goal. The School defence was shaky, but exception must be made to Edmonds and Macnaughton whose efforts helped to keep the score within limits.

The Strath. backs were not allowed to create scoring openings, and only on three occasions did a try seem possible. In the first half Waterston burst through to give Thomson a chance, but the latter hesitated on reaching the full back, and a good

opportunity was missed. In the second half one forward rush looked dangerous but did not lead to anything; and Macnaughton broke from the scrum only to see his final pass knocked on.

Indeed, the three-quarters were too slow to take advantage of dropped passes by their opponents, and seemed lacking in energy. The forwards were more evenly matched, but the School eight scarcely showed the same fire as in the previous match. Scroggie, at full back, fell away after a promising start; he was too slow in both thought and motion.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Gordon's College, 16 pts.

Strathallan v. Edinburgh Medicals, played at Forgandenny on Wednesday, Oct. 19th.

Further changes were made in an attempt to improve play in the centre. Binnie was dropped from the stand-off position, and Macnaughton played there with G. Wilson as his partner. H. Thomson moved into the centre, and Don to full back. Chapelle came in on the left wing in Thomson's place. These positional changes gave more thrust to the three-quarter line, but were not altogether successful, since Wilson was slow in getting the ball away from the scrum. Still, he showed promise, and his passes were good on the occasions when he showed more alertness. Macnaughton in his new position handled well and opened up the game quickly. Waterston and Thomson profited by his accurate passes and were dangerous in attack, but Thomson could have made more use of his opportunities. Edmonds, too, on the right wing ran strongly. Don was better than either Fulton and Scroggie; his kicking and fielding were up to standard and he was quicker in moving to the ball.

The forwards were disappointing as a combination. They were too ragged, and their heeling was generally slow. However, they were lively in the loose, with Paton, Jack and Hood most prominent. The scoring was confined to a gift try for

Edinburgh and a dropped goal by Macnaughton, a feat which he came near repeating in the closing minutes.

Result: Strathallan, 4 pts.; Edinburgh Medicals, 3 pts.

Strathallan v. Dunfermline H.S., played at Dunfermline on Saturday, October 22nd.

Except for the last ten minutes, play was confined to the forwards, and there was nothing to suggest that either side would score a try. On the heavy ground the ball was difficult to handle, but the Strath. team followed the wrong policy in playing Dunfermline at their own game of keeping the ball close. Outweighed in the scrum, they yet held their own in the set scrums, but could make little headway in the loose. The improvement in the Strath. play towards the close proved that quick heeling and opening up the game would have been more profitable since the School backs seemed stronger than the home threes in attack. Only when Macnaughton moved to scrum half in place of Wilson, and Waterston moved to stand-off, did the School look the better side. The backs then got moving quickly.

Dunfermline had most of the game in the second half but were unable to break through a solid defence. They were ahead by three points, a penalty goal, until Strath exerted pressure and Jack scored from a line-out for H. Thomson to kick a good goal to give his side the victory.

Result: Strathallan, 5 pts.; Dunfermline H.S., 3 pts.

Strathallan v. Melville College, played at Edinburgh on Saturday, October 29th.

Both sides quickly settled down to a hard, quick tackling game, with the home pack securing more than their share of the ball. This was particularly true in the line-out, where they had the advantage of height; and from a throw-in after six minutes the ball went rapidly along the Melville backs to the right wing, who, with a smart sprint up to Don and a very clever

kick ahead, brought the only points of the game with an unconverted try.

Strath. pressed strongly for an equaliser, and good runs by H. Thomson had the home defence on tenter-hooks; but after the same player had missed two penalties from fairly easy positions, Melville College rallied, and again the right winger, the outstanding player on the field, threatened danger. From this point until the last quarter of an hour the home side held the upper hand, but then Strath. made a desperate effort to get on terms. First Thomson was almost through, only to be thwarted brilliantly by the ubiquitous right winger; then Turner dropped over from a line-out, only to be called back for a short throw-in; and finally Macnaughton saw a splendid drop at goal sail a few inches wide. As the whistle blew, the home side was again taking up the offensive.

Outstanding in the pack were Turner, Paton, Jack and McLeod, but none of the outsiders rose above mediocrity.

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

Strathallan v. Surgeons' Hall, played at Forgandenny on Wednesday, Nov. 2nd.

The play in the first half was very even, and there was no score at half time; but the School had the better of the game in the second half, scoring a goal and a try to a penalty goal. H. Thomson scored the first try after the opening had been made by Waterston and Binnie. The other try came as the result of a combined dribble by Edmonds, McLeod and Jack, the last named touching down for K. Grant to convert.

The handling by the School backs was good considering the slippery nature of the ball, and in the second half they played well under conditions unfavourable to three-quarter play. Macnaughton started at stand-off, but was not so good as usual in this position since he repeatedly ran into his forwards; but in the second half he went back to work the scrum with Waterston as his partner, and the change

was successful. Waterston was the best of the backs and made some good openings.

The forwards, without exception, played excellently against a heavier pack. Paton led them well and was prominent in every phase of play, together with Jack and Turner. Molison was outstanding for his quick breaking and covering work, making some fine tackles. Grant and Hood excelled in the line-out, while McLeod and M. Thomson did useful work in the middle of the scrum.

Result: Strathallan, 8 pts.; Surgeons' Hall, 3 pts.

Strathallan v. Allan Glen's School, played at Glasgow on Saturday, Nov. 12th.

This game should have been played at home, but owing to the waterlogged ground, its venue was transferred to Glasgow, where the pitch, though playable, was very wet. At the start, Strath. seemed to be suffering from lack of practice, and the home side registered an early try when one of the centres went through the middle. They added a further five points before half time for a kick ahead by the right wing three-quarter, and a favourable bounce enabled a forward, backing up, to score under the post for an easy convert. In the second half they added a further unconverted try.

The difference between the teams was not, however, as great as the score suggests: Strath. had quite as much of the game, but failed to finish off movements successfully. In the first half H. Thomson got over the home line, but the try was disallowed owing to an infringement, and K. Grant missed two penalty kicks, one from an easy position. Chapelle, Waterston and Thomson made dangerous runs in the second half, but until the last ten minutes their efforts lacked combination. Don was good at full back, rarely misfielding, and kicking well.

The forwards played vigorously but were good only in patches. Allan Glen's pack made too many rushes which were not stopped in their early stages. This was due to the fact that the forwards did not

come round the ball in a body to give support to one another. The heeling, too, was ragged for the same reason, and Molison and Paton alone were up to standard.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Allan Glen's School, 11 pts.

Strathallan v. W. Smith's XV, played at Forgandenny on Wednesday, Nov. 16th.

The visitors were strongly represented, Macrae, the internationalist, playing inside to N. Gillanders, the trialist, and several other Midland trialists were included in side. Conditions were bad, the pitch being little more than a quagmire in places. Nevertheless, the visiting outsidies handled the slippery ball with a skill and sureness that would have been worthy the highest praise even on a dry day: under the circumstances it was positively uncanny. Play seldom left the School half, but good defence kept the score down to ten points in the first half. Up to then the School eight, with Paton, Jack, Turner and Molison to the fore, had held their heavier opponents, but latterly the weight of the opposition began to tell, so that the visiting backs received the ball again and again, and by their speed and clever scissors movements spelt danger repeatedly, particularly on the Macrae-Gillanders wing. Indeed, considering the frequency of the attacks, the School deserve the highest praise for limiting the score to a further four tries, two of which were converted.

Result: Strathallan, nil; W. Smith's XV, 26 pts.

Strathallan v. Heriot's School, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, November 19th.

From a spectator's point of view the game was disappointing, for there was little constructive play by either set of backs. Because of their superiority in the forwards, Heriot's did most of the pressing and had the advantage territorially, but their backs were unable to pierce a rock-like defence. The only score was a penalty goal awarded for an infringement in front

of the Strath. goal posts in the first half. In the second half Heriot's concentrated on making ground by touch kicking, and Strath. rarely took play into the visitors' half. On one occasion, H. Thomson seemed likely to score after bursting through as a result of a clever scissors movement with Waterston, but when he was almost clear he cut back into the middle instead of running for the corner.

The Heriot forwards dominated the scrums and the lines-out, and only in the loose mauls and rushes did the School hold their own. Turner was outstanding in the loose, and Molison did good work in defence, his covering and tackling being extremely useful.

The chief fault with the home backs was their inability to take their passes, Waterston and H. Thomson being the worst offenders. Chapelle continued to improve and made some good solo runs. Macnaughton's passes from the base of the scrum were not very accurate, and he was slow at times, though he excelled in defence. Don, apart from one bad lapse which nearly led to a try, was a sound full back.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Heriot's School, 3 pts.

Strathallan v. Glasgow Dental Hospital, played at Forgandenny on Wednesday, 23rd November.

There was a good smattering of Old Boys in the visiting fifteen, and a pointless draw was a fair result for a game which, played on a heavy pitch, seldom reached even a mediocre standard. Neither sets of backs could make progress in the mud, since running and handling were difficult. Twice only did a score look probable: once Waterston cut through in good style, only to be tackled a few yards from the line; and Edmonds, too, was unlucky to see the ball roll into touch just in front of the corner flag after a good dribble from near the half way line. The forwards were outweighed, but, as usual against scratch sides, held their own for the greater part of the game and were even on top at the end.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Dental Hospital, nil.

Strathallan v. Old Strathallians, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, December 3rd.

The Old Boys brought a better team than they did last year, although it was not the best that might have been selected: it proved good enough, however, to give the School a good game. Strath, indeed, showed the best form of the season, probably due to the encouragement they derived from an early lead—a penalty by K. Grant after a good forward rush. Before the interval, however, the F.P.'s equalised, Don failing to gather a kick ahead, and G. Sharp going on to score an unconverted try. In the second half, play moved from end to end, and both teams came near scoring on several occasions. After three unsuccessful attempts at penalty goals, the F.P.'s went ahead through a dropped goal by J. Steel, who broke away from a scrum near the "twenty-five" line. Five minutes from the end, Chapelle scored a fine try. Catching the F.P. three-quarters out of position, Macnaughton and Thomson started a movement, and the ball went out to Chapelle, who handed off his opposite and, after a run from inside his own half, scored under the posts. K. Grant converted; and just before the final whistle came near to increasing the lead with a penalty kick.

In the keenly contested game the School team was the better and deserved the victory. The forwards all played magnificently, the most pleasing feature being better heeling from loose scrums and improved line-out play. Chapelle was the best of the backs and made several attempts to work his way through. Macnaughton sent out a good service, and his partner, Waterston, showed some nice bursts but also a tendency to hold on to the ball too long. The rest of the backs played soundly; though Don did not seem so safe as usual in the last line of defence.

Result: Strathallan, 8 pts.; Old Strathallians, 7 pts.

THE SECOND FIFTEEN.

The Second Fifteen has enjoyed a moderate term. In the opening game at Aberdeen a good Grammar School side piled up twenty points without reply. There was little combination in the School

side, and the three-quarters were weak, only Gregory showing real thrust and a sound defence. A fortnight later a slightly changed side narrowly defeated 2nd Gordon's College by 8 pts. to 6, a spectacular run by Chapelle from his own "twenty-five" being the high light of the game. The game against Dollar Academy was scratched, and it was not until the end of October that the team again took the field and won an easy victory against Newstead 1st XV by 32 pts. to nil. The forwards were good and gave the backs ample opportunity to dominate the game—Wilson, Scroggie and Gregory being outstanding. On November 8th Morgan's 1st XV were the visitors. Despite the fact that the School started with two men short, they held their own, the forwards being exceptionally good, with J. Fulton and S. Brown most prominent. The game ended in a draw, Philp scoring an unconverted try from a five yard scrum just before half-time. Owing to the heavy rains, the venue of the game against Allan Glen's School was transferred to Glasgow, where conditions were very little better. A defeat by 13 pts. to nil was by no means a true reflection of the run of the play, for Strath. pressed for a large part of the game, and there was no score at half-time. In the second half forward rushes by the home pack carried the day, though two of their tries came from very scrambling play.

FIVES.

The Fives courts have been well patronised throughout the term, the First and Second Fifteens making use of them for training purposes. Much enthusiasm has been shown among the juniors, where the standard of play has considerably improved. Next term should see the Individual Championships in full swing, and it is hoped to begin practice for the Pairs to meet the Old Boys in the Summer Term and avenge last year's defeat.

SWIMMING.

The Swimming Pond has proved very popular again in a purely recreative way. It was found impracticable to hold the tests for the swimming badge at the end of the term, but it is hoped to remedy the omission in the early days of next term.

Scout Notes

WE are grateful to our District Commissioner, Major A. G. Duncan of Dunbarney Lodge for granting us permission to visit his estate and fell three large trees as part of the Axemanship test for the 1st Class Badge.

During the last few months certain members of the Troop have entered into correspondence with the "Clan Stuart" Troop, Lundby, Denmark. While the exchange of letters has unfortunately not been so brisk as we would have hoped, this is an innovation which is most commendable, as it brings home very closely the conception of scouting as a "world-wide brotherhood." It is hoped that it may be possible to make arrangements with this Troop for us to join them in camp in Denmark next summer. The S.M. is now awaiting a reply from them on this point, and if anything definite materialises before the actual publication of the next "Strathallian" (this is being written in December), a note of the particulars will be added to the end of this article.

This year Imperial Headquarters have re-arranged some of the 1st and 2nd Class tests, eliminating many of the old ones, such as "Thrift" and "Scouts' Pace," and introducing in their stead new ones, such as "Pioneering" and "Lashing." This has meant a good deal of revisionary work this term, but it must be admitted that the changes are all to the good, as they give scouting an even more pronounced "bent" towards practical and outdoor work.

With the commencement of the new school year, the numbers in the Troop remain much the same as hitherto, *i.e.*, 91. The following duly passed their Tenderfoot tests and were invested on Saturday, November 12th:—W. Henderson and B. S. T. Bruce (Eagle), J. R. Roy (Hawk), J. Mackintosh (Otter), T. Lacey, G. H. R. Vernon and D. W. Milne (Seal), H. F. Russell, A. Ramsay and R. Semple (Swift), and T. Anderson and A. N. Rodger (Wolf).

The Court of Honour decided that, as their "Corner" work this term had not

progressed as well as they had hoped, the judging of "Corners" and the presentation of the trophies would be postponed this term, and that the work done so far would be taken in conjunction with that of next term.

The Troop is again most indebted to Mr. W. Lewis who, in his capacity of A. S. M., has devoted a great deal of his time in helping us, and has taken charge of the Signalling and Pioneering. Our thanks are also extended to Mr. Cale, who has supervised the weekly Scout workshop.

L. P. W.

From our Edinburgh University Correspondent.

We congratulate Mr. Alan Gordon Rae of Montrose on passing the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' examination for his diploma of M.R.C.V.S. Messrs. G. Balfour and J. Breckenridge are busy with their final examinations in medicine, some of which they have already passed. We are glad to notice that Mr. Balfour has regained his place in the Jedforest team after a lapse of several weeks due to lack of training facilities owing to examination calls upon his time. After last year's serious accident to Mr. Breckenridge we are very glad to notice that he is now playing rugger again for his old side in the South of Scotland, Hawick. We congratulate Mr. John Dawson who passed the first part of his final examination in medicine in November, and Mr. J. Drummond on getting through his midwifery class exams. Mr. Eric Nicholson, who is reading for a degree in chemistry, was successful in all his class exams. and is finding life at Cowan House a happy and interesting one. He has joined the Battery and at the moment is spending a considerable amount of time driving a heavy truck. We notice that Mr. Eric Donaldson has been playing regularly in the 'Varsity golf team and this term has been successful in every game. Congratulations!

Strathallian Club

Telephone: Central 794.
Telegrams: "Defence."



Hon. President - H. RILEY, Esq.
President - ROBERT BARR, jun., Esq.
Vice-President - T. IRVINE, Esq.

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

Minute of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting held in St. Enoch Station Hotel, Glasgow, on Saturday, 17th December, 1938, at 6.15 p.m.

Presiding: D. J. Bogie, Esq., President.

APOLOGIES for absence were intimated from Messrs. A. J. Cruickshanks and Cyril Thomson.

The Minute of Eleventh Annual General Meeting dated 18th December, 1937, was read and approved.

The Treasurer submitted the Financial Statement for the year ended 30th November, 1938, which the Meeting approved.

The Meeting authorised the Treasurer to remit £74 16s. 11d. to the Trustees for investment. Mr. Turner enquired if the Trustees could not invest the capital which was at present in the Post Office Savings Bank in a security which would give a better yield. The Chairman replied, on behalf of the Trustees, that the matter would have their consideration.

The Chairman intimated that 41 applications for Membership (28 Life and 13 Ordinary) had been received. The lists were pinned on the walls, and he moved that these gentlemen be admitted. The meeting unanimously agreed.

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

The Chairman reported that this year being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the School, the Council had decided to present Mr. Riley with his portrait in oils. The Council had arranged with Mr. Stanley Cursiter, R.S.A., to paint the portrait, and that it would be presented to Mr. Riley during the Dinner. Circulars

had been sent to all Present Pupils and Old Boys, and the Chairman was glad to report that the response had been excellent.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the office-bearers for 1939 required to be elected. He thanked the retiring Members of Council for their services, namely, Messrs. T. Irvine, R. Lamont Paul and W. Wills. He also thanked the Auditors, Messrs. J. Callum McGeachy, C.A., and Wm. M. Shanks, C.A., for auditing the Club accounts, and Mr. J. B. Maitland Cowan, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, for the work he had done during the year.

The meeting elected the following Office-bearers:—

Hon. President: H. Riley, Esq.

President: Robert Barr, jun., Esq.

Vice-President: T. Irvine, Esq.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:

J. B. Maitland Cowan, Esq.

Hon. Auditors:

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

Members of Council

(retiring 1941):

Messrs. J. Turner Johnston,
Robert Kirkland, and
Thomas Macfarlane.

The Chairman moved that the Secretary be granted an honorarium of £15 15s., to which the meeting unanimously agreed.

The Chairman intimated that the Annual Dance would be held on 3rd February, 1939, in the Burlington House, Glasgow.

The Secretary intimated that he had received a motion from Dr. Ian M. Scott, seconded by Mr. W. G. Leburn, "That the Annual General Meeting and Dinner be held in Perth in December, 1939." The Chairman informed the meeting that the

fixing of the place and date of the Dinner was in the discretion of the Council, and that only a recommendation could be made. Dr. Scott then agreed to alter his motion to: "It is recommended that the Annual Meeting and Dinner should be held in Perth in 1939." Mr. Robert Barr moved as a counter-motion, "That the matter be remitted to the Council, with a view to reporting at the next Annual General Meeting." This motion was seconded by Mr. R. D. Linton. This latter motion was then put to the meeting and by 17 votes to 11 it was agreed that same be put to the meeting against Dr. Scott's motion. The two motions were then put to the meeting, which resulted in Dr. Ian M. Scott's motion being adopted by 22 votes to 15. Mr. Findlay (Glasgow), enquired if the Annual General Meeting could not take place on the same date as the Rugby Match. The Chairman informed Mr. Findlay that he was afraid there were many difficulties with regard to this, but that the matter would be considered by the Council.

Mr. Ian Turner (Kilmarnock), enquired if the Club had any financial liability so far as the School was concerned since re-organisation of same. The Chairman replied in the negative.

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

Sub-Committees for 1939 elected at meeting of Council held on 17th January, 1939:—

Dance Committee:

R. D. Linton (Convener).
James Findlay.
A. Reid.

Sports Committee:

W. G. Leburn (Convener).
R. Auld.
T. Macfarlane.

Dinner Committee:

A. Barr (Convener).
W. G. Leburn.
J. T. Johnston.

Golf Committee:

A. Barr (Convener).
J. T. Johnston.
Graham S. McInroy.

Editorial Committee:

W. G. Leburn.
W. J. Steel.
Robert Kirkland.

Old Boys' News

THIS last term at School we have experienced samples of all kinds of weather that Forgandenny is capable of producing, with stress laid upon the inclement variety. Very few of our rugger matches have been played under what one might call ideal circumstances, and very many more have been postponed owing to the ground being frost-bound or unplayable on account of floods. The local oldest inhabitant declares that there has not been a spell of such weather for over fifty years and as the writer looked at him whilst he was holding forth he was really surprised that he did not say seventy-five years, for if there is one thing that the village of Forgandenny can produce it is old worthies who have forgotten their age but who remember that they were in their early 'teens

when such and such an outstanding event of the reign of Queen Victoria took place. Under conditions like this our rugby practice has suffered severely, and although we were successful in beating the Club, whose members were generous in their praise of the School's display, yet, we have not been able to reproduce the sparkling three-quarter play that for many years characterised Strath. sides. On the other hand indoor amenities have been greatly improved, and wet halves no longer have their terrors for house-masters and boys alike. There are three boxing rings, several fives courts, a badminton court, often fully occupied, and even the practice of weird musical instruments which in some way are incorporated into our band, seem to give pleasurable occupation to

certain enthusiasts. At the end of this last term we held our first boxing tournament and the School as a whole was roused to a healthy pitch of enthusiasm and each competitor from the oldest to the youngest had his supporters. The professional touch was in evidence in many directions, and it would have provided many Old Strathallians with a good laugh if they had seen twelve-year-olds acting as seconds and carrying out their duties with the towel to their principals. The contests were marked more with vigour than skill, but at the same time there prevailed throughout a real spirit of sportsmanship of which one could really be proud. Perhaps it would not be out of place to record one little incident which typifies that spirit which to a large extent pervades the School as a whole. There had been a very exciting and even contest between two twelve-year-olds, both of whom received something in the nature of a battering. The winner was duly declared by a narrow margin and was presented with a box of chocolates as his prize. Five minutes later he was found in a corner of the room with his opponent sharing equally the contents. Long may this spirit prevail!

The School is now busy preparing, to some extent, for the contests on Commemoration Day and there are certain members who are very anxious to have weight for weight boxing included in the programme. Another example of the enthusiasm of youth and perhaps not altogether a wise one. They have already appointed their fives captain and one facetious individual suggests that one outstanding athlete amongst the Old Strathallians should be presented with a ticket for a cruise between dates most carefully chosen. Perhaps there is some wisdom in this? One thing seems to be quite certain, and that is that the Old Boys will have to fight hard to retain the Cup. Well, forewarned is forearmed!

We have received a very interesting letter from Mr. G. Douglas Muir who is out in Malacca at the Tranquerah English School, where in addition to his official scholastic duties he is District Scout Master of the Malay Troops, Secretary of

the Malacca Club, and Instructor to the Royal Life Saving Society. He tells us that he met Mr. Lindsay White, who is with Messrs. Wearne Brothers, motor agents, in a café in Singapore quite by accident, and also came across Mr. Mure Hart and Mr. James Newbigging, the former of whom continues to take a distinguished part in the various sports—we saw a report of a representative match where he scored 199 runs. Mr. Muir's work brings him in contact with the local youth, mostly Straits-born Chinese and Malays, and he comments upon the low standard of passing required for the Malayan Cambridge Certificate examinations, although he does say that a few really good boys are awarded Queen's Scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge. Like all others who have written to us from this part of the world he finds the climate a little trying at times, though not nearly as hot as expected, the oppressiveness being accentuated by the high humidity, with perhaps the mosquito as the most disconcerting factor.

Another letter comes from Trinidad from Mr. Sandy Gray, who expresses very deep sorrow about the tragic loss of Messrs. Sharp and Strang in the recent motor accident on the Glasgow-Edinburgh road. He tells us that he is now employed in the oil industry with the Shell-Leasehold Distributing Company, where his work is more of a practical nature, chiefly being in connection with the maintenance of equipment. "I never realised that work, when you get something that suits you, could be so pleasant," says Mr. Gray, which is an epoch-making discovery as far as any individual is concerned. We are sorry to note that "Sandy" has had to give up rugger for a while, being still troubled with his knee, and we certainly wish him a speedy recovery and plenty of rugger in the future. Another letter from Trinidad which will cause envy in the minds of many stay-at-homes tells of Mr. Jock Wilson setting out on a wild fowl shooting expedition at the early hour of 2.30 a.m. (which is perhaps not so nice), and of his return with a good bag of snipe, duck and other water fowl. We also learn

from the same source that "Jock" had been chosen to play in the rugger match against Demerara, which unfortunately the Trinidadians lost, but nevertheless, as is usual on these occasions, they had a glorious time, being lavishly entertained to dinners, dances, etc.

We congratulate Lieut. N. Guthrie Reid who, according to the London Gazette, has received his captaincy in the 6th Battalion the H.L.I. as from the 26th October.

Mr. Tommy Farquharson of Dundee is now out East with the Victoria Jute Company Limited at Telinepara, near Calcutta. He is sure to make contact with several Strathallians who are resident in that city.

We are glad to note that Mr. E. C. Harley of Wormit, who underwent a severe ear operation, and who has been down in the Midlands of England recuperating, is to return home very shortly, we trust thoroughly restored to health and strength.

We notice that Mr. Stanley Grant of Arbroath, who has been travelling for Messrs. Pattullo Higgs, Potato Merchants, Dundee, is now representing the Caledonia Milling Company, Aberdeen, a firm which deals in brans and feeding stuffs.

We note that Mr. David Brown of Dundee, intimately connected with D. M. Brown's, is now resident in London. Another Dundee Strathallian is Mr. Neil Ogilvie, who has been married for two and a half years and is in charge of the old established business of John Ogilvie. He is residing in Dundee Road, where he has a very fine view across the Tay. There are many Strathallians who call their houses after the School, and another example is provided by Mr. Ronald B. Wallace who is residing at The Freelands, The Kingsway, Dundee. Mr. Wallace at School was a member of Freeland House and to-day is married and is a director of the old established business bearing his family name.

Dr. A. S. Martin has been appointed to the Staff of the Public Health Department of the Isle of Ely County Council, and we wish him every success in his new sphere.

Strathallian Captains Cambridge Varsity XV.



MR. JOHN G. S. FORREST has been appointed Captain of the Cambridge University Rugby XV for this year. Strathallians everywhere will unite in offering him their sincere and hearty congratulations. At School "Springy" was rugger captain, captain of cricket, and for three years in succession School champion in athletics, and he had the honour of gaining his Blue at Cambridge as a freshman very early on in his first term. It

was not long before he attracted the notice of English and Scottish selectors and he was proclaimed in one or two of the London dailies as being the greatest "find" in rugger for several years. In fact, one writer went so far as to state that one of England's centre three-quarter positions would be satisfactorily filled for several years! There was more than a tinge of regret in his statement a few days later telling his readers that J. G. S. Forrest was a Scotsman. All Strathallians who have played under the captaincy of "Springy" know full well that Cambridge have secured a leader, one who knows how to get the very best out of his men, and one who never accepts defeat until it is an accomplished fact, when he does so with such good grace that friend and "foe" alike realise that his sportsmanship on the field is only rivalled by the practice of that quality in everyday life.

Here's to "Springy" and to the success of his side!

From our Glasgow University Correspondent.

The number of Strathallians at Glasgow University has now fallen, for Messrs. A. Fleming and K. G. Mackenzie qualified in Engineering, and Messrs. W. Harrington and R. Taylor in Medicine, and there appear to be only one or two freshers. The sad deaths of Mr. Graeme P. Sharp and Mr. Jack Strang who were killed in a motor accident when returning from Edinburgh after a rugger match at Kelso cast a great gloom over the Strath. community here. Their companions, Messrs. Gordon Harrington and Robert Auld fortunately escaped with only slight injuries and are now back at their medical studies. We are sorry to notice that Mr. O. T. Brown, who has long sat on the S.R.C., has had to give up this position and one or two other official activities on account of impending examinations, although we notice that the final year dinner, a very important social function as far as university life is concerned, has Mr. Brown as its convener and Mr. W. McKenna of Ayr as its treasurer. Strathallians ever seem to find their way into official positions.

From our Cambridge University Correspondent.

The main item of information from the University this term is that Mr. J. G. S. Forrest has been elected Captain of the 'Varsity Rugger Club, an honour of which we are very proud and which we are sure will be highly appreciated at Strathallan. Two of our first year men, Mr. R. A. Peacock, who is at St. John's studying Economics and Law, and Mr. Arthur Forbes, who is at St. Catharine's reading for Agriculture, have soon adapted themselves to the Cambridge routine and conditions. Mr. Peacock was given a fresher's trial at rugger and from time to time has figured in the College XV, besides representing St. John's at water polo. We notice that Mr. Ian M. Smith is now the editor of the Cambridge Medical Society Magazine, a post which he should find congenial in view of his undoubted literary abilities and the fact that he is pursuing a course of medical studies.

BIRTH.

RITCHIE.—On 13th January, 1939, to Mr. and Mrs. George Ritchie, 8 West Park Gardens, Dundee, a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

SMITH—HERBERTSON.—In London, on 26th October, 1938, Eric, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Smith, Saint Leonard's House, Ayr, to Irene, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Herbertson, Cumberland Lodge, Ayr.

DEATHS.

SHARP.—On 20th November, 1938 (as the result of a motor accident), Graeme Pender, aged 20 years, dearly loved elder son of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Sharp, 33 Kingsborough Gardens, Glasgow.

STRANG.—On 20th November, 1938 (as the result of a motor accident), Jack, aged 21 years, dearly loved son of the late Robert Strang and of Mrs. Florence Strang, of Demerara, British Guiana.

ENGAGEMENTS.

The engagement is announced between Archibald J. Barr, younger son of the late John C. Barr and of Mrs. Isabella Holmes Barr, Hermiston, Kilmacoll, and Grizel Purdie Alexander, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Glassford Alexander, Rachan, Kilmacoll.

The engagement is announced between Wallace W. Rea, 84 Forfar Road, Dundee, and Helen Bisset, daughter of Mr. Christopher Bisset, Sheriff Clerk, Dundee.

The engagement is announced between William, only son of Provost and Mrs. James Wills, Montgomery Terrace, Ayr, and Margaret Maureen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Wilson, Montclair, Prestwick.

Strathallian Club

FINANCIAL STATEMENT—30th November, 1938.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for Year ending 30th November, 1938.																	
1937.			INCOME.			1938.			1937.			EXPENDITURE.			1938.		
£44	17	6	To Ordinary Members' Subscriptions ...	£36	7	6			£40	18	6	By Cost of Magazines for 1938 ...	£43	0	1		
17	10	1	„ Revenue from Capital Invested ...	20	4	0			8	13	3	„ General Printing (including Circulars) and Stationery ...	11	13	10		
1	2	5	„ Profit from Annual Dinner, 1937 ...	1	9	3			3	18	9	„ Postage of Magazines and Circulars ...	4	16	10		
0	13	7	„ Bank Interest ...	0	12	4			3	6	5	„ Deficit, Annual Dance ...	0	4	1		
18	9	6	„ Deficit for year ...	39	18	7			0	0	0	„ Deficit, Annual Golf Match ...	2	2	11		
									0	7	6	„ Premium, President's Chain of Office and Golf Trophy ...	0	9	0		
									15	15	0	„ Honorarium to Secretary ...	15	15	0		
									0	0	0	„ Income Tax on Untaxed Interest for 4 years ended 5th April, 1938 ...	9	14	0		
									9	13	8	„ Bank Dues, Postages, Telephones, etc.	10	15	11		
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£82	13	1				£98	11	8	£82	13	1				£98	11	8
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