

THE STRATHALLIAN

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School Notes and Notices

THE Easter term has been a busy one, particularly for the top three classes who were faced with the Scottish Leaving Certificate Examination at the close of it. Fortunately, the papers, taken all round, were scarcely so difficult as was anticipated; and we trust that the efforts of the candidates have been suitably rewarded. There was a threat of fever at mid term, but prompt isolation successfully nipped the infection in the bud, and an epidemic never materialised.

For once, the term has not been favoured with good weather, and in the middle of term rugby was impossible for several weeks owing to the water-logged state of the ground. It is an ill wind, however; and these deluges provided a thorough testing of the new rugby pitch; and the extensive drainage schemes carried out during the term would seem to have remedied the defects brought to light. Meanwhile, a second pitch has been completed to the east of the net practice ground, and this, lying in less of a hollow, should prove less difficult to drain. The turf has knit well, and several games of Soccer have already been played upon it, notably two against the Staff, who asserted their superiority.

As far as the Rugby is concerned, it has been a very disappointing term; several matches being cancelled for a variety of reasons, and all save one of those played resulting in defeat. The team failed to fulfil the promise shown in the closing games of the Christmas term, and several positional changes were made which, with

practice, improved the side considerably as an attacking force. Lowden proved an effective scrum half, and Waterston found his real form on the wing. We commiserate with F. Edmonds who, having been called out of the pack last term to fill with considerable honour the wing three position, found himself thus dropped from the First Fifteen. Fortunately, he has plenty of time yet to prove his real worth. The Second Team, also limited in the number of matches played, continued to show good form and considerable promise for future senior sides.

The same promise was held out by several Juniors during the House games. True, combined play was little in evidence, but individuals caught the eye repeatedly as being made of the stuff that makes great rugby players. We congratulate the Freeland Seven, and particularly H. Thomson for his share, upon their merited success in the Senior event; and Simpson House upon their victory in the Junior tournament.

While we are handing out bouquets, we should like to hand a particularly handsome one to V. Lowden upon his double triumph in the Fives Championships. In addition to being the first boy to achieve this feat, he revenged himself in the Senior event for his defeat by S. S. Brown in the Junior semi-final last year. D. Hood also showed considerable improvement in reaching the Final this year after being knocked out in the semi-final last year; but he strangely collapsed against Lowden. We

would also congratulate W. Gregory on giving Lowden a grand fight in the Junior final. Both these players will be watched with interest for they are both still very young, and have years of development ahead of them.

The indoor activities have been considerably affected by the pressure of examinations upon the senior members of the Dramatic and Debating Societies. The younger members, however, showed exceptional enthusiasm, and full houses witnessed the reading, in two parts, of two three act plays by the former and the Staff Debate by the latter.

One lecture was given this term, when Lt.-Colonel Haddick, who proved so popular last year, returned to deliver a lecture upon "Germany Now," in which he traced the education of four children, three boys and

a girl, from kindergarten days to adolescence. The lecture, admirably illustrated, served to show not only the machine-like spirit pervading the German education, but also how the strong nationalist spirit is fostered to ensure the preservation of the present regime. The audience was duly impressed with the spirit with which they may well be called upon to cope in the near future; but could not bring itself to believe the system promoting it was preferable to the one enjoyed in England: on the contrary, the lecture served to prove how well off the English schoolboy is compared with his neighbours.

In connection with the lectures for next year, we are pleased to record that the English Classical Players will again visit Strath. next Christmas, the play selected this time being George Bernard Shaw's "You Never Can Tell."

Misery

or

The Song of a Commoner

(with apologies to Lord Tennyson).

Knock! Knock! Knock!
At the Pres.' room after tea;
But I'm glad that my tongue won't utter
The thoughts that arise in me!

Bad cess to the Prefects proud,
That they take such as me for their prey!
Bad cess to their slippers hard,
As my tender parts they flay!

And the stately Pres. go on
With their brutal tortures still;
But O for the chance to pay them back
And put them "through the mill!"

It's Bang! Bang! Bang!
Or Detention on Saturday night—
But now and again we'll all admit
That *sometimes* the Pres. are right.

A. J. G. B.

By Their Words Shall Ye Know Them

Revised Version.

"The Strathallian" offers no prize for the successful solution: it is felt that the speakers are self evident.

"I'll say 'Get ready, go'."

"Give over, see!"

"Dash me, boys!"

"No, I can't take that" or "You'll have to be punished."

"Half an hour's detention! Better make it an hour and a half."

"Ridiculous! Valueless!"

"You Rottentot!"

"Well-er-um!"

"Right-ho!"

"Take you boots out of here!"

"No more chips!"

"Anyone any matches?"

The Debating Society

THE term started well with the Masters' debate. This year the subject selected was "That this country commits itself to the voluntary system." The House was pleased to find that the proposer, Mr. Wenham, had once more to cope with Mr. Ward; and was surprised when in his opening speech he made no reference to his opponent. Mr. Ward maintained that compulsion was no new thing to this country, as it already existed in many forms, such as education, taxes, etc.

Mr. Lewis, seconding the proposal, is to be congratulated on his aim. He drew a clever analogy between the fall of Troy and the fall of Democracy, and almost all of his shafts found their mark in Mr. Ward. Mr. Leithead, seconding Mr. Ward, applied himself more to the subject than to personalities, and spoke fully and well.

The House entered into the debate enthusiastically and relished the summings-up which were full of telling epigrams aimed at members of the opposite party, and were masterpieces of drawing red herrings across the trail. The closeness of the debate may be seen by the result, the motion being carried by 24 votes to 23. We are much indebted to the various members of the staff for an entertaining and instructive evening.

The enthusiasm of the first meeting had not abated when "That Medieval Life is superior to that of the Present Day" was debated, and it was most unfortunate that there was no time for a summing up, or indeed for all the members to have their say. W. R. Hunter and N. McLeod were the proposers, while H. and M. Thomson constituted the opposition. None of the speakers lacked points, and we cannot help feeling that the carrying of the motion by four votes was largely due to the magnificent flights of imagination of Mr. McLeod, who told the most staggering lies with an unblushing effrontery that served to carry weight with the younger members of the gathering—who do not know him so well as some of us.

The approach of the examinations struck a blow at the attendance, and it must be admitted that the next debate "That the railways' claim for a square

deal is justified" fell rather flat, though W. Pattullo and D. Glen opposing W. Lennox and J. Dunlop, could not be blamed for this, for all four made very creditable maiden speeches. Nevertheless, the small attendance made the debate rather one-sided, and the motion was carried by six votes.

Despite this, however, the Society has had a very successful year, and Mr. Norton need have no fear as to being well supported next year. W. R. HUNTER,

Hon. Secy.

The Dramatic Society

THERE were no changes in the office-bearers of the society, but with the calls of examination making themselves felt, it was obvious to the committee after the first meeting that something must be done to stimulate interest in the society's activities. It was therefore decided to have a rehearsed reading of a three-act play. "Eight Bells," by Percy Mandley, was the play selected, and many seniors, in spite of the exams., consented to participate. Mr. Norton, C. Turner, D. Hood, M. Gordon, W. Hunter, K. Jack, W. Pattullo, V. Lowden, K. Grant and D. Macnaughton, among others, made the play so successful that at its conclusion it was decided to follow it with "Brewster's Millions" which proved equally successful, despite last minute changes in the cast owing to illness.

V. Lowden and H. Lowden were also responsible for the production of one act plays, and the Society owes them a great debt for the way in which they have again and again accepted responsibilities of this kind. Their keenness and ability should carry them far.

There was one lecture during the term on "Germany Now" by Lt.-Colonel V. Haddick. Topical in subject, the lecture was enthusiastically received by the boys, who were much amused by the gentle satire upon the Nazi regime and its effect upon education. The slides and account were most illuminating and convinced the hearers that Strath. was luxurious by comparison with German schools.

A. M. GORDON,

Hon. Secy.

“Morning Prep.”

SINCE the last issue of the magazine the staff and the boys have been exceedingly busy with the Leaving Certificate Examinations. These are now held in the Gymnasium and are supervised by the local padre. There has been one very vital innovation and that is one concerning early morning school. Several of the senior boys managed to persuade Mr. Riley to do away with classes at 7.20 in the morning in exchange for a promise to redouble their efforts in class and prep., and we are all

now waiting for the results to be officially declared to know whether the scheme has been a success or not. The boys are solid in their declaration that the extra forty minutes' sleep has resulted in an improvement in the quality of work carried out, but the staff as a whole are playing Brer Rabbit and saying nothing. Rumour has it that the results this year are very good; indeed we have been told so by several of the inspectors. Therefore, we shall expect a square deal and no more early prep.

A New Method of Scoring in Sports

There is another movement taking place in School just now, and that is to change the system in awarding points for the House Championship Cup. During the last two or three years we have had an athlete of the type of J. G. S. Forrest who has practically swept the board as far as open events have been concerned, and in so doing he has been able to neutralise the effect of a rival house's victory in cricket, rugby and swimming. We have never grudged such a champion his victories nor his points, but we have felt for a long time that such an outstanding athlete's performances should not counterbalance the victories of a rival house in so many team games, and important ones at that. Up to now it has been impossible to obtain unanimity among the house captains for very obvious reasons, but this year there is such an equality of the spread of any talent that there may be in the School that all four house captains have succeeded in reaching agreement and have presented to Mr. Riley a scheme which is detailed below for his approval and if it be granted to come into operation forthwith. Boys will compete only against members of their own House in an attempt to beat “Colonel Bogey” in the shape of a standard time or distance for their particular age group. An attempt has been made to set these qualifications at a level which can easily be attained by a boy in good training.

Possibly this year we may not have hit the nail on the head in every case, so we append a list and will be pleased to receive criticism from any interested Old Boy.

	Open.	Under 16.	Under 14
100 yards	12 sec.	12 $\frac{4}{5}$ sec.	14 sec.
220 yards	26 $\frac{3}{5}$ sec.	28 sec.	30 sec.
$\frac{1}{4}$ mile	61 sec.	64 sec.	70 sec.
$\frac{1}{2}$ mile	2 min. 33 sec.	2 min. 40 sec.	---
High Jump	4 ft. 4 in.	4 ft.	3 ft. 6 in.
Long Jump	15 ft.	14 ft.	12 ft.
Cricket Ball	60 yards	55 yards	---
	Under 12.		
80 yards	14 sec.	High Jump	2 ft. 10 in.

The total of qualifications for each House will be scaled down so that the top House receives 50 points and the others in proportion. The privilege of choosing two entrants from each House for the events on Sports Day will fall upon the House captains who will have the assistance of their qualification lists. We believe that a House captain who has the ability to make the best use of his available talent will have a definite pull. The lawn and paddock should see some interesting private (?) trials in the near future! It is hoped that some special badge can be awarded to boys who qualify in all their events, but in any case the scheme must result in an improvement of the general athletic level for every boy will have the chance to do his bit.

Over the Andes to Chile

I WAS lunching with an old friend about a month ago and the conversation turned to our forthcoming holidays. We have known each other for many years and, our friendship having stood the strain of his going to Dollar and playing against me at Strath., we usually spend our holidays together.

This year we wanted to go further afield than the beaches of Uruguay and I suggested Chile. Why not? It was true a terrible earthquake had demolished several towns in the south of Chile a month before and killed thirty thousand people but that was past history. No sooner suggested than adopted and at 11.30 a.m. a fortnight later we boarded the international train in Buenos Aires and our long trek commenced.

For the rest of that day and throughout the night the long train hammered away at a steady forty miles an hour across the pampas, that immense sea of grass that stretches seven hundred miles to the Andes and comprises some of the finest agricultural and pastoral land in the world. Not a hill was to be seen; not even a mound relieved the monotony of the plain as we pounded over a track so level that the rails stretched to the horizon both ahead and behind us straight as a die.

At six o'clock the next morning we arrived at Mendoza, nestling at the foot of the Andes. There are no foothills to the Andes. Thirty miles from Mendoza they rise sheer from the plain like a mighty wall, dividing the Argentine from Chile.

Until lately the Transandine Railway reached Mendoza, but some years ago a warm winter melted the snow on the mountains, converting the little Mendoza River into a raging torrent that swept away some miles of track, and now the nearest station is Punta de Vacas, perched eight thousand feet up in the Andes. To fill up the gap the railway run a fleet of cars over the road through the mountains, and a hair-raising experience the drive is.

With a sheer drop of hundreds of feet on one side and a wall of rock equally high on the other, the fleet of Fords dashed

round blind corners at a high speed, while we shut our eyes and hoped for the best. After climbing to ten thousand feet we reached the Uspallata Pass by which, over a hundred years ago, the Argentine General San Martin led his gallant army of four thousand to burst upon the astonished Spaniards and chase them out of Chile and then follow them to Lima; and finally free South America from Spain.

After a five hour drive we arrived at Punta de Vacas (place of the cows) where the little Transandine train rattled in an hour late. How a goat, much less a cow, could live at Punta de Vacas beats me. There is the stone station, dwarfed by the huge barren mountains, the railway track, and that's about all. Perhaps they did see a cow once up there, but only in a cattle truck.

With the assistance of rack-rails, the labouring engine grimly panted its way further up the mountains, and as we approached thirteen thousand feet the height affected some people badly, some fainting, and all of us feeling the altitude more than we cared to admit. The worst was over, however, and after passing through the highest tunnel in the world and getting covered with coal dust and cinders in the process, we reached the frontier and started climbing down into Chile.

At eight o'clock that night we arrived at Los Andes and changed to the comfortable Chilean State Railways, and by midnight were at Viña del Mar, the aristocratic bathing resort of Chile on the Pacific Ocean. There it doesn't rain during the summer from October to May, the nights are cool, and the beaches and scenery superb.

Chile is a poor country nowadays. Her prosperity was founded on nitrate, and when the Germans invented synthetic fertiliser the country was ruined. About ten per cent of the population appear to have about ninety-eight per cent of the wealth and the rest of the population lives in the direst poverty, barefoot and in rags. This is not very noticeable at Viña del Mar,

where the wealth of Chile is concentrated for the summer, but painfully apparent elsewhere. Still, poverty is not so hard to bear in a climate such as Chile enjoys.

During the day we lazed on the beach or visited the beauty spots all round and drank hugely the very cheap and excellent Chilean wines, while the nights were spent dancing at the Casino and trying to show

the Chileans what the Argentine tango really can be, but all too soon the time came to pack up and get ready for the gruelling trip back to Buenos Aires.

Still, we're going over again next year, and in the meantime say to Vifia in the words of the song "Thanks for the memory."

G. A. D.

Brodict Bay—Evening

I SHALL never forget the first time I saw Brodict Bay in the evening from a small rowing boat. Consciousness of the beauty of the spectacle made me rest on my oars. The ruddy sky, reflected in the sea, seemed to shine with a thousand shimmering colours; while the reflection of the flitting clouds seemed to play hide and seek among the ripples of the sea's tranquil surface. The yachts, which earlier in the day had been battered to and fro in a raging sea, now lay peacefully at anchor, scarcely straining at their cables, their tall masts moving lazily and gently in the swell. Outside the bay, the mainland was hidden in a veil of mist which had not long before rolled into the bay itself, hiding all.

As my gaze travelled from the open sea to Corrie point, I could not but marvel at the beauty of the heather-clad hills, which glowed in the setting sun till they seemed truly on fire. They gradually gave way to many shades of green as they merged into a small wood clinging to their slopes. Then with considerable abruptness the panorama changed again, and there stood Brodict in all its glory, the dying sun casting long shadows in the few and narrow streets and lighting the motley coloured roofs with a splendour that seemed to transform each house into some gorgeous palace. All seemed still; the occasional swoop of a seagull on the look-out for tit-bits added to the peace; and but for the groaning and creaking of a tinker's push cart which

echoed over the bay eerily, the place might have been deserted.

From the town my gaze passed on to the beach, where I could see John, the boatman, obviously shelling mussels for the night's fishing. At the back of the beach, dark and gloomy as ever, was Glen Coe, the eeriest glen in all Arran, where a thousand demons seem to lurk in the shadows, and only a lonely sheep or two, mere white dots in the distance, give it any sign of life. Next to it, but practically hidden by it, lies Glen Rosa, so beautiful that by day it is a veritable fairland.

From the glens my gaze was carried upwards to the higher hills, and then to Goat Fell, the mightiest of them all. Silhouetted against the lighter sky, it towered like a gigantic sentinel watching over silent Brodict. Its dark mass against the lower hills gave it an appearance of majesty far greater than it can justly claim, an illusion helped by the sweeping curves with which it runs down to Markland Point. But my gaze was now held by the castle standing proudly at the foot of the Fell, among a group of magnificent trees. The last rays of the sun lit up the ivy-coloured walls, and once more it became a mighty castle of old, where knight held banquet and listened to the stirring tales of an ancient bard.

Suddenly the light goes out on the hills, the outlines begin to blur, and reluctantly I pull shorewards across the darkening and tranquil bay.

B. G.

Life in the Brazilian Grasslands

NO life bears harder on both man and beast than that of the Brazilian grasslands, for the soil is hard, dry, and little calculated to produce good crops or even grass; and the difficulties of livelihood are increased by the frequent severe droughts.

The men are small and hardy, able to stand up to long and strenuous labours, to heat and cold. Racially they are at bottom Portuguese, but the blood has become very mixed through time, and many of them are jet black, the inheritance of negro slave forbears. They cheerfully work from four in the morning to seven at night, with a three hour break in the afternoon, the hottest part of the day, for their "siesta," for what is equivalent in English currency to a few pence a day. Money out there is of little value, for their necessities are very cheap, and there is no real need for them to save for they die in service, asking no more of life than some kind of shelter, a good master and work to be done.

Sometimes a feud breaks out and knives are quickly drawn, but they will work side by side at the height of the quarrel because they recognise that they have no right to quarrel in their master's time. Poor, illiterate and ignorant they may be, but they have a respect for others and a sense of courtesy that would put many an enlightened person to shame.

They are expert horsemen, and few horses try to show their mettle when one of them is mounted, for they recognise that they have not the slightest chance of ridding themselves of a rider who is a complete master of riding. The horse, indeed, is the next most important thing in the country; for without it, man would be helpless. The riding horse is a cross breed between the native horse, small, hardy and able to endure the heat wonderfully, and the European strains which give it mettle.

On the "fazenda," the native name for the cattle ranch, the horse used is of pure

native stock because it is tamer and has less mind of its own. They are, however, marvellously intelligent and know by certain movements of their rider what is expected of them. Immediately, for instance, they see the lasso go whizzing out over their heads to land on the horns of the steer being pursued, they know to stop. Another useful trick they have acquired is to knock over a steer, or deflect its course by means of a blow from the shoulder; while a slight touch of the rein on the neck is enough to make them turn.

This brings us to consideration of why man and horse live in the grassland—the cattle. Though not a heavy or fat breed, they are yet fat enough for export in the form of chilled beef, bully beef, and other preserved meats. The majority of the stock is a cross between European breeds and the wild "sibou," examples of which are to be seen in some museums as examples of the animals of the Matto Grosso. This crossing takes the wildness out of the native stock, and serves to acclimatise that of the imported. Many of the ranchers are now trying to separate the stocks by inbreeding, for at present most of the animals are of a very mongrel strain.

Sheep farming is a much later developed industry, but is now practised on most ranches, even though it remains as yet a precarious business; for the heat seems to encourage various pests, the worm and the maggot, and causes a curious illness in which the hoofs crack and splay out. Great care is necessary at such times, and in times of drought the sheep die in thousands.

There are surprisingly few other animals in the grasslands, a species of hare being occasionally seen. At the same time bird life abounds, the ostrich being the most notable; and there are also numerous snakes, both harmless and venomous.

F. B.

Adam—Angler

IT has been my privilege to record from time to time some of the major activities of my friend and neighbour, Adam. You may remember that he is one of those individuals who, when any new ideas strike his fancy, becomes badly bitten by the 'bug' for a short while: you may remember his short-lived passion for the great, wide open spaces, first on foot and then by car. Last autumn a new craze sent him back to the open country.

It seems that while he was away at Middlecombe, a little fishing village in Devon, in late August, he went for a morning's fishing with an acquaintance at the hotel. Presumably the boat ran into a shoal of mackerel: at least, he came back to the hotel burdened with fish. On the way he and his friend had given away "dozens," yet still the whole of the hotel begged them not to go out again, for they grew tired of mackerel as a fish course.

Anyway, as usual, we noticed the symptoms of the new disease on the train, when he became absorbed in catalogues of fishing tackle makers, though as usual, he said nothing to the rest of us. It was a chance remark of mine that made him communicative. Someone chanced to mention Loch Leven, and I remarked that I had spent three or four days on it during a holiday in Scotland many years before.

Adam seemed surprised that I was a fisherman and viewed me with considerable admiration for the rest of the journey. As we travelled back alone that night he reopened the subject: it seemed a fisherman on the waters of Leven was a man of fame in his world. He bombarded me with questions; what success I had had, what was the biggest trout, and the biggest fish I had landed, what flies I used and so on. I may be pardoned—at least fishermen will

understand—for narrating at great length the fight I had once had with a ten pound salmon in the Tay below Dunkeld. Adam so hung upon my words I hadn't the heart to tell him that in the end the salmon got away. Fishermen, as I say, will understand.

I think the story must have been impressive, for by the end of the week Adam asked me if I could get away the next week-end into Wales for a little fishing in the Dee. As my wife was going to an old ailing aunt for the week-end, I had few compunctions about accepting the invitation; and by dinner time we had settled down at a little inn close to the river bank; and the necessary preliminaries over, and without even waiting for the inn to close, Adam insisted on going down to try his luck.

He appeared outside the inn, "ready for the fray"; waders, basket, net, rod—a most expensive looking outfit—even the true fisherman's hat, already profusely decorated with casts and gaudy coloured flies. At least he looked "the complete angler."

At the river, his bearing became somewhat more diffident, and I could not help remarking that he curbed his enthusiasm enough to watch me build up my rod and tie on a cast before he began: this he did out of deference for my Loch Leven experiences, I believe, and at least he accepted my choice of flies, a Butcher, a Blue and Silver, and a Greenwell, even while he urged the merits of half a dozen others as being recognised killers. I forbore to mention that most of those he mentioned were early May flies.

I have, however, remarked that Adam's sole angling experience was mackerel fishing. I did not think of it myself at the

time, but waded in just beside a fine run and cast just above a good rise which was still showing. At the second cast the fish rose to me, but perhaps through lack of practice, which made me strike too soon, perhaps through the fish's coming short, I missed him. Before I could cast again there was a yell from Adam thirty yards further down the river. I looked down at him. He was tearing frantically at his face. I hurried out of the river and down to him. How he had got in such a mess I cannot really imagine: but there is no doubt that he had contrived to wrap his cast twice round his head. While he yelled blue murder, I disentangled him, carefully removing the Butcher from his left ear, and the Greenwell from the back of his neck.

Eventually the cast was unravelled and remembering his inexperience, I made the overhanging trees an excuse for showing him how to cast. He said little, but there was an almost dog-like look of gratitude upon his face; and I stood watching, approving as far as I safely could, his prowess: it was rather like applauding an elephant trying to imitate a fairy; but I felt that the practice would do him no harm, and after a while, moved up stream again.

At my fifth cast over the pool below the run a fine trout rose to my Butcher and in a split second he was fairly hooked, and away like lightning for the other side of the pool. At first I let him have all the line he could take, but realising the dangers of boulders in the rocky further bank, I quickly began to brake. Just short of a jagged looking rock I held him, though for a moment I thought he would break me. As soon as he felt the strain he was up a foot or more in the air, a fine, silvery, brightly spotted creature that betokened a good pound and a half. He tried all he knew, but eventually I netted him proudly.

I may, I hope, be forgiven for narrating this episode at length: after all, I am a fisherman, and the trout weighed nearer

two and a half pounds than one and a half when we came to weigh him at the inn. But really I am not in this story: it is Adam's; and during the next hour or so sport went so quiet that I found time to watch him at work. He was whipping the water well, even if he was making heavy going of it. Once I walked down to ask him how he was going on and found him perspiring freely: I also came to the conclusion that he had cracked off his flies, and examination proved I was right. When I pointed out to him the foolishness of trying to fly fish without flies, he was somewhat annoyed and hastily came ashore to replace them.

I went some distance down stream and worked upstream, with little luck. Rises were few, and my hand had not yet regained its former skill: eventually I decided that for a beginner Adam would have had enough for a first outing and I returned to suggest giving up for the night. He was still working hard at the neck of a long pool. As I approached I saw a nice rise at the bottom of the pool, and I walked down some thirty or forty yards and went in, striving to cover the spot. At last I succeeded; my first half dozen casts were vain, and I was just contemplating a change of fly when a swirl showed the rise and I struck nicely, to feel a solid fish well hooked. As it broke water, I realised I was into something big, a salmon of considerable weight, but I had no time for more for it went upstream like a flash. The reel screamed, and I yelled at Adam; for the fish was heading straight for him. Perhaps he failed to hear me over the noise of the water; perhaps he did not realise what was the matter; in any case in less time than it takes to write he uttered a yell, staggered, arms waving wildly, and took a header, threw away his rod to save himself and finally emerged right way up, sitting up to his chest in the water. At the same moment my line went slack: the fish was away. Pausing only to recover Adam's rod that came floating down to me, I hurried ashore and up to rescue Adam, who was by this time spluttering to his feet, looking very much like a drowned rat. It might have been a

serious business had Adam been wading in deep water: as it was he was soaked to the skin, and I hurried him back to the hotel, where he changed into his pyjamas and went to bed with a stiff hot whisky. I did not throw the blame for my lost fish upon him; he looked so sorry for himself; but when I suggested fishing next morning he complained of a headache, and urged me to go alone. I did not stay long, for obviously the fish were playing dead; and when thunder began to roll around the hills, I packed up. I found Adam seated in his bedroom reading the Sunday paper: when I asked him to come down into the bar parlour for a drink he reluctantly declined. "I've just come up," he said. "It's full of natives, each trying to outdo the other as far as catches of salmon in this stretch of the river is concerned. Salmon!! I don't believe there is even a tiddler in the place." Somehow I hadn't the heart to recall the previous evening; he may not have believed me anyhow. Fishermen are so seldom believed where "the one that got away" is concerned.

By The Fireside

The flame leaps higher in the hearth,
 An icy wind is blowing,
 The paly horses ride the firth,
 The surging, angered water's flowing
 Towards the winter sea.

"'Tis dark out there," the landsman cried.
 "Indeed I'd rather be ashore;
 And when I think of those who died,
 All those who drowned, came home no
 more,
 From off the winter sea,

"I thank God for my nut brown ale,
 And for my snug fireside;
 Yet lift a pray'r for those who sail
 And for the souls of those who bide
 Beneath the winter sea."

R. F.

Pardonable Parodies

(Being some incidents from life in Strath, as some of the great Poets might have described them.
 To such as suffer, we apologise.)

MORNING CLASSES.

The clanging bell proclaims the new-born day.

The sleeping Schoolboys slowly mount the stair,

And to the classroom plod their weary way,
 Leaving the empty bedrooms cold and bare.

THOUGHTS IN THE INNER SANCTUM.

Thwack! Thwack! Thwack!
 On my cold, bare hands, O cane;
 But, O, that my tongue could utter
 The thoughts that arise in my pain.

AN F.P. DAY.

Smoking, smoking everywhere,
 And all our nostrils sniff.
 Smoking, smoking everywhere,
 And never a fag to whiff.

SATURDAY MORNING.

I must across to the Labs. again, to the call
 of a bad Maths. test,
 And all I ask is some good luck, to put
 my soul at rest;
 And a clean sheet, and a full pen, and a
 hand unshaking;
 And a faint smile on the V.P.'s face,
 showing a good mood breaking.

C. M. T.

This Earth

This earth of ours with all its charms—
 The brave knight and his men-at-arms,
 The sailing ship with sails so white,
 The hornéd moon in cloudless night,
 The sun that shines through day's long
 hours—
 Bring beauty to this life of ours.

The village in the glen below,
 The cottage in the mountain snow,
 An island in a lake of blue,
 The ploughman at his furrow true,
 The grandeur of a castle's towers,
 Bring beauty to this life of ours.

A. B.

The Homecoming—A Ballade

The birds they chirp, the kine they low,
The sky is blue, the morn is fair,
The water ripples in the brook
As Guy rides on to Montenair.

Fresh blows the grass on distant rise,
Dark are the forests of Homoy;
Thus Menelaus rode the plain
And frowning viewed the walls of Troy.

Slowly the sun breaks in the East;
To West lies Aiol's bloody lair,
Where honour and virtue count for naught
—But the eyes of Guy are on Montenair.

Then as he rides past narrow streets
Or wends through crowded thoroughfare,
Men look askance at his stern mien,
This lordling come to Montenair.

They whispered softly to each other
And looked to the castle on the crest;
All knew my Lady entertained,
The craven still was in the nest.

As Guy rode o'er the Castle's moat
He heedless passed the warder's stare;
No man denied his right to pass
In his high castle of Montenair.

He mounted to the banquet hall
Where sat the lady tall and fair;
"Evelyn, come to the marriage bed
You kept for me at Montenair."

The coward by her side went pale,
The goblet he held was seen to fall;
Guy cast his foe a scornful glance
As he moved with his lady from the hall.

The Knight and lady left him dumb
And mounted up the turret stair;
Thus did my Lord come home at last
To claim his bride at Montenair.

He set her down on the bridal bed
And clasped his left hand in her hair;
Then plunged his dagger in her breast,
Avenged the honour of Montenair.

Then with a sigh he doffed his cloak,
Knelt near the bed for a time in prayer;
Turned his dagger upon himself
And died by her side in Montenair.

N. McL.

On Scouts in Camp

Lo and behold a good and upright youth,
Whose eyes are steady and with honour
bright,
Whose happy world revolves on "poles of
truth,"
Resolved to serve his king and what is
right!

And here they dwell far from the home's
embrace,
And honour serve and wrong abhor,
Who live their lives for honour of their
race,
Who serve for worldly peace instead of
war.

But this in youth is no mere passing phase;
Far into manhood has this trust repaired
Until the veteran echoes by the blaze
Of ruddy camp fire "Be Prepared!"

A. E. B.

Thermopylae, Thermopylae,
Now Spartan's women weep,
Now lie the proud three thousand
On Oeta's darkened steep;
Struck by the Persians' bloody hand,
Eternal watch they keep.

Thermopylae, Thermopylae,
Saw Phoebus glorious rise,
And joyful speed towards the West,
Resplendent in the skies,
But ere the Sun-god gained his rest
The Spartan lifeless lies.

Thermopylae, Thermopylae,
The Spartans round their fires
Looked forward to the morrow,
And now, while Grecian lyres
Have echoed Grecian sorrow
They rest as did their sires.

Thermopylae, Thermopylae,
Let none lament for thee,
Now only will thy glory,
Which set the Hellenes free
Be Greece's proudest story,
While all men honour thee.

Sports Notes

RUGBY

THE summary of results shows that the season has been far from successful. Only one school game was won, the other victories being against scratch sides. With practically a new team, an excellent record could hardly be expected, but the defence has not been up to the standard of past seasons, and there have been a few heavy defeats. Towards the end of the season, however, the team began to settle down and show some ideas of constructive play. There was, indeed, such a noticeable improvement in the standard of play, in the last matches particularly, that it seemed almost a pity to think that the team would not have an opportunity of showing its capabilities next year.

The chief problem of team building was to choose the best formation for the backs. The experiments of the first term proved successful with the exception of the stand-off half position. It was soon obvious that Waterston was unsuited to the position, and, since Thomson and Binnie were developing as centres, he was moved to the right wing, where he played extremely well. Macnaughton, therefore, had to play at stand-off half, and Lowden was converted into a scrum half in his place. The halves combined well, and Macnaughton's play did much to improve the three-quarter line.

Apart from injuries, the pack has not undergone much change, since it consisted clearly of the best eight forwards available. After a disappointing and indifferent start to both terms, they have played well and shown increasing energy and understanding. They have been well led by Paton, ably supported by Hood and Turner.

The team, which finally became representative, was: C. Don; V. Chapelle, H. Thomson, M. Binnie, F. Waterston; D. Macnaughton, V. Lowden; J. T. Paton, D. Hood, C. Turner, J. Molison, N. McLeod, K. Grant and M. Thomson.

F. Edmonds, in the forwards and on the wing; Mortimer, on the wing; J. Fulton, in

the forwards; G. Wilson at scrum half and D. Fulton at full back also played in some games.

Summary of Results.

Easter Term: P. 6, W. 1, L. 5, D. 0; pts. for, 20; against, 93.

Season 1938-39: P. 17, W. 5, L. 11, D. 1; pts. for, 45; against, 182.

Team Criticism

D. Macnaughton. His best position is scrum half, where he can play very well; his chief asset being a long, fast and accurate pass. Playing at stand-off half at the end of the season, he provided the necessary link between the forwards and the three-quarters. His handling is very good, and he knows how to open up the game at the right time, while his kicking is useful; but he lacks the pace required to be a real success in the position. He was a keen and energetic captain. 1st XV Cap awarded 1937-8-9.

J. T. Paton led the forwards well and set a good example to the rest by his tireless efforts. He can adapt himself to any position in the scrum, but played chiefly in the middle of the back row. He has played consistently well throughout the season. 1st XV Cap awarded 1938-9.

D. R. Hood developed into a robust forward, combining energy and intelligent play. He was the outstanding forward in all phases of the game. Packing in the second row, he uses his weight to good advantage, and his height in the line-out was also useful. He has some speed and was always up with the loose play. He thoroughly deserves his cap awarded 1938-9.

C. M. Turner played wing forward and was next best to Hood. He does not shirk pushing in the set scrums but is inclined to stand around in loose ones. He is not very fast off the mark, but does useful work in defence close to the scrum. He has been prominent in loose rushes, and his backing up has been good. 1st XV Cap awarded 1938-9.

K. Jack is a good all-round forward and, in spite of his small size, does a great deal of hard work. His dribbling is good, and he was often to the fore in forward rushes. He has scored a few "snap" tries in good style. His hooking is moderate, but has shown an improvement recently. 1st XV Cap awarded 1938-9.

F. Waterston has played well as a wing three-quarter, but elsewhere has been a failure due to his inability to combine with others in midfield. His type of play suits the wing position best, his assets being speed and nippiness. He just lacks weight to enable him to burst through a tackle near the line. 1st XV Cap awarded 1938-9.

H. Thomson has not been quite so successful as was expected in the centre. He is a strong runner but relies too much on bustling methods. Against a weak defence he is good, but shows few ideas against a strong tackler. Later in the season he showed better combination with his wing and began to realise the value of making openings for him. He will probably develop into a good centre, but at present his type of play is better suited to the wing. His defence is sound. 1st XV Cap awarded 1938-9.

M. Binnie was disappointing at first, both as a centre and stand-off. He was slow in all his movements, but later he put more energy into his play. He handles the ball well and has an eye for an opening. He combined well with his wing. His defence was liable to be shaky.

V. Chapelle has improved greatly this season. He is not such a clever player as Waterston but he is a strong runner and can avoid a tackle. His own tackling is good, and his defence in general sound.

C. Don is a moderately good full back. His positioning and fielding are good, but his kicking lacks length and accuracy. He does not inspire confidence because he shows a tendency to make stupid mistakes. When given an opportunity he knows how to come up into an attacking movement.

J. D. Molison, playing wing forward, has excelled in defensive covering work, and a feature of his play has been his whole-hearted tackling. One of the best forwards.

N. McLeod, packing in the front row, has not had the same chance as others to be prominent, but he has been an energetic worker in the thick of the fray.

K. Grant formed with Hood a solid second row of the pack. He is rather slow but pushes hard and has been a useful forward. His line-out work is good.

M. Thomson, a front row forward, has done his duty by packing well, pushing hard and generally working strenuously.

V. S. Lowden was brought into the team as a scrum half. He learnt the essentials of a scrum half's game and showed promise. He combined well with Macnaughton and sent out an accurate pass. He should now try to develop a longer pass, to keep on his feet if possible when passing, and to vary his play by breaking away on his own. His defence is good.

Strathallan v. Glasgow Academy, to have been played in Glasgow on Jan. 14th, was cancelled.

Strathallan v. Aberdeen G.S., played at Aberdeen on Jan. 21st.

It was unfortunate that for the opening game of the term several changes were necessitated. Waterston, from the stand-off half position, and Binnie from the centre were absent. Don was moved to Waterston's position and Mortimer played in the centre, D. Fulton taking Don's position at full back. The home side dominated the game, and only on two occasions did we threaten to score. In the first half Chapelle missed a good chance by knocking on, and in the second half there was a period when we struggled in vain in the Aberdeen "25."

The Grammar School's superiority was due in the first place to our poor scrummaging, hooking and heeling. As a result, the home backs had numerous opportunities to use their greater speed, and our three-quarters became leg-weary in their constant efforts to defend. The Aberdeen full back also was able to come up into the three-quarter line and repeatedly found huge gaps in our defence. He scored two

tries himself, and paved the way for others. Mortimer was the worst offender, his tackling being poor; and Fulton was too slow to be of any value. To keep the score down, Hood was brought out of the pack and acquitted himself better than most of the other backs.

Aberdeen scored seventeen points in the first half as a result of two goals, a dropped goal and a try; and after the interval they added three unconverted tries.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Aberdeen G.S., 26 pts.

Strathallan v. Dollar Academy, to have been played at Forgandenny on Jan. 28th, was cancelled.

Strathallan v. Stewart's College, played in Edinburgh on Feb. 4th.

Waterston and Binnie returned for this game, and with the forwards improving, our backs received a greater share of the ball but never looked dangerous. In contrast, the Stewart backs were business-like and attacked by means of quick accurate passing out to the wings or bursts through the centre. The speed of their movements was the deciding factor, and the left wing three-quarter was much too fast for Edmonds. In fact, all four tries were scored out on the left, and on several other occasions Stewart's were nearly in; and all credit must go to Edmonds who, though beaten in the end, never gave up trying to keep his man quiet.

In the first half Stewart's did most of the attacking and scored two tries and a dropped goal. In the second half Strath. had more of the game territorially but were unable to score. The home side added six points with two unconverted tries.

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

Strathallan v. R. Gordon's College, played in Aberdeen on Feb. 11th.

For this game V. Lowden was introduced at scrum half, Macnaughton moving to the stand-off position. The home captain, probably the most outstanding of this season's schoolboy stars, had also moved

to stand-off half from the wing. Macnaughton came through the ordeal with great credit. The home victory can be attributed to the skill in heeling from the set scrums and the prodigious kicking of the backs. Strath.'s failings in these telling factors were only too apparent.

For the first ten minutes hard work in the loose by Turner, Paton, Molison and Grant kept play round the Gordon's "25," but the backs could make no headway. The home side then took command for the rest of the half and were well worth their six points lead at the interval. Had the score remained at 6-0, justice would have been done, but Gordon's further bag of ten points was entirely due to glaring errors in defence when it looked certain that the ball would be safely cleared. Don, at full back, had a bad day—not altogether surprising seeing that he developed throat trouble after the game. The backs, however, showed far more spirit in this half, for first Binnie and later Waterston had good runs stopped just short of the line. Finally, a nice reverse pass by Macnaughton put Thomson clean through to the full back. The centre had the mortification of seeing his kick ahead break away badly, and the chance was missed. Lowden fully justified his inclusion in the senior side.

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

Strathallan v. Perthshire, played at Forgandenny on Feb. 18th.

Strath. were not beaten in this game as easily as the final score suggests, for it was only in the last ten minutes that the 'Shire gained the ascendancy. But for perfect kicking by Mr. Alty from penalties, the School might have been leading at half time by a single try. This was the result of a very long determined run by Binnie who scored near the flag, too far out for Thomson to convert.

The forwards were heavily overplayed by a much weightier eight, who, however, were guilty of numerous scrum infringements. P. Morris, Scottish trialist forward, filled the stand-off half position and was the outstanding player. He repeatedly

dummied the Strath. backs, even when standing still. In the second half three tries to the 'Shire sealed the issue, but the School at least had the satisfaction of being able to prevent their Sports Master from crossing the line. Mr. Alty made several determined runs, but Macnaughton, Turner and Paton "attended" to him with scant ceremony. D. Fulton took the place of Don at full back. His catching and kicking were excellent, though his tackling was sometimes at fault.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Perthshire, 19 pts.

Strathallan v. Scottish Wayfarers, played at Forgardenny on Feb. 22nd.

In the early stages of the game the School backs played well, showing good understanding and combination; but later the ground conditions became dreadful and the quality of the play deteriorated. In the first fifteen minutes Chapelle, Waterston and Hood would, with a little luck, have scored and given us a comfortable lead. The play developed into a forward struggle, with the backs adopting the correct policy of kicking. Jack had to retire at half time with an injured shoulder and this was an unfortunate handicap to the School pack who were outweighed from the start. However, they increased their efforts, with Hood, Turner and McLeod outstanding.

The only criticism to be levelled at the backs is that they might have made more use of kicking ahead in the second half when passing movements usually proved more profitable to their opponents because of dropped passes. Chapelle and Waterston ran strongly on the wings, and the centres, Binnie and Thomson, played well. The halves had the hardest task, facing robust forward play, but they held on gamely. Lowden sent out good service and Macnaughton took his passes well and defended soundly against a heavier opponent.

The Wayfarers scored once in each half, the second try being converted.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Wayfarers, 8 pts.

Strathallan v. Morrison's Academy, to have been played on Feb. 25th at Forgardenny, was cancelled.

Strathallan v. Hillhead H.S., to have been played on March 18th at Forgardenny, was cancelled owing to the international match.

Strathallan v. R. Peacock's XV, played at Forgardenny on March 25th.

What looked a strong side—at least on paper—visited us on the last Saturday of the term. The Cambridge F.P.'s were represented by the brothers Smith, V. Mackay, Houston, in addition to last year's captain, but it was perhaps well for Strath. that these two stalwarts, Forrest and Johnston, were compelled through injuries to grace the touch line. Loudly vocal in their efforts, they supported both sides with amazing impartiality.

The first half told the usual story—the backs being quite unable to produce any finishing power, and the only score was a penalty goal by the visitors. In the second half, however, we saw the Strath. team playing as it had never played before this season: it was a revelation. Jack came out of his shell and hooked the ball regularly and, profiting by the good service, the backs showed a crispness in passing and thrust that we always knew was latent in them. First Thomson galloped clean through to convert his own try; then Macnaughton broke away to send in Jack for an unconverted try, closely followed by another, this time converted, after a strong burst by Waterston. Our opponents hit back by a try by Mackay, but this was offset by a good dropped goal by Macnaughton at a second attempt. Thus the last match produced the first comfortable victory of the season.

Result: Strathallan, 17 pts.; R. Peacock's XV, 8 pts.

T. A.

The Second Fifteen

The Second Team has scarcely been so successful in the second half of the season as in the first; but on the whole they played good rugby and maintained promising form despite the numerous changes

occasioned in the side. In their opening game against Aberdeen G.S., several changes were made, Wilson and D. Fulton being absentees, and Scroggie moving to the full back position. D. Houston came in in Scroggie's place on the wing. The visitors were much faster behind the scrum than the home side, and their use of the kick ahead frequently had Scroggie beaten. The School defence was sound, however, otherwise, but poor training among the forwards told its tale before the close, and Strath. had to acknowledge defeat by sixteen points to nil. A fortnight later they defeated Gordon's College for the second time in the season by fourteen points to three. Sandeman, playing on the wing in place of Houston who had moved into the centre, opened the score shortly after the start; and Scroggie and Gregory added tries within the half hour. Later Philp scored from a penalty. In the second half Gordon's provided more opposition but were held by the School pack who did a good day's work. Lowden was the star at scrum half. The remaining matches against Perthshire 2nd and Morgan Academy 1st, both away from home, were both lost. In Perth, Strath. never settled down to play as a team, and the standard of rugby was very low on both sides. The forwards were most to blame in failing to hold the Perth pack. The game at Dundee was played in deplorable weather. In the first half the home side secured a try in the corner which was well converted; and later their wing put over a very fine dropped goal from outside the "25." In the second half Morgan's maintained a steady pressure, but Strath. put up a fine defence, in which D. Fulton was outstanding, and there was no further score.

M. G.

Second XV Caps were awarded to M. Binnie, V. Chapelle, C. Don, J. Molison, K. Grant, M. Thomson, V. Lowden, F. Edmonds, J. Fulton, G. Wilson, D. Fulton, M. Gordon and W. Gregory.

House Matches

The Senior Seven-a-Side contests never rose to great heights this year for there was little combined play in any of the games. Freeland deserved their success, but they owed it mainly to H. Thomson,

who proved himself the potential match-winner we all suspected him to be. In the first round he ran through the Simpson side from the half way line for Macnaughton to convert, and in the second half went in at the corner; while Macnaughton added a third from a five yard scrum.

In the Final Freeland met Ruthven, who had earned the right to meet them by beating Nicol by a penalty goal scored by Scroggie, for foot up, in a game which, considering the personalities on both sides must go down as the poorest game witnessed for many years; for neither side seemed to have any plan of campaign. The final opened with strong pressure by Ruthven, but first Macnaughton and then Thomson got back in time to secure the touch. Then the latter received the ball in his own "25" and beat the defence by his speed to score under the posts, a try which Macnaughton converted. In the second half Thomson scored a goal for a scrum infringement on the "25," and was only just short with another kick a few minutes later. Indeed, in the closing stages there was but one side in it.

The Junior House games resulted in a triumph for Simpson, though in the final against Ruthven they found themselves up against such a strong defence that it seemed as if neither side would ever score. Ruthven had put out Nicol in the earlier round by an unconverted try by Glen from an opening made by Dodd who was the most prominent player on the field. Ruthven had superiority in the scrum where weight inevitably told. For the losers, Petrie and Brodie played well. Simpson, with their good pack, had been territorially all over Freeland, but a try by Taylor in the first half from a scrum five, converted by O. Milne, was the only score. Don, Bird, Milne, Calder and Frame caught the eye repeatedly with good play. The final was drab by comparison: Dodd raised Ruthven's hopes in the opening minute with a good run, but a drop out brought relief, and Simpson gradually asserted themselves but failed to find a gap despite long periods of pressure on the Ruthven line, until late in the second half when Sharp went over from a line-out during one such spell.

M. N.

FIVES

This has been a most successful term, for great enthusiasm has been shown for the game, especially among the juniors. During the term a certain amount of doubles practice has been carried out in preparation for the annual match with the Old Boys next term, but the main activity has centred on the individual championships.

There were twenty competitors in each event. In the Senior the semi-finals provided the best games. D. Hood beat K. Grant 15-8, while V. Lowden won his way into the final after a well contested battle with S. S. Brown. The final, however, proved a disappointing affair, for Lowden proved the complete master of Hood. This was a particularly meritorious performance in that Lowden is still a junior, and after an easy progress had also won that title after a very hard game with W. Gregory. This is the first time this feat has been accomplished, and we congratulate him upon a thoroughly deserved success. As he is likely to have two further years at school yet he should develop into the finest player the School has yet produced.

S. S. B.

SWIMMING

Swimming activities have been to a degree limited by threats of infection. Nevertheless, preliminary work in team building for the polo game has been done, for only Macnaughton and Turner remain of last season's successful side. The Relay team will be unchanged unless there prove any surprise newcomers in the Summer term. A test for School badges was held on 10th February, and D. Stevens, T. Philp and S. Lyle were successful.

D. M.

CRICKET PROSPECTS

Last year's Second Eleven had a successful season, and many players who will find places in this season's senior side showed much promise. That leads us to believe that the standard of cricket will be higher. Macnaughton, the new captain, is a sound batsman who will make runs if he develops more shots. He is a good fielder and will set his team a fine example in this direction. He has only K. Jack and G. Wilson

of last year's recognised 1st XI, but Waterston, head of the 2nd team batting averages, Lowden and Smith have had 1st XI experience as batsmen. Jack is strong on the leg side but inclined to play across the ball on the off; Waterston is a forcing player with good strokes on the off side. We hope to see him making many runs, but he will have to show more patience. Lowden and Smith have faults in style, but these can be remedied with practice, and both should develop into good batsmen. Philp should gain his place as wicket-keeper, and he, too, is a useful batsman. Don, Hood, S. Fraser and D. Fulton will also make claims for recognition.

There seems to be a lack of match-winning bowlers, and the attack does not appear very strong as a whole. Wilson bowls a steady length, and it is usually difficult to make runs freely against him as he proved repeatedly last season, but there seems no one outstanding to keep the other end quiet or to get wickets. Sandeman and Stark are bowlers of medium pace and average ability, while they have additional claims as capable batsmen. There are three slow left hand bowlers in J. Fulton, Blair and Robinson, the first named with the greater possibilities.

Five of these players will inevitably form the nucleus for a Second Team, other candidates including Gordon, J. Scott, Auld, Alexander, Scroggie, Pattullo, Taylor, Maccrimmon, Aitkenhead.

T. A.

Below is a list of 1st XI Fixtures:—

Saturday, 6th May—Gordon's College at Forgandenny.

Saturday, 13th May—Kilmacolm C.C. at Forgandenny.

Saturday, 20th May—Heriot's School at Forgandenny.

Monday, 22nd May—Stewart's College at Forgandenny.

Saturday, 27th May—Melville College at Forgandenny.

Wednesday, 31st May—Dollar Academy at Dollar.

Saturday, 3rd June—Aberdeen G.S. at Forgandenny.

Saturday, 10th June—Glasgow Academy at Forgandenny.

Tuesday, 13th June—Hillhead H.S. at Glasgow.

Saturday, 17th June—Allan Glen's School at Glasgow.

Wednesday, 21st June—Dunfermline H.S. at Dunfermline.

Thursday, 22nd June—Mr. Rowan's XI at Forgandenny.

Saturday, 24th June—Old Strathallians at Forgandenny.

Scout Notes

ON Saturday, March 25th, the trophies and prizes were presented to the winning patrols as follows:—

Trophy and Medals for Best Patrol—Otters (P.L. R. C. Miller).

Cup for Best Corner Work—Otters (P.L. R. C. Miller).

Shield for Most Improved Patrol—Owls (P.L. H. Grant).

Best Individual Exhibit—Second B.H. George (Swift Patrol).

The judging was done in the morning by Mr. Pritchard, to whom we extend our grateful thanks. The competition this term between the leading patrols has been exceedingly keen as the following point list shows: Otters, 85 pts.; Owls, 83 pts.; Rattlesnakes, 74 pts.

The presentations were made in the afternoon by Mr. Mackie and Mr. Miller, Scoutmasters from Perth. Mr. Mackie gave a short address to the Troop, and our appreciation for the interest displayed by our visitors was shown by the three very hearty cheers which concluded the meeting.

The visitors then examined Scouts for the Tracker, Pathfinder, Signaller and Ambulance Badges and for First Class Signalling and Ambulance—93% of the candidates submitted were duly passed. P.L. D. J. Whitton and Second W. D. Lennox are to be singled out for special mention on gaining their Signalling Badges—the first, to my knowledge, ever won in

the troop. We are proud to record that at the present moment we have a higher number of King's Scouts than ever before—H. Grant, W. Hunter, R. C. Miller, J. B. Milne and D. J. Whitton. These are to be heartily congratulated on their achievements.

All arrangements have now been completed for the visit to Denmark at the beginning of the Summer Vacation. I wish, however, to draw particular attention to the fact that we embark at Hull on Wednesday, July 12th (and not, as noted in my circular letter, on Saturday, July 15th): the date of the return journey remains the same, viz., embark at Copenhagen on Monday, July 31st, arrive Hull, Wednesday, August 2nd. The party is to consist of the S.M., the A.S.M. (Mr. W. Lewis), three patrol leaders (L. Gray, W. Hunter and R. C. Miller) and fourteen scouts. Those intending to make the trip have shown a commendable zeal this term in doing all within their powers to improve their qualifications—all of them have passed their second-class tests, and most of them require only their "Journey" to give them the 1st Class badge. Further details of the trip will be sent to the parents of those Scouts involved early next term. I should like to remind Scouts that I must receive written permission from their parents (or guardians) before I can include them in the party: some replies to my circular letter are still outstanding.

L. P. W.

Strathallian Club

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President - ROBERT BARR, jun., Esq.
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WM. M. SHANKS, C.A.

IT is with very great regret that we have to record the departure of Vickerstaff from our ground staff. As he explained to the boys who made him a presentation of a cheque, he feels now that he is getting older and not able for active participation in cricket practices. He has been lucky enough to obtain in Perth a groundsman's job at Doo'cot Park where he has a very nice house, and what weighed with him very considerably was the fact that during the winter season an inside and congenial job had been found for him. There is no doubt that "Vicky" brought up the School pitch to the highest standard in Scotland and such professionals as Jack Hobbs have openly declared it to be among the very finest in the country. Every boy who has passed through Strathallan during the last few years knows full well not only the attention which Vickerstaff lavished upon his pitch, but the very black looks that he used to cast upon all and sundry who dared to walk over it. Lady visitors with their high-heeled shoes who sinned in this respect called forth from him a double portion of his wrath. Over and over again "Vicky" has sighed for a team at Strathallan to match his pitch, and he all but admitted—but not quite—that the cricket side containing Messrs. Forrest, Johnston and Murray approximated very closely to his ideal. Although "Vicky" has been away for some months now he has been back to School three or four times to inspect his pitch, and we are very glad to report his approval—again not quite—of the work of the present groundsman. On the other hand, our sports masters declare that the pitch is as good as ever it was. Long live the pitch!

Old Strathallians will probably be interested to know that there is every chance of Commemoration Day in 1940 being

graced by the presence of a School O.T.C. Since very many are officers in the territorials the boys will certainly come in for a good deal of expert criticism, and so long as it is of a constructive order it will be most welcome. There are all sorts of initial difficulties to be overcome but War Office officials who have inspected the premises and the proposed alterations in order to meet their requirements, have expressed themselves as very satisfied. It is a matter for regret that certain staff changes have become necessary in order to appoint to the staff members who are qualified to command an O.T.C., but these difficulties have been surmounted and there is every hope that Strathallan's reputation will be further enhanced in the world of public schools in the British Isles. There has been a fair amount of animated discussion amongst the staff and the senior boys as to whether membership of the O.T.C. should be made compulsory or not. Opinion is pretty evenly divided and the powers that be seem to incline to the voluntary system as opposed to that of conscription. It is not proposed to do away with Scouts but they will be limited to those boys "under military age." The Scouts, under Messrs. Harcastle, McCutcheon and Wenham, have attained to a high standard of efficiency and it would be a great pity if the work of these gentlemen and of many senior boys who have acted as assistant scoutmasters should be lost. Amongst the younger boys who enjoy to the full Saturday-morning-up-at-Scouts there is great joy that their very valued privilege of a morning at the Scout Hut in the woods is going to be continued. There will, of course, be times when O.T.C. activities will probably clash with those of the Scouts, for the last War Office Inspector was not slow to point out the

great advantage to be obtained from using their particular terrain for O.T.C. exercises.

We have had several letters from time to time from O.S.'s in the Air Force, and one of the most interesting comes from Mr. Charlie Roy who was stationed not far from the Isle of Wight and latterly in the midlands of England. His training has evidently been very thorough for he has flown seven or eight different types of machines and has been engaged in work in co-operation with an anti-aircraft school. By the time these words are in print he will probably have had a course of instruction in seaplanes and possibly in amphibians.

We had a very interesting visitor at Strathallan last term in the person of Mr. Teddy Hunter, formerly of Carnoustie. It was fourteen years since he had been in Scotland and naturally he noticed very great changes at School and was loud in his praise of what had been accomplished. Mr. Hunter has spent a considerable time in France at Lyons studying the silk industry which was badly hit when Britain put on a prohibitive tax on imported silk goods. He is now with the London Passenger Transport Board.

Many a time we are made conscious of the fact that the world is a very small place indeed. When Strath. was in Bridge of Allan many will remember that we played a match against a rival school run by a Mr. Addison. This school became defunct and Mr. Addison departed for the south. To-day, one of our Old Boys mentions in a letter that his brother is at a prep. school run by a man who knew Strathallan in its earliest days, a Mr. Addison from Bridge of Allan.

We have had many requests for information of Mr. Arthur Young who at School had rather an impolite nickname, and to-day we came across a man who was able to give us a fairly full account of his adventures. As many Strathallians know, he was pianist in Jack Hylton's band and later joined forces with another pianist called Gaunt and made a very successful tour of the Continent. The story goes that he became engaged to this man's sister and on

their return to England they had the intention of purchasing a Lagonda sports car. Arthur and his fiancée went out in the car with the demonstrator who was putting it through its paces when he crashed at high speed into a tree. Unfortunately, his fiancée died as a result of extensive multiple injuries, and although Arthur was in hospital for some time badly injured, fortunately for him his hands were unharmed.

A letter comes to hand from Mr. R. J. Dunlop, formerly of Scotstoun, Glasgow, who is now out in Johannesburg acting in a capacity which might well be described as a service engineer on behalf of the Albion Motor Company of Glasgow. Mr. Dunlop served his apprenticeship with this company at Scotstoun and he would be very pleased to get in touch with any Old Strathallians there may be in the Johannesburg district, or indeed anywhere in the Transvaal. We do not have his full address at hand, but any letter addressed to him at the Albion Motor Company's offices would be correctly delivered.

We had a very interesting visit quite recently from Messrs. Jimmy Wilson and Ian McBride. Mr. Wilson, who graduated in honours at Cambridge, is now up at the Middlesex Hospital, where there are several Old Strathallians, completing the course for his medical degree. Mr. McBride, who served articles with Messrs. James Worley & Company, C.A., London, is over on this side on behalf of Messrs. Huggins & Company, Port of Spain, Trinidad, studying the marketing conditions of the citrus fruit industry. The chief product appears to be grape fruit which is marketed as fruit, and also as pulp and juice. Mr. McBride claims that the Trinidad product has a finer flavour than any other fruit of its kind on the British market, and this opinion is borne out by those of us who have sampled the consignments that have been received from time to time by Trinidadians at School.

We have had one or two amusing incidents this term, but perhaps the most interesting was one which involved a wee boy aged six. No, we don't take boys of six years of age, but this boy and his

brother make Strathallan their home during the holiday periods and attend one of the prep. schools in the Highlands. One day he was very anxious to get a penny to go down to the village shop and buy two "fizzy fountains," as he called them. He went to Mr. Riley and volunteered the information as follows: "I am not your little boy, am I?" On receiving the answer "No," he replied "But you are my uncle, aren't you?" On being asked where he obtained his information he volunteered, "Oh, everybody says so, and I know you are my uncle and uncles are always good to little boys." The situation had become interesting and there was silence for a few seconds with the little chap looking wistfully and waiting by an armchair. The next statement was rather astounding. "All the boys say you're awfully rich" piped the wee chap, looking expectantly and wondering why it brought forth no response. Finally he blurted out in a very pleading voice, "Please, sir, gimme a penny." He will probably find his future in the diplomatic corps or something of such a nature.

Very many Strathallians will remember Mr. Alfred Reid better under the name of Orkney Reid. He is farming at the moment at Braebuster, Kirkwall, Orkney, and he writes to tell us of the great surprise that he had when he walked into Nurse McGuffie in Kirkwall one day. Those of us who knew Nurse well will not be surprised to find that retirement does not agree with her and that she has felt impelled to take up her profession again. Up to quite recently she has held a post in the hospital at Kirkwall, but a few weeks ago she paid a visit to School and expressed great surprise and pleasure at the many improvements that have come into being in the short time since she left Forgardenny. She is now in a private post somewhere in the district of Dumfries, and it is more than likely that some of our Old Boys in that town and district will come across her.

Mr. Norman S. Wotherspoon, who is stationed in the Philippine Islands not far from Manila, sends us greetings and good wishes on a thin disc of mother-of-pearl. The natives of these islands evidently are

very skilful with the brush and we are assured that articles of this nature are often looked upon as real works of art. Mr. Wotherspoon was at Strathallan during the latter years at Bridge of Allan and played full back for the rugger side.

Dr. J. B. Ross of Edinburgh, who is attached to the Royal Air Force at Shaibah in Irak, sends us greetings which he desires us to pass on to his old school chums.

Mr. Norman J. Allison, who was at Strathallan both in Bridge of Allan and Forgardenny, writes us from Kuwait on the Persian Gulf where he is an oil mining engineer with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. At the end of his last leave Mr. Allison motored with his wife across Europe via Vienna, Bucharest and Istanboul. As Britishers, he tells us that they were warmly welcomed everywhere. The trip through Asia Minor was very interesting but the going was exceedingly rough and made much worse by wet weather where the roads across the Taurus Mountains, and indeed across parts of the desert, were nothing more than mere tracks. He has very interesting things to say about his experiences in Turkey and points out that the Turks are a very friendly and willing people who have a very warm corner in their hearts for those of the British race. "We were stuck for two days and two nights and had to sleep in the car, but finally we received invaluable assistance from the peasantry of this proud and friendly people. We did the journey from Bagdad to Basra in one day and arrived safely in Kuwait in the early days of November. During the whole trip, which totalled well over four thousand miles, we had no engine trouble and never a puncture." What a journey!

Mr. Walter A. Hird, who is a B.Sc., engineering honours, of London University, has returned from the Argentine and is now engaged upon naval defence work up in the Orkney Islands. Naturally we cannot say anything about the work upon which he is engaged, but from our postbag generally there is ample evidence that we are not going to be caught napping.

We hear that Mr. David M. Thomson of Ayr has been home on leave from the East

and those who have come in contact with him state that he is looking exceedingly fit. Most of our fellows who have gone out to Ceylon speak highly of the climate and the life there, and their bright and vivacious bearing when they come home bears witness to this.

Over and over again we have been receiving letters from Territorial officers telling of their training with the Bren gun and the anti-tank gun. Of this latter many Old Strathallians speak most enthusiastically. Indeed, one goes so far as to say that it is the finest gun of its type in the world and this correspondent has had experience at one of the most important small arms schools in the country. Recently Messrs. W. Wills and W. Paton of Ayr have had experience in this direction at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh. We notice that Messrs. Adam and Finlay Wilson have taken up residence at Fullarton House, Troon. Since the death of Mr. Wilson, senior, Finlay has left stockbroking and joined his brother in the timber trade.

We notice that Mr. Willy Frew of Ayr has been elected Vice-Captain of Ayr Cricket 2nd XI. Mr. Frew will be well remembered by his contemporaries as a smiter of sixes. We had a group of F.P.'s at School the other day and a discussion turned upon which was the biggest six ever hit out of the ground. Some plumped for one that landed on the School roof knocked by Mr. Dan Mackay, late of Clydesdale, but one or two others recalled a drive by Mr. Matthew Cameron which went right over the top of the trees behind the rose garden and landed on the far side of the dell. There was some doubt as to the occasion on which it occurred. Someone suggested that it was in one of the matches against George Watson's. What memories some of these days recall.

We hear that Mr. A. Bryce of Kirkcaldy, who is a partner in a firm of boilermakers, is engaged to be married; his brother, Mr. M. Bryce, is with D. Skinner Limited as a motor engineer. The captain of the Kirkcaldy Rugby Club is Mr. J. Park who used to play full back at School and who is now a works manager in one of the

factories belonging to Messrs. Barrie, Ostler & Company. A previous captain of this same rugger club was Mr. George Menzies who is now a director of Messrs. T. Menzies Ltd., Building Contractors. This firm recently has been engaged on A.R.P. concrete work. Here again we learn of protective works of a gigantic type to ensure the safety of our petrol supplies.

This term the masters have got up a tennis side which seems to be beating all comers. No doubt there are amongst the Old Boys several enthusiasts who may care to make the attempt to lower their colours. A challenge to Mr. Cole or Mr. Alty will bring a reply.

Mr. Harry Tod of Kirkcaldy, who has finished his apprenticeship with Mr. Fraser, Builder and Contractor, has received an appointment in Calcutta. There is just one snag. He is about two months within the scope of the Militia Act but the authorities are considering whether to allow him to take up the position or not.

We congratulate Mr. John A. Marr who has completed his C.A. indenture and completed his final examination at the first attempt. Mr. Neil Ogilvie, who is now sole proprietor of John Ogilvie, King William Dock, Dundee, has taken his father's place in this old established potato business. He was formerly in Canada with the Hudson Bay Company.

Mr. Harry Fraser of Kirkcaldy is now in Assam with the Dufflaghur Tea Company, Halem, Assam, and is a member of the Assam Valley Light Horse.

We congratulate Mr. Harley Hepburn, who is a chartered accountant in Kirkcaldy, on his appointment as one of the managers of the Kirkcaldy District Savings Bank. Mr. Hepburn is married and has three sons.

We congratulate our Secretary, Mr. J. B. Mainland Cowan, on having been promoted Captain in the 4/5th Bt. Royal Scots Fusiliers.

A very common enquiry of Old Boys visiting the School is made with regard to the examination results obtained by the present day pupils in the Scottish Leaving

Certificate examinations. This year the boys have excelled themselves in Higher Mathematics, Higher Science, including Chemistry, Physics, Botany and Zoology, as well as in English and History. In Higher Mathematics every candidate was successful, and in Higher Science every candidate except one. In Higher English there were three down, and in Latin one down. Both our candidates in German and in Spanish passed. French was our weakest subject this year, where the inspector remarked that we were sending up our candidates too young—in fact, our top boy in this subject is not fourteen years of age until July. Counting both Higher and Lower French, out of a total of about thirty candidates, we had sixty-eight per cent passes. This year we had a thorough inspection of our Latin Department, and His Majesty's Inspector's report on this subject was very satisfactory indeed. This year's inspection concludes the triannual inspection of the School, and the reports in each department make very pleasant reading for Strathallians. Yes, from the academic point of view the old standard of passes is being fully maintained, and this in spite of the fact that more time is devoted to leisure and outdoor pursuits of a diversity in character quite unknown to boys of earlier generations.

From our Glasgow University Correspondent.

There is nothing outstanding to report from Glasgow this term, where everything seems to be going according to schedule as far as Strathallians are concerned. Messrs. W. B. McKenna and O. T. Brown have relinquished all outside activities and responsibilities and are concentrating on the preparation for their final examination in Medicine which takes place in September. The University will lose two of its rugby players from Strathallan this season, Messrs. McKenna and R. W. McMath, the latter of whom is expected to transfer his services to Whitecraigs. The secretary of the University Fives Club is Mr. Gordon Harrington who, along with

Mr. R. Auld, is taking his third professional examination shortly. During the last few years Strathallians have not taken very much part in cricket at the 'Varsity, but this year Mr. W. Steel is the assistant secretary of the Cricket Club and is captaining the 2nd XI. We notice that Mr. Stuart Scott is taking part in the practices for the tennis team and congratulate him on getting through his Zoo and Physics, the latter with second class honours. We have only one man at the 'Varsity now taking the combined degree in Science and Medicine, and that is Mr. Donald McColl who sits his second year professional shortly. We notice that at the Technical College there are three new engineering students taking the first year engineering course, Messrs. Watty Leburn, Roy Gillanders and Nicol Brown.

From our Edinburgh University Correspondent.

There is very little in the way of news from Edinburgh, and perhaps the outstanding event on the sports side was the performance of Mr. T. E. Donaldson in the golfing world. He did much towards bringing the Inter 'Varsity Cup, which was played for at Carnoustie, to Edinburgh, and he along with another Strathallian, Mr. Bertie Walker of St. Andrews 'Varsity, figured in the semi-finals at St. Andrews in one of Scotland's premier golf tournaments. Mr. Donaldson passed the first half of his first professional in Medicine and sits the second half in June. We do not see very much nowadays of Messrs. G. Balfour, J. Dawson and J. Breckenridge; they are busy preparing for their finals in the very near future. We certainly wish them every success. Mr. Eric Nicholson, who is taking a science degree, has unfortunately been down with appendicitis. It is hoped that the setback will not affect his degree exam. in June. Second year representatives from School are Messrs. J. T. Donaldson and J. C. F. Ritchie in Medicine, along with Mr. R. R. B. Gjertsen in Dentistry.

From our Cambridge University Correspondent.

Last term several Strathallians figured in the College rugby sides, and we were very sorry indeed to note that Mr. J. G. S. Forrest revived his old injury whilst playing for St. Catharine's against Caius in the first round of the knock-out competitions. Strathallians will be glad to know that Mr. Forrest is likely to be fit and well for next season's international matches. There were two Strathallians in the side which eventually won the cup, Messrs. R. S. Johnston and R. A. Peacock. It is interesting to note that Mr. Johnston scored the whole of the points gained by his side in the final, two dropped goals. We congratulate Mr. Peacock on obtaining his College colours in his first year at the 'Varsity. We are all exceedingly busy here now for the tripos examinations are coming along. In Medicine we have Mr. Vonde Mackay, and in Law, part 2, Messrs. J. A. Dow and R. S. Johnston; in Military Science, Mr. J. G. S. Forrest; in Economics, Mr. R. A. Peacock; while Messrs. I. Galbraith and H. B. Rowan are taking their Law qualifying examinations.

From our St. Andrews University Correspondent.

At St. Andrews we are all very busy just now with our degree examinations. Messrs. A. Fraser and G. Rae will be taking their final examinations in June and we wish them the best of luck. Of the fourth year students, Messrs. H. E. Walker and W. C. Smith will also have to face up to the examiners—good luck to them! Perhaps the outstanding piece of news this term is the success of Mr. H. E. Walker in winning the Golf Championship of the four Scottish Universities, the first time that the feat has ever been performed by a St. Andrews University student.

BIRTHS.

MACKAY.—At 39 Octavia Terrace, Greenock, on 18th December, 1938, to Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Mackay, a son.

WALLACE.—At The Freeland, Kingsway East, Dundee, on 4th April, 1939, to Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wallace, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

MAITLAND COWAN—CRAWFORD.—At Bellahouston Parish Church, Glasgow, on 28th March, 1939, by the Rev. Henry Coulter, B.D., assisted by the Rev. A. Drummond Duff, M.A., John Burnet Maitland Cowan, only son of the late Mr. R. Maitland Cowan, J.P., and of Mrs. Cowan, Ashdale, Whitecraigs, Renfrewshire, to Jean Alison, elder daughter of the late Mr. Archibald Crawford, J.P., of Braxholme, Dalziel Drive, Glasgow.

MELVILLE—LEWIS.—On Saturday, 8th April, 1939, at The Old Church, Chelsea, S.W.3, Andrew M. Melville, to Winifred Mary Lewis.

MELROSE—GEE.—At Ranfurly Church, Bridge of Weir, on 12th April, 1939, by the Rev. John Monteith, M.A., assisted by the Rev. Adam Wilson, B.D., David Oliver, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Melrose, The Hirsell, Bridge of Weir, to Phyllis, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Gee, Beverley, Bridge of Weir.

SMITH—MARTIN.—At St. Peter's Church, Dundee, on 1st March, 1939, by the Rev. Thomas Mackie and Rev. H. A. Inglis, George Bell, second son of Mr. and Mrs. David Smith, Dunearn, Newport, to Margaret Isobel, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Martin, Thomson Street, Dundee.

COMMEMORATION DAY

Commemoration Day this year falls on [■] Saturday, 24th June, when the Council trust there will be a good attendance of Strathallians. It is proposed to hold the usual Sports events, namely: Cricket, Tennis, Relay Race, Water Polo, Swimming, Tug o' War and Fives. Members desiring to participate in any of these events might please communicate with either the Convener of the Sports Committee, Mr. W. G. Leburn, Edenshead, Gateside, Fife, or with Mr. Robert Auld, 64 London Road, Kilmarnock, or Mr. Thomas Macfarlane, 69 Newlands Road, Glasgow, S.3, Members of the Committee.