

THE STRATHALLIAN

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School Notes and Notices

AS we review the Summer term, with its cricket, tennis, swimming, golf and outdoor activities generally, blessed with fine (for the most part), if not always warm, weather, it seems difficult to realise that as we write the war clouds gather, and that before this is read, in all probability many of its readers will be on active service with the Forces. Let us, temporarily at least, keep to the pleasant past, and hope that the unpleasant future never comes.

Certainly there are unpleasantnesses in the past term: the weather of Sports Day, for example, is best forgotten. But here at least there were compensations in the form of keen competition. We congratulate H. Thomson and F. Waterston upon their personal friendly rivalry which resulted in the lowering of three School records in the three sprints, and upon their successes as Victor Ludorum and runner-up. No less do we congratulate Waterston in leading his House, Ruthven, to victory in the Championship, wresting that honour from Nicol, who have held it for six years. The latter may complain that the absence of M. Binnie, their captain, and the injured Mortimer seriously handicapped them, but they should remember that the injury to Waterston and Shanks at least contributed to Ruthven's failure to wrest the honour from them last year. From the actual running point of view, it was a great day, the keenness of the competition for the Junior Championship between Edmonds, Gregory and Scott foreshadowing good things for the future of Strath. sport.

Indeed, on Commemoration Day, the School proved that the Present is at least

as good as the Past: indeed, when we heard someone whisper that the winning of the annual rugby match should also be taken into account, we began to think very seriously. Fine weather once more blessed this occasion of reunion, and the competition was keen throughout, one side now well ahead and then the Old Boys pulling level. There is no doubt some truth in the accusation that bad tactics lost the School the cricket match and with it the chance of winning the Cup: in a game limited to so many overs it is runs that matter, not the preservation of wickets, and the hitters of the team might well have been sent in earlier on. The game was so close a thing that a few runs would have made all the difference. As it was, everything rested on the result of the water polo game, and an inexperienced side, further handicapped by injury, failed to hold the F.P.'s, who thus shared the aggregate points and retained the Cup for yet another year.

This, indeed, brings us to a singularly depressing spot in the term's review — the cricket, and particularly the First Eleven cricket. It was the middle of June before the School side registered a victory, and though the summary of results shows that the side won one more match than the previous season's side, yet we have no record of a 1st XI finishing the season with an adverse balance of runs per wicket, in School matches at least. It is difficult to say just where the fault lay. Some blame may justly be attributed to the youth and inexperience of the side as a whole, tactics being negligible, and resoluteness lacking when things were not going well. The batsmen generally were far too easily

intimidated, as witness the Melville College game and the bowling of Leslie, and the collapse at Dollar. Bowling was considerably weaker than usual, even Wilson's analysis being 4.6 worse than last season. How much the figures might have been improved had the fielding always been of the same high standard as it reached on occasion is difficult to say; but we have no record of School sides recording scores of two hundred and more against us, and those defeats will take some avenging. The Second Eleven proved a much more effective combination, and though they too lost games towards the end of their fixture list, this was in part attributable to the fact that several of its stalwarts had won promotion into the senior side. Since several of its members are still young, prospects for the future are, on the whole, bright.

One of the features of sport generally this year has been the promise shown by the younger element. V. Lowden, still a junior, won both Fives Championships last term. R. W. Gregory threatened to do the same thing with the Tennis Championships, finally taking the Senior event. In the course of the Championships, indeed, by far the best tennis came from juniors. Lowden, Scott and Frame being notable exponents. With Lowden and Gregory forming a triumphant Fives and Tennis partnership on Commemoration Day, and Gregory and Scott making a good showing on Sports Day and with the Second Fifteen last season, the coming season promises to be one of youth. Our congratulations to Gregory and Scott as Tennis Champions, and to J. Smith and J. Dawson as Senior and Junior Swimming Champions respectively.

The term closed a few days early for about fifty boys who were going abroad during the early weeks of the vacation. Mr. Shaw again took a party to France and Belgium, the proposed inclusion of the Rhineland being abandoned at a late stage. An innovation was the holding of the Scout Camp in Denmark, where some twenty boys seem to have had a wonderful time and enjoyed most marvellous hospitality. This trip was made possible through the activities of Mr. Wenham with the co-operation of Mr. Lewis, who cannot speak

too highly of the organisation of their Danish friends. It is hoped to include some account of both these trips in this issue.

The term has seen the customary exodus of many of the seniors, and it is impossible to mention all by name to thank them for services rendered. We must content ourselves with a collective "Thank you." At the same time, we congratulate D. Hood, whose services upon the sports field, in the social activities, and by his general influence for good well merited the award to him at the end of the year of the Houston Medal.

The following promotions were made at the end of the term:

School Captain: W. Hunter.

Vice-Captain and Captain of Freeland House: J. Smith.

Captain of Rugby: V. Lowden.

Captain of Ruthven House: D. Stevens.

Captain of Simpson House: J. Morrison.

Captain of Nicol House: V. Lowden.

School Prefect: A. Fraser.

House Prefects: C. M. Thomson, F. Edmonds, T. Philp, K. Jack.

Sub Prefects: G. S. Wilson, J. W. Fulton, J. Stark, R. C. Miller, W. M. Sandeman, R. S. McColl, J. M. Scott, D. D. Robinson.

THE ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN HELD THIS YEAR IN THE STATION HOTEL, PERTH, ON THE 16th DECEMBER HAS BEEN CANCELLED OWING TO THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

Commemoration Day

ONCE more Commemoration Day was blessed with sunny, warm weather, and there was a good attendance of Old Boys to watch and compete in the events against the School. Some thirty of these were present in time for the Chapel Service at 2.15, at which the lesson was read by the President of the Club, Mr. R. Barr.

After the customary delay, while the F.P.'s searched for their nominated competitors, the field events opened with the Relay, which the School won fairly comfortably. D. Stevens and F. Edmonds just held their own against G. Leburn and T. Macfarlane, but H. Thomson, receiving about five yards start, showed a clean pair of heels to G. Sharp, and D. Hood had no difficulty in holding his own against R. Peacock. School five points up.

Then to the serious business of the day, the Cricket, and again the School hopes soared as J. Smith and K. Jack began to get on top of the bowling. When they left, the rate of scoring slowed down. Macnaughton made the mistake of not sending in his hitters, for in a game of this kind it is runs that count. Still, at tea the School had 146 on the board, and the game in the balance. The School, indeed, had further cause for rejoicing when the Tennis gave them an unexpectedly good win. School ten points up.

After tea, while the F.P. XI made a slow start against some good bowling, the School snatched another somewhat unexpected victory in the Fives. The F.P. star pair, Mackie and Peden defeated the School first pair, 15-9; and the second pair lost but by two points. It looked as if all would depend upon points. Then Gregory and Lowden successfully checked the pace of Mackie and Peden and amid brilliant play

on both sides ran out winners, 15-12. At this time Binnie and Hood were down to I. Smith and D. Fulton, and it was clear that if they lost their match the F.P.'s would win on points. The School pair staged a grand rally and won on the post, 17-15.

Back on the lawn, the F.P.'s were fighting back well. Requiring 27 to win and with but four overs to go, anything might have happened. Actually, G. Chalmers and I. Lawson forced the victory in the last over, to reduce the School's advantage to five points.

These quickly disappeared with the tug-of-war. The F.P.'s heavily outweighed the School, who only once looked like making a fight of it. Only the swimming to decide the issue of the Cup now, and the School possessing the same relay team as last year. G. Wilson, D. Macnaughton, J. Fulton and J. Smith put the School five points up again, at the expense of R. Peacock, W. Ritchie, R. Linton and D. Innes; and everything therefore depended upon the polo match. This ran an even course over the first half, with the School enjoying territorial advantage but unable to press home the advantage through poor shooting. The F.P.'s scored first through Macfarlane, a shot which Fernie should have saved easily; but before the break J. Fulton equalised. Early in the second period the latter had to retire with an eye injury, and thenceforth the Old Boys held the upper hand, scoring twice without reply, and thereby making a draw of the contest, which enabled them to retain the Cup for a further twelve months.

Outside Mr. Riley's study later, Mr. Barr once more accepted the Cup on behalf of the Club, but paid handsome tribute to the School's hard luck in failing to win it after so spirited an effort.

Sports Day

THE School Sports, held this year on Wednesday, June 14th, must go down in history as the worst, from the point of view of the weather, on record, for more than a slight drizzle fell the greater part of the time. This did not deter many parents and friends from coming up to the School to witness a keen contest; nor the individual competitors from recording extraordinarily good performances, for conditions, apart from the "Scotch mist," favoured fast times.

In this respect the running of H. Thomson was outstanding. He won the two sprints and the two jumps for twenty points, which secured him the Victor Ludorum Cup. He knocked a fifth of a second off the 100 yards School record, and three-fifths off the furlong. In both these races he was close pressed by J. F. Waterston, who knocked the same time off the record for the quarter-mile. Second also in the Long Jump, Waterston finished the day runner-up to Thomson with 14 points.

The struggle between these two was symbolic of the struggle for the House Championship. After holding the Championship for six years, Nicol were forced to surrender it this year, but only after a very valiant effort. As a result of the new system of points, the day started with Freeland in front by six from Simpson (84), Ruthven (76) and Nicol (72). By the interval Ruthven had reduced the leeway by two points; and the results of the Hurdles after the interval put them three points ahead, while Nicol crept up from bottom place. As the programme drew to a close the contest became keener. Before the Long Jumping began Freeland and Ruthven had each 114 points, Nicol 103 and Simpson 101: Freeland moved ahead as a result of the jumps, but though Ruthven won a good relay race to put them four points ahead, the fact that they were not represented in the final of the Tug-of-war gave Freeland the victory by 133 points to 127.

The Junior Championship was equally well contested. F. Edmonds with wins in the 100 yards, the furlong and the quarter-mile eventually won, closely followed by R. W. Gregory, who claimed a first in the

half-mile and seconds in the quarter-mile and the two jumps, and J. Scott.

The prizes were distributed this year by Mrs. David Smith, of Dunearn, Newport, mother of three old pupils, one of whom, Mr. George Smith, replied to Mr. Riley's speech of introduction, and made several sly references to his own experiences at Strathallan which were much appreciated by the present pupils.

The full list of prize-winners and other awards made on this occasion was:—

Open Events.

100 yards—1, H. Thomson; 2, J. F. Waterston.
220 yards—1, H. Thomson; 2, J. F. Waterston.
440 yards—1, J. F. Waterston; 2, D. Hood.
880 yards—1, D. Hood; 2, J. W. Fulton.
Hurdles—1, P. Stevens; 2, V. R. Chapelle.
High Jump—1, H. Thomson; 2, C. Don.
Long Jump—1, H. Thomson; 2, J. F. Waterston.
Throwing the Cricket Ball—1, W. Sandeman;
2, K. Grant.

Under 16 Events.

100 yards—1, F. Edmonds; 2, J. Scott.
220 yards—1, F. Edmonds; 2, J. Scott.
440 yards—1, F. Edmonds; 2, R. W. Gregory.
880 yards—1, R. W. Gregory; 2, D. Robinson.
Hurdles—1, V. Lowden; 2, D. Glen.
High Jump—1, J. Scott; 2, R. W. Gregory.
Long Jump—1, J. Dunbar; 2, R. W. Gregory.

Under 14 Events.

100 yards—1, I. Petrie; 2, A. D. Turnbull.
220 yards—1, I. Petrie; 2, R. Harrington.
High Jump—1, I. Petrie; 2, E. Duncan.
Long Jump—1, I. Petrie; 2, A. D. Turnbull.

Under 12 Events.

80 yards—1, W. Kidd; 2, I. McKay.
High Jump—1, I. McKay; 2, M. McKay.

Other Events.

Three-legged Race—1, W. Kerr and H. Lowden;
2, T. Lacey and A. J. S. Anderson.
Obstacle Race—1, T. Blair; 2, N. Rodger.
Tilting the Bucket—1, E. Reekie and R. Sharp;
2, V. Lowden and W. Kerr.
House Relay—1, Ruthven; 2, Nicol.
House Tug-of-War—1, Freeland; 2, Nicol.
House Championship—Freeland.
Sports Champion—H. Thomson; runner-up, J. F. Waterston.
Junior Sports Champion—F. Edmonds.

Other Awards.

Smith Cup—M. Gordon.
Cricket Cup—Simpson.
Football Cup—Freeland.
Senior Dux Medal—W. Gregory.
Silver Medals as runners-up—R. S. McColl and T. Philp.
Junior Dux Medal—D. Lennox.
Senior Scout Medal—J. B. Milne.
Junior Scout Medal—J. B. Clarke.
Robert Houston Medal—F. R. Hood.

Scout Camp in Denmark

IN order to give a general impression of the Scout trip, the writer has found it necessary rigidly to exclude many details which impressed him personally, and the account of our adventures may lose something in vividness in consequence.

The outward voyage provides the first vivid recollection. We set out on the S.S. "Arturus" on the afternoon of Wednesday, 12th July, and although a party of sixteen sat down to the gargantuan repast which the Finnish boat provided as dinner, only three remained to the end—the remainder were viewing the glories of the North Sea. Of peculiar interest was a great variety of passengers: there were Finns, Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, English, Welsh, some American school mistresses, and a Falkirk school master. About twelve o'clock on Thursday (the last) night, the Falkirk school master and the writer were endeavouring to teach our English A.S.M., a Dane and four Americans the intricacies of the *Eightsome Reel*; in return, the Americans instructed us how to do the *Shag*.

Next morning we had a splendid view of Kronburg Castle and the coast of Zealand before we disembarked at the Free Harbour in Copenhagen, where the S.M. of the Danish troop, *Clan Stuart*, met us and escorted us to the Youth Hostel which was to be our home until the following Thursday.

Our time thereafter was occupied in sight-seeing. We visited every place worth seeing, not excepting the Tivoli pleasure gardens, which appeared most romantic, and the Palladium, Copenhagen's largest cinema. The number of bicycles, the beauty of the women, the musical comedy uniforms of the Danish soldiers, the wonderful bathing facilities and the cleanliness of the city struck us most; while we, in our turn, attracted much attention by reason of our kilts. The papers duly recorded the news of our visit and printed photographs of some of us. We were quite impressed with our own importance.

Perhaps the most interesting visit paid during this sojourn was to Kronburg Castle at Elsinore, where the ghost of Hamlet's father walked. Somehow there is a fairy-story atmosphere about Danish castles, towering above moats and trees, and the colourful uniforms of the guard add to the illusion. We cannot refrain from recording, however, the remark of one of the younger members of the party, who thought that the ghost of Hamlet's father must have had mighty sore feet if he had had to walk as far as we had done.

On the Sunday before we left the capital we hired bicycles and made a truly impressive exit, with kilts flying, out of the city into the country, where we spent a very enjoyable day, despite the fact that "some fell by the wayside."

On Thursday we proceeded to our camp at Strandegaarde, an estate about two miles out of Taxeladeplads, a small seaside resort some fifty miles south of Copenhagen. Here we met the rest of the *Clan Stuart*, for only four of them had stayed with us at Copenhagen. The two troops were mixed and divided into five patrols, and although but six of the Danish troop spoke English, the language difficulty did not prove unsurmountable. The three Scottish patrol leaders managed to convey their meaning to the Danish members of the patrol so successfully indeed that the latter were usually missing when work was to be done. The writer was particularly pleased with his efforts, for they were rewarded by his patrol winning the *Camp Patrol Trophy*.

We were blessed with glorious sunny weather except for one day, when it rained so hard that some of the troop slept in one of the many barns, huge timbered affairs, that stood in the vicinity. We all bathed two or three times a day, since the camp was situated in a large oak and beech tree wood just above the shore. We found everyone most hospitable, and we were often invited in by complete strangers for meals; indeed, so numerous did the invitations become that, to avoid giving offence

by refusal, we divided into small parties. The whole camp was invited to a farm boarding-house one night by the guests there, and we sat in the garden drinking chocolate and eating Danish pastry, and showed our gratitude by giving a sing-song afterwards. Strange as it may seem to some people, our vocal efforts were much appreciated.

Mr. Wenham, our S.M., joined us in the middle of the camp, and after receiving a hearty welcome from everyone, settled down to enjoy himself. On the last night we had a magnificent camp sing-song, with a huge camp fire, and fairy lanterns all over the wood and round the camp, not to mention plenty of chocolate to refresh us after our efforts, and we sang and did sketches well into the night.

"The morning after the night before" we moved on to Lundby, a small country town about fourteen miles away from Strandegaarde, and here we stayed with English speaking families, regardless of the fact that many of them had no connection with the Scouts. The hospitality of the Lundby folk was amazing—we were never "in." The oddest experience the writer had was motoring round the fields of a huge farm in a farmer's 1939 Ford. The farmer said he detested horses, and went round his fields as many as ten times a day in his car. One day we visited the 500 foot

chalk cliffs on the island of Møen (the Maiden), from which we could throw stones and watch them splash five hundred feet below. To reach the cliffs we crossed the largest bridge in Europe at Vordingborg, where an English air liner crashed a fortnight later.

Some of us attended the Church on our last Sunday, for the Danish S.M. was also the minister; and at night we presented a silver cup to the Clan Stuart as a token of our esteem and appreciation. On Monday morning at seven o'clock we left Lundby and all its kindness, and what a send-off we received! If they had possessed a brass band, it would have been there.

We sailed from Copenhagen on the S.S. "Aalatur" the same afternoon, meeting once more our friend, the Falkirk school master. There was a canvas swimming pool on deck which we patronised on the Monday, but, alas! on Tuesday it was too rough, and nearly everyone on board lived a "hand-to-mouth" existence. Owing to the bad weather, we were two hours late reaching Hull, the Humber Estuary being concealed in driving rain. The delay had caused us to miss our connections; but though our spirits were by this time something the worse for wear, we had memories of a glorious holiday and unfailing kindness and hospitality to revive us when we were at length on board the home-bound train.

W. R. H.

Sea Hash

SHOULD any of you pay a visit to Whorlton-on-the-Marsh—though I pray that none of you have to endure such an affliction—you are sure to become acquainted with "The Stuffed Sheep's Head." I am emphatic about it because firstly, it is the only place that one can get a drink, always, of course, excepting the village pump; and secondly, it is the favourite haunt of the sole station official, and unless you happen to be hopping the train, one must get a ticket somehow.

I spent only one holiday there, at Whorlton I mean, not the Inn, and then because I could not afford to go anywhere

else. The first day and the second it rained; on the third, by way of a change, it was foggy, so having run out of -er-matches, I slipped on my waterproof, put my pipe in my pocket, and walked up to the S.S.H. It was a cosy little place, and I settled down by the fire, sipping my beer and smoking meditatively. I gazed with great lack of interest at the faded prints on the panelled wall, surveyed with instinctive distrust the plaster cast of an impossibly large trout, and listened in a dreamy fashion to the hum of conversation around me.

I had aroused little or no interest, and all the fishermen were talking away in their

rough dialect, discussing this or that catch and the particular cussedness of some skippers they had known. I was afraid that this evening, apart from the joys of the fire and beer, was going to be as boring as the others. I was about to go when one of the more elderly seamen raised his expansive looking nose out of a pint pot, wiped his walrus moustache with the back of his hand and announced to the world in an aggrieved air that:

"It was that 'ash that started it all!"

Evidently the others were used to this rather original way of entering the conversation. People stopped talking and drew nearer to where he was sitting.

"Started what, Alf?" they all enquired politely.

Alf waved his hand with a careless gesture, peering into his empty mug.

"Nuthin' much, just a bit of a yarn I had in mind."

"Come on, be a sport, Alf, spin it out," chorused the satellites.

He gazed round in wistful reproach, shaking his head. "Naw, naw, not with me throat all dry and 'usky."

"Another half pint help it?" I ventured. "Here, Jake, another half pint for this gentleman."

"Ah well!" conceded Alf, mollified, "I'll tell yer the yarn, and mind, it's a true one!"

There were loud expressions of belief in the verity of this statement, and he proceeded.

"I was young in those days, six and twenty or thereabouts, and ready for hard work or play with the best of 'em; not that I would boast of it howsoever! I had done a good bit of sailing by then, for sixteen was the time I first started. We was sailing up from Aden. It was the 'Johnstone' with Cap'n Jarvis, as fine a skipper as ever swore an oath. A great big hulking man he was. However, it's not him I'm goin' to tell you about. We were coming back from India, and the 'eat—like

'ell, if you will excuse the language, sir. The sea was just blue oil every day, and the glare of the sun seemed to burn the eyes out o' yer head. No one but a dago could have walked over the decks barefooted, and everybody was about eaten alive with the insects. They came with the winds that blew off the desert, together with the sand that some days would lie thick on the decks. Tempers were short and fights easily started in that sort o' weather; but the worst thing of the lot was the food. Hash, nothin' but hash every bloomin' day, made of salt beef and half mouldy potatoes. The worst of it all was we could do nothing. The Cap'n, 'e wouldn't be bothered with such matters; besides, Cookie had got round 'is soft side by making all 'is favourite dishes. If the skipper 'ad a fault it was that 'e thought too much of 'is belly. We 'eld a meetin'. Mike O'Halloran was all for layin' into him good and hard, but when 'e thinks o' the consequences, 'e 'ad another think coming to him. At last we decides to send a depootation to Cookie. Three of us went and asked very perlite for a bit of a change."

"Well," ses he, "It's easy for me to give you 'ash. I just soak it the day before, and it don't take too much cookin' in this weather."

"Yes, but we 'ave to eat it in this weather," we reminds him."

"What about makin' it worth me while?"

"Worth 'is while!—the blinkin' cheek of 'im. We just stood lookin', flabbergasted."

"How much do yer think yer while's worth? we asked."

"Ten bob," ses 'e, and slams the galley door in our faces."

"When the others heard about it, they nearly mutinied; and the language..."

"We argues about it, and we fights about it, but Cookie won't come down a tanner; so in the end we scrapes the cash together. Cookie took it without a thank you, and with a nasty sort of grin. I didn't like that grin."

"'Cookie's up to some dirty game,' I said to my mate Bill 'Arris. 'Owever, the rest seemed to be 'appy enough, and I said nothin' more. Sure enough and I was right. The next day everybody was lookin' forward to dinner, speakin' of stews and such like. Dinner was sent down by the galley boy as usual. 'E was a bit quieter than usual, not giving so much cheek. We soon knew the reason. It was hash again. Everyone picked up the nearest heaviest thing and made a rush for the galley. He was expecting us, for there 'e was, standing on top of the companion way with a big pot of boiling water."

"'What's up?' 'e asks, holdin' the pot handle tightly."

"We told 'im, not too gentle though."

"'Yer asked for a change,' he cackled, running 'is greasy fingers through 'is 'air, 'and you've got it. That was hashed pork 'stead of beef. Didn't yer like it?'"

"'Like it!' yells Mike, makin' a rush for the companion. 'I'll show yer how much ——."

"But he got no further, for Cookie slung half the potful of water over 'im. Blisters! you should have seen them. He couldn't wear anything tickly next his skin for a week. After that we all vamoozed into the foc'sle to talk about it. Then Arty 'ad a brain wave. 'E was a clever one' 'e was, and knew it too. 'E told us his plan, and we lay discussing it for half the night. Some said it wouldn't work, others said give it a chance, so we decided to sleep on it."

"The next day Arty gives the steward his instructions. The steward hated Cookie, who bossed 'im about; besides Arty 'inted at a licking, remarking on the thickness of Mike O'Halloran's belt."

"Round about dinner time Cookie always put the Cap'n's food on a tray and tells the steward to take it down to the saloon. Just when the meal was due, young Joe lounged up to the galley."

"'Ullo, 'ash face!' he yelled at Cookie, 'oo, 'avin' no looks to speak of, was very particular about 'em. 'Wha's fer dinner? Give us yer 'ead boiled as a dumplin'."

"Cookie takes no notice at first, though we 'eard 'im a-cursing under 'is breath, and lookin' real vicious. We thought the whole show was going to bust, for we 'ad to get 'im away from the galley some'ow. Then Joe, being a bright imp, though mortal impident, sees the little book in which 'e used to scrawl 'ow to make sauces and things—used to tell us he was going to publish it one day. So Joe makes a grab at the book an' slips off quick as an eel. Cookie after 'im, wavin' a ladle and swearin' in about four lingoos. Joe was round the smoke stack like a streak, down the companion way, and dodgin' in and out among the 'atches. Cookie was lumpish, but 'e 'ad a good turn of speed, like a bull with a wasp at 'is tail. In the meantime I 'ad my part to do. I slipped into the galley and looks for the Cap'n's tray. There it was, just ready to be lifted. Raisin' the tin thing coverin' it, I put a dish of hash underneath, and 'opped with the Cap'n's dinner. When I got back to my mates, the chase was finished. Cookie 'ad skidded at a corner, put 'is foot in a bucket of water and nearly fallen down a ventilator. Joe 'ad come up behind and kicked 'im on the beam ends when 'e was turned turtle."

"When 'e limped back to the galley, there was the steward lookin' very haggrieved, sayin' that a man of his size should have started takin' reducin' exercises sooner, and what was for dinner any'ow?"

"'Minced veal and bacon pie, and now git ter hell!' So 'e took up the tray and went down to the saloon."

"'Cap'n Jarvis was frettin' because 'is meal was late; sittin' at the top of the table, bangin' with 'is knife and fork."

"'Yer late,' he grumbles, 'devil of a late. What's for dinner?'"

"'E was told."

"'Fine!' he says, beamin' up, 'nothin' could be better, eh Morgan?'"

"The first mate nods, lickin' 'is lips. Steward puts down the dish and stands quiet while the grace was said. In the middle of the grace, the Cap'n lets out a great yell. Being 'ungry 'e 'ad poked 'is finger into the pie to taste it."

" 'Steward, tell the cook to come 'ere.' Cookie came, grinning, as 'e thought it was to be complimented. 'E got an eyeful."

" 'You slab sided, fish faced dish washer, what do yer call this stuff?'"

"Cookie told 'im."

"I've seen some people 'ave apoplexy and some people as near as makes no difference —Cap'n Jarvis was one of these."

" 'Veal! Veal and bacon! 'Ere you bare-faced liar, take your veal!'"

"And the Cap'n ups with dish of hash and flings it at 'im. We was pleased we was. That was the end of Cookie."

"The Cap'n had nothin' more to do with 'im, and the day we reached Port Said, Mike O'Halloran layed into 'im good and proper. 'E was taken ashore on a stretcher, us cheering 'im 'earty. I've often wondered what 'e said when 'e unpacked 'is chest. We 'ad filled all his boots and things with 'ash. That was Arty's idea too. My! 'e was a clever one 'e was."

L. C.

The Dramatic Society

THE Society is fortunate in having five of last session's officers back for the coming year, and therefore few fears are entertained for any activities that may be undertaken.

Financially, too, the Society is in a flourishing position, as the Income and Expenditure account printed below reveals.

INCOME.

By Balance, Easter, 1938—				
At Samuel French, Ltd.	£1	7	0	
Reserved by Mr. Riley	6	1	3	
At Bank	...	2	7	3
				£9 15 6
„ Subscriptions, reserved by Mr. Riley—				
Christmas Term	£5	6	0	
Easter Term	...	5	8	0
				10 14 0
„ Collection—Christmas Social	...	3	7	4
				£23 16 10

EXPENDITURE.

To Expenses of Dramatic Production—				
6 Copies "Plays of 1938" (Mr. Riley)	£2	5	0	
Cigarettes	...	0	7	6
Grease Paints, etc.	...	0	3	6
Sundries	...	0	9	11
Programmes	...	0	2	9
				£3 8 8
„ Purchase of Plays (French, Ltd.), etc.	1	11 5
„ Cheques and Postage	0	1 4
„ Balance—				
With S. French, Ltd.	£0	3	1	
Reserved by Mr. Riley	14	8	3	
At Bank	...	4	4	1
				18 15 5
				£23 16 10

Scout Notes

ON the second Saturday of the term, Major A. G. Duncan, our District Commissioner, visited us to present King's Scout Badges to J. B. Milne, H. Grant and R. C. Miller. These awards brought the total number of King's Scouts in the Troop to five. Major Duncan, in a short speech congratulating the recipients, emphasised the need at the present time of constant vigilance and preparedness in a world of suspicion and distrust.

"Field Day" was held on Saturday, 8th July. Sixty-five Scouts paraded, and after the usual preliminaries, the trek to Drum Finn began. The all-important task of satisfying "the inner man" occupied the Troop for most of the afternoon, though time was found to enliven the proceedings by a "wide game," which involved various bodies of Romans and Caledonians in assaults on the nearby Celtic (?) encampment. During the morning and early afternoon the weather was delightful, being very warm and sunny; in the late afternoon, however, the rain began to fall, so that the return journey to Strath. was decidedly wet and uncomfortable.

On the remaining Saturdays of the term attention has been principally devoted to training and preparing in cooking and woodcraft those scouts visiting Denmark in the vacation. It is a happy augury that the standard of cooking has distinctly improved, while the classes in knotting, ambulance and drill have been well attended.

These notes have been purposely abbreviated so that there may be space available for a full account of the Danish visit.

L. P. W.

Sports Notes

CRICKET.

THE First Eleven for 1939 was extremely youthful, and only a few of its members had any real experience in first team matches: in fact, Wilson was the only one who had played through the whole of the previous season, Jack being absent part of the time through illness. The form on the soft wickets in the early part of the season was not altogether unsatisfactory, but the arrival of hard wickets proved disastrous. The results were poor owing to feeble batting, and this despite good form shown by several members of the team at the nets. The bowling also was below standard, and Wilson's lapse in this respect, particularly in mid season, was unaccountable. But the dreadful fielding was enough to break any bowler's heart. The captain and the team allowed themselves to become unduly discouraged.

We persevered, however, with most of the players in the hope that the experience, painful though it might be to look back upon, would be useful and develop latent talent. To a degree this hope was realised, for in the concluding matches the team showed a complete reversal of form and finished with four victories, a draw and a narrow defeat. There was a better spirit after the victory over Hillhead; the bowling had more sting and was backed up by keen fielding; while Smith, Philp, Stark, Sandeman and Jack approached something like good form as batsmen.

The final team was:—D. Macnaughton, F. Waterston, J. Smith, G. Wilson, T. Philp, K. Jack, W. Sandeman, J. Stark, D. Scroggie, K. Grant and S. Fraser.

V. Lowden, D. Blair and C. Don also played in several matches.

Summary of Results.

School Matches - P. 9; W. 3; L. 5; D. 1.
Runs per wkt. - For 7.4; Against 17.8.
All Matches - P. 13; W. 4; L. 7; D. 2.
Runs per wkt. - For 10.0; Against 18.3.

Team Criticism.

D. Macnaughton was really too inexperienced to be successful as the captain of so young a side. He failed to fulfil the promise he showed last season as a batsman, for he has not developed any shots, and his

defence has not been anything like so sound. His bowling has been useful in breaking up partnerships, but it lacks the steadiness of a good bowler.

F. Waterston has also disappointed with the bat. He can drive well in front of the wicket, but he has been too eager to score quickly before playing himself in. He should learn to play defensively at good balls. He has been very alert in the field.

J. H. Smith is a very keen player with much cricketing ability. His batting was at first spoiled by rash strokes, but later he showed more care and concentrated on keeping his drives on the ground. His best scoring shots are drives in front of the wicket, and these are a delight to watch when played correctly. In the few games in which he kept wicket he showed promise.

G. S. Wilson bowls above medium pace, with faster balls at times. After a fairly good start, however, he became so bad that he was hardly worth a place in the team; but at the end of the season he was bowling really well in something like last season's form. He is an erratic bowler when things are not going too well. He bowls best on a rather soft wicket, when it is difficult to score freely off him. His batting consists of pure slogging, but has been none the less useful on occasion.

T. Philp is the steadiest batsman in the team, and as a result of his good defence has kept one end up on a few occasions. Most of his runs are scored on the leg side and by square cuts: at present his shots to the off in front of the wicket are limited to defensive strokes. He kept wicket for the greater part of the season, but is more of an asset to the team fielding in front of the wicket.

K. Jack is also a steady batsman, but unfortunately has few ideas of playing scoring shots. Nearly all his runs came from pulls to leg. In playing defensively he moves too far across and is forced to bring his bat across his legs and across the flight of the ball, with the result that l.b.w. often appears against his name. He is not nippy enough in the field.

W. Sandeman is a moody batsman. Once settled, he can play well, but he is liable to

make a weak stroke early in his innings much too often. He is a useful change bowler on a wicket responding to spin; normally bowling off breaks, he is now developing a leg break; he must not be afraid to pitch them up to the batsman. He is the best fielder in the team in front of the wicket.

J. Stark is a hard hitter with a good eye, but he would be more successful if he hit straight at balls pitched well up to him. He is not content to play himself in and hits across half volleys too much. A good fielder, his bowling has not proved so useful as was expected.

D. Scroggie is a bowler of medium pace and is dangerous with the new ball, swinging it away from the batsman. He bowls a good length and has troubled moderate batsmen, but when the shine is off the ball his bowling lacks sting. As a batsman he is a hitter, and he is a good fielder.

K. Grant showed promise in the second team early in the season, but apart from the game against Hillhead, has not been successful in the first team, either as a batsman or a bowler. He bowls fairly fast, but is erratic and does not concentrate sufficiently upon length. He can hit the ball hard, but cannot discriminate between the good ball and the one to hit.

S. Fraser is a stylish batsman with good shots on the off side, but his form has been below expectations. He plays rather carelessly, particularly when playing back. He is a good fielder at cover point, if a little on the slow side.

Batting Averages.

	Innings	No. times out	Runs	Total Runs	Average	Catches
J. Smith	9	0	50	130	14.4	3
F. Waterston	13	1	53*	137	11.4	1
K. Grant	6	1	14*	55	11.0	0
V. Lowden	7	4	10*	32	10.7	2
T. Philp	13	0	41	139	10.7	3
K. Jack	13	0	25	133	10.2	3
J. Stark	13	0	50	127	9.8	4
D. Scroggie	6	3	15	29	9.7	4
W. Sandeman	11	3	43*	77	9.6	6
G. Wilson	11	2	14*	78	8.7	4
S. Fraser	7	0	19	33	4.7	0
D. Macnaughton	13	0	12	50	3.9	3

*Not out.

Bowling Analysis.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wkts.	Avg. runs per wkt.
D. Macnaughton	35	3	163	10	16.3
G. Wilson	167	45	550	33	16.7
K. Grant	46	11	177	10	17.7
D. Scroggie	143	33	447	23	19.4
W. Sandeman	52.3	15	192	8	24.0

Strathallan v. R. Gordon's College, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, 6th May.

Strath. batted first on a very soft wicket. The outfield was so slow that shots, worthy of four runs, produced only singles. In the School innings the only stand was that between Philp (9) and Waterston (11) for the fourth wicket. Philp was ninth out after a very careful defensive innings. Wilson scored 10 quickly near the end, and the innings closed for 51.

The visitors found runs equally difficult to score, and three wickets were down for 24 runs. Wilson broke the third wicket partnership and then took two further wickets with the total unchanged at 48, but his effort came too late, and Gordon's were able to win by four wickets. Wilson took five wickets for 25, bowling extremely well.

Result: Strathallan, 51; R. Gordon's College, 53 for 6 wkts. Match lost.

Strathallan v. Kilmacolm, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, 13th May.

Two changes were made in the team; Smith coming in for Lowden and Blair for Fulton. The School again batted first on a wicket which, though drier than the previous week, was still soft and easy paced. Smith (20), Jack (20) and Philp (18) batted well and gave their side a good start; but there was an amazing collapse, and after being 60 for three wickets, the whole side was out for 80.

In contrast with this good start, the visitors lost four wickets for a mere twenty runs, due to some good steady bowling by Wilson and Sandeman. However, stands for the fifth, and later for the seventh wicket shattered the hopes for victory, and Kilmacolm won with two wickets in hand. Wilson was again the most successful bowler, taking three wickets for 29 runs.

Result: Strathallan, 80; Kilmacolm, 84 for 8 wkts. Match lost.

Strathallan v. Heriot's School, played at Forgardenny on Saturday, 20th May.

In this game Scroggie was included for Wilson, who was ill. The wicket was faster than on the two previous games, and Heriot's had the good fortune to bat first. Once more the School bowlers met with early successes, and three batsmen were back in the pavilion for 39 runs, but after this no further wickets fell, and the visitors declared with the score at 141.

Strath. batting opened steadily, and thanks to Jack (15) and Philp (20) the total reached 53 for three wickets. A collapse followed, which left the score at 67 for six, but then Stark's hitting and Sandeman's careful innings raised hopes of a victory. The former was out after scoring a useful 27. Sandeman went on to carry his bat for 22, and though he batted well, he missed too many chances of scoring on the leg side, and the game ended in a draw, the closure coming with the Strath. total at 110 for eight wickets.

Result: Strathallan, 110 for 8 wkts.; Heriot's School, 141 for 3 wkts. (innings declared). Match drawn.

Strathallan v. Melville College, played at Forgardenny on Saturday, 27th May.

Following the improved batting display against Heriot's, we had high hopes that a first victory might be achieved. Never have hopes been more sadly misplaced, for the game resulted in one of the worst beatings that a Strath. Cricket side has ever received.

Melville won first use of a perfect wicket. The opening batsmen were steady without being particularly aggressive. Wickets fell at 26, 43 and 65, but then came Harper and Leslie and a spate of runs. The former made a swashbuckling 100, chiefly by pulls to leg, whilst Leslie played a polished innings of 65 and was unfortunate in being run out. During the partnership of 138 chances galore went a-begging; in fact, the Strath. fielding descended to its nadir. Eventually Melville were dismissed for 263, and we soon found that we had not finished with Leslie by a long chalk! Bowling at tremendous pace and with remarkable accuracy, he completely demoralized the batsmen—so much so that the eighth wicket fell at 31, 12 of which were extras. Wilson (14 not out) and Stark (20) made a brave effort to put a better face on things, but the

innings closed miserably at 77, with Mr. Extras top scorer with 22. Playing back on a fast wicket was the chief cause of this utter collapse, though one must give credit where credit is due: Leslie's bowling was in a class by itself.

Result, Strathallan, 77; Melville College, 263. Match lost.

Strathallan v. Dollar Academy, played at Dollar on Wednesday, 31st May.

On a batsman's wicket, none of the Dollar batsmen found the School bowling difficult, and playing with ease, scored steadily until a declaration was made at 150 for 6 wickets. The Strath. fielding was deplorable, and missed catches contributed largely to the Academy's success. Sandeman was the most successful bowler with two wickets for 38 runs.

If the School bowling and fielding had been weak, the batting proved little more than pathetic. Only Philp (13) reached double figures, and he was ninth out after a patient, defensive innings. At one stage four wickets fell without a run being scored, and the innings totalled a mere 39.

Result: Strathallan, 39; Dollar Academy, 150 for 6 wkts. (innings declared). Match lost.

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

Scroggie gained his place in the team again, this time to the exclusion of Fraser. The home side batted first on a hard, fast wicket, but did not make full use of this advantage. After the low scoring in the previous two games, Jack (13), Grant (12), Waterston (13) and Macnaughton (12) may have considered themselves prolific scorers; but again the batting as a whole was disappointing, and a total of 73 was poor on a wicket which was a batsman's paradise.

Scroggie and Wilson bowled well with the new ball; the former claimed two quick wickets, and the latter seemed too good for the batsmen to get a touch. Nos. 1 and 4, however, settled down, and the required runs for victory were obtained with ease.

Result: Strathallan, 73; Aberdeen G.S., 76 for 3 wkts. Match lost.

Strathallan v. Glasgow Academy, played at Forgardenny on Saturday, 10th June.

This defeat by 266 runs must be one of the heaviest ever sustained by a Strath. team. The bowlers were ineffective, and

the visitors piled up the huge total of 303 for nine wickets. For this they were in part indebted to the shocking Strath. fielding, several catches being missed.

The story of the School's batting is even more unpleasant; wickets fell with monotonous regularity, and only Wilson (12) reached double figures. In contrast with the School fielding, the visitors snapped up every chance and made several really brilliant catches.

Result: Strathallan, 37; Glasgow Academy, 303 for 9 wks. (innings declared). Match lost.

Strathallan v. Hillhead H.S., played in Glasgow on Tuesday, 13th June.

In this game the bowlers on both sides held the upper hand. The wicket was fiery, and with the balls flying head high, most batsmen were out while trying to avoid being hit. Jack scored 12, and Scroggie delighted the spectators with two sixes in an innings of 15 towards the end. A total of 70 seemed respectable and proved to be enough for victory.

After the home opening pair had scored 21, and the first three wickets had yielded 39 runs, the last seven fell for a mere sixteen. Scroggie (5 wickets for 21), bowling unchanged, and Grant (5 for 18) were backed up by excellent fielding. It was fitting that Philp should finish off the game with a brilliant one handed catch behind the wicket off Grant.

Result: Strathallan, 70; Hillhead H.S., 55. Match won.

Strathallan v. Allan Glen's School, played in Glasgow on Saturday, 17th June.

The home side batted first. Scroggie (5 wickets for 36) and Wilson (4 for 21) bowled unchanged except for three overs by Macnaughton (1 for 8). Scroggie was the best of these and was helped by a following wind which made him dangerous. The fielding was good, and nothing was given away, there being only one boundary in the total of 66.

Strath. were left with an hour in which to score the runs. After a poor start, Philp (11) and Waterston (18) laid the foundations of victory by getting ahead of the clock to take the score to 33. Wilson (11) and Stark (13) took advantage of some slow bowling to take the score on to 57 with ten minutes to spare. A satisfactory

improvement was shown in the running between the wickets in this game.

Result: Strathallan, 72 for 7; Allan Glen's School, 66. Match won.

Strathallan v. The Old Crocks, played at Forganally on Tuesday, 20th June.

In this evening match, each side bowled thirty overs. The visitors batted first, and at the start lived up to their name. Wilson and Scroggie quickly disposed of the first six batsmen for 36, but G. W. Leburn (46, runs, not years) and Watt (9 ditto) put on fifty-five runs, while N. G. Reid contributed a not out 22 to a total of 150 for 8 wickets.

Strath. lost two wickets cheaply, but Stark (50) and Jack (25) put on 85 for the third wicket—the best partnership of the season. This put the School within sight of victory, and Waterston continued the good work with a bright 53 not out. Strath. won by four wickets, and when the close came had scored 192 for 8 wickets.

Result: Strathallan, 192 for 8 wks.; Old Crocks, 150 for 8 wks.. Match won.

Strathallan v. Dunfermline H.S., played at Dunfermline on Wednesday, 21st June.

Strath. batted first on a good wicket, but of the early batsmen, Philp was the only one to bat well. He played an innings such as we had been expecting him to play all the season, treating the good balls with respect, and scoring freely, chiefly by square cuts and pulls, off anything short. He had eight fours in a total of 41 and was sixth out with the score at 70. Fraser also batted well for 19. No one else reached double figures, and the innings closed for 92.

Dunfermline had an opening stand of 18, but then four wickets fell for the addition of a single run. The game then became most interesting; the fifth wicket produced 16 runs and the sixth 30—65 for six wickets. Wilson was now bowling extremely well, and three more wickets fell for eight additional runs. The last two batsmen proved troublesome, for they refused to take any risks, and scored only off very bad balls, which were fortunately very few. The score was mounting nevertheless, and victory seemed to be eluding the School when Wilson got the last man caught at mid-off by Philp. Wilson claimed

six wickets for 31, and Scroggie three for 33.

Result: Strathallan, 92; Dunfermline H.S., 82. Match won.

Strathallan v. H. B. Rowan's XI, played at Forgardenny on Thursday, 22nd June.

Strath. were opposed by a strong team, including international players. The visitors had first lease of the wicket, and after Scroggie had J. Connell, the Fifeshire captain, caught and bowled at 14, S. Anderson and Wass, the West of Scotland professional, scored 132 for the second wicket. After this partnership had been broken, the Strath. bowlers met with more success, and took six more wickets before the closure was applied at 210 for 8 wickets. Wilson deserves special praise since he bore the brunt of the attack and sent down few bad balls in the twenty-six overs he bowled, claiming three victims for 76. Sandeman had two for 29.

Smith and Philp began the School innings steadily, and were just settling down when Philp ran himself out foolishly after scoring 16 out of the partnership of 31. Stark and Jack were soon out, but Sandeman joined Smith and took the score to 92 before Smith was out for 31. His innings was the best of the season; he showed more patience and played the good bowling on its merits, using his off drive well to over pitched balls. Sandeman (43 not out) also played well, relying on defence and scoring chiefly behind the wicket. At the close, the score was 124 for six wickets—a creditable draw.

Result: Strathallan, 124 for 6 wks.; H. B. Rowan's XI, 210 for 8 wks. Match drawn.

Strathallan v. Old Strathallians, played at Forgardenny on Saturday, 24th June.

The School batted first, and of the early batsmen, Smith (50) and Jack (25) played well. When Smith was out the score stood at 80 for three wickets. Apart from some streaky strokes at the beginning, Smith again batted faultlessly, hitting the loose balls hard. Jack was more subdued, but scored well on the leg side. Waterston (19) and Grant (14 not out) increased the total at a becoming pace later in the innings, but at the close of the thirty overs the score had reached only 146 for six wickets. This was the highest total against the Old Boys

for three years. D. S. Thomson took three wickets for 17 and W. G. Leburn two for 27.

The F.P.'s started slowly against some steady bowling by Scroggie and Wilson. Of the 35 runs scored for the first two wickets Leburn made 27 before being smartly run out by Scroggie, whose throw hit the wickets. G. P. Sharp made 29 and left at 87. By now N. Thomson had settled down and was scoring freely; he completed his half century and was sixth out for 53 at 120. With four overs remaining, the F.P.'s still required 27 to win. G. Chalmers and D. Lawson hit fiercely and saw the game won in the penultimate over.

Result: Strathallan, 146 for 6 wks.; Old Strathallians, 155 for 7 wks. Match lost. T. A.

Second Eleven.

The Second Team made a somewhat inauspicious start to their fixtures with two drawn games; the first, against Stirling H.S. 1st XI, being a virtual defeat, for only one wicket remained when stumps were drawn with a total of 29 against the home side's 74 for 8 wickets. Scroggie bowled well to secure five of these for 28 runs. The away game against Heriot's was drawn at 74 runs apiece. The first home match, against Morgan's Academy XI, was lost, the only notable feature of the School's display being Scroggie's six wickets for 39 runs. Then followed a good away win against Dollar, credit being due to J. Fulton's bowling (seven for 8) and Don's 29, an adventurous knock when wickets were tumbling upon a poor pitch, upon which the ball did all kinds of tricks. The game at Aberdeen Grammar School was also well won, partly due to Strath.'s excellent showing in the field—Taylor made four smart catches out of six made in the match, and Nicol, in his first match, claimed five wickets for 23, and a not out innings of 54 by Lowden which, if streaky at the beginning, contained some fine strokes later. Glasgow Academy proved too strong, however, and won by six wickets; while the final match, against Morrison's, ended in a victory for the School, 74 to 56.

Nicol headed the bowling analysis with seven wickets at a cost of 5.4 runs apiece, followed by J. Fulton with an average of 5.9 for twenty wickets, and Taylor, 10.2 for

ten wickets. Lowden headed the batting averages with 20.5, followed by Don with 14.4. The side averaged 6.8 runs per wicket against their opponent's 8.7.

House Matches.

The House matches, played on a limited number of overs basis, provided some entertaining cricket. On the lawn, Simpson scored 161 for five wickets, to which Philp contributed a good innings of 66 not out. In reply, Freeland collapsed badly and could muster but 54 for eight wickets. Meanwhile, on the paddock, Ruthven scored 110, a not too formidable score considering the weakness of the Nicol attack; and thanks to some spirited batting by Jack, V. Lowden and H. Lowden, there was a time when it did not look like being enough, but the tail failed to wag and the scoring slowed down, so that at the end of play Nicol had scored only 87. In the final, Simpson sprang a surprise upon Ruthven by scoring 112, Philp again scoring well (32), and then dismissing their opponents for 86, thus winning the Cricket Cup for the second time in succession.

TENNIS.

There was the customary enthusiasm among the boys throughout the term, and the courts have been well and truly tried.

This year the School had a Tennis match with an outside team—Mr. J. Waldie's. Owing to the absence of members away with the First Cricket team, it was impossible to field a full side, and the visitors won comfortably, only J. Scott and A. Frame succeeding in taking even a set from their opponents.

The usual match against the masters resulted again in a draw, with two sets to play. The boys turned out one evening to play these deciders, but the masters concerned were unable to put in an appearance owing to unforeseen circumstances.

On Commemoration Day the School repeated last year's success by defeating the Old Boys by two matches to one. The team on this occasion was J. Scott and A. Frame, D. Hood and M. Gordon, and V. Lowden and W. Gregory. J. Smith and R. Alexander have also played in the School side during the term.

The Tennis Championships, which have occupied much of the term, provided somewhat surprising results. In the Junior event, R. Gregory beat S. Haddow, and J. Scott, J. Marshall in the semi-finals. As, however, Gregory had already reached the final of the senior event, he elected to retire from the junior competition, and the final was contested between Haddow and Scott. The standard of tennis provided in this game was particularly high and very good to watch, Scott emerging the victor by 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

In the Senior event, Scott had surprisingly fallen a victim to V. Lowden in an extremely good match. Lowden was subsequently defeated by R. Gregory, who had already eliminated A. Frame, last year's finalist. In the final he met J. Rice, who had a fairly easy passage, and in a game which never rose to great heights defeated him 6-3, 6-4 inside forty minutes.

M. G.

SWIMMING.

The swimming pond has again been very popular, especially during the heat wave. Tests for badges were made early in the term and during the heats for the championships. S. Lyle, D. Stevens, T. Philp, J. Dawson, M. Wightman, A. Frame, S. Fraser, T. Nicol, E. Goodbrand, I. Gray, W. Wilson, W. Kerr, V. Baillie and R. Fernie were successful.

The first notable event of the term was the House Relay. Over the first lap Ruthven gained a yard lead over the other three houses, but a good swim by G. Wilson put Freeland six yards ahead at the end of the second relay, with the others going neck and neck. Although Freeland went further ahead from this point, the competition for the second place became intensified. D. Fulton put Nicol into second place over the third lap, and Ruthven fell into a bad fourth position. J. Smith, however, came along at a tremendous speed to take the third place, but failed to catch McGlade, who put Nicol second, half a length behind Freeland.

On Commemoration Day the School beat the F.P.'s in the Relay, the issue, if narrow, being seldom in doubt. The School team was G. Wilson, D. Macnaughton, J. Fulton and J. Smith. The Polo match was somewhat disappointing, the Old Boys winning

by three goals to one. At half-time the score was one all, a goal by T. Macfarlane being neutralised by one from J. Fulton. Fernie was weak in goal, and with J. Fulton retiring early in the second half with an injured eye, the Old Boys had little difficulty in going ahead with goals by Macfarlane and O. Stewart. School team: Fernie; H. Thomson and K. Grant; C. Turner; G. Wilson, D. Macnaughton, J. Fulton.

The Swimming Championships produced some keen competition. There were twenty-four entrants for the Junior event, which resulted in a win for a newcomer, J. Dawson, with S. Baillie second. Dawson should develop into a really fine swimmer, for he is powerfully built for his age, and possesses an easy style. The Senior event resulted, as was anticipated, in a victory for J. Smith, but his victory was far harder earned than last year. G. Wilson, J. Fulton and K. Grant were the other finalists, and over the first hundred yards there was little in it, Smith being just ahead. When he made his spurt over the last fifty, he found Fulton difficult to shake off, and in a great finish won by a yard and a half. Undoubtedly one of the greatest races in this event for many years.

D. MacN.

FIVES.

Although the Fives courts have been utilised principally for tennis practice, doubles practice has gone on throughout the term for prospective School pairs; and the clash with the Old Boys on Commemoration Day proved how vital this practice had been. The School was represented by M. Binnie and D. Hood, V. Lowden and R. Gregory, and in a keenly contested match claimed the victory by three matches to one, though a single point separated the sides as far as final aggregate is concerned, 56 to 55. The game between Lowden and Gregory and Mackie and Peden produced some of the finest fives seen since the inauguration of the game; and since these two young players will be back for a further year at least, the future of the game in the School should be in safe hands.

GOLF.

Golf has occupied a new position at Strath, this term. Boys have been allowed

down to the old rugger pitches for practice during the week, and every Saturday a party went to play on the Island course in Perth. Much enthusiasm was shown, and a tournament was organised. In the semi-final of the event, H. Thomson beat I. Geddes by five and four, while S. Brown beat R. McColl at the 19th hole after a hard battle. Brown forced a win in the final round by sinking a long putt on the last green.

An attempt was made to organise a match against the Masters, but the project had eventually to be shelved for this term at anyrate, though it is hoped that such an encounter will become an annual fixture.

S. S. B.

RUGBY PROSPECTS.

V. Lowden, the new Rugby Captain, will have a difficult task in building a team, not altogether because material is lacking, but rather because the material available is young and for the most part lacking in first team experience. He will, however, have three of last season's pack back, in K. Jack, the hooker, J. Molison, a wing forward, and M. Thomson, a front row forward. In addition there is F. Edmonds, forward or wing three-quarter; J. Fulton, a forward, and G. Wilson, a scrum half, who have had experience with the senior side in occasional games. Wilson has also played at stand-off half, and Lowden's first concern will be to decide whether he himself will continue in the scrum half position, for Wilson, and Lowden himself, for that matter, lack the speed essential for the stand-off position. Upon the final constitution of the halves will depend much of the success of the side.

There are other difficulties: the pack as a whole will be light and on the small side; at the same time they should be a lively eight. The full back position also remains open, for both First and Second team backs have left. Buchanan has been mentioned as a possible candidate, but certainly further experiments will be made here. For three-quarters the majority of the Second XV are back, and there would seem to be keen competition likely between Scott, Houston, Gregory and Philp for the vacant positions.

Strathallian Club

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J. CALLUM McGEACHY, C.A., and
WM. M. SHANKS, C.A.

WE express our sincere regrets that the Magazine has been delayed owing to the exigencies of the war situation which have demanded a great deal of extra work on the part of those usually engaged in producing these Old Boys' Notes, and we regret exceedingly that we have had to curtail them considerably, partly owing to the lack of information, and partly owing to the fact that many of the most interesting items that we could publish would not pass the Censor. As would be naturally expected, Old Strathallians in large numbers are engaged in one or other branch of His Majesty's Forces, whilst others are engaged in occupations which they have been forbidden to leave owing to their value to the country at this particular time. The result is that we have received no news from our University correspondents other than items of information concerning the whereabouts of Old Strathallians in the Services; and other sources which generally have been prolific have more or less dried up, hence between the paucity of information which could be extracted from our letters and which would not be frowned upon by the Censor and the actual lack of news from our usual sources of information it has been exceedingly difficult to compile this column.

The School under war conditions so far is proceeding quite normally except for the fact that many of our matches have been cancelled by the opposing side either owing to the fact that the schools have not taken up or owing to the fact that the governors have not sanctioned the use of their playing fields due to their proximity to danger areas. So far we have been allowed to keep our normal staff but we are to lose our History and Geography master, who is in charge of games, in the early part of next

year. The War Office has still to decide the O.T.C. question at Strathallan and, strange to say, Lieutenant Lovelock, who was with his regiment until the early part of September, has been released to come to School to fulfil his engagements there, among which is to assist in the officering of the corps, or perhaps we should say the corps to be. There is something delightfully official in this procedure and although time and time again we have approached the authorities and have received stereotyped replies, it certainly does seem rather like an extract from Gilbert and Sullivan than from the life of a modern institution (we hope the Censor doesn't see this).

Two members of the staff are functioning as local air raid wardens and when raiders come over the East Coast they are called upon to stand by. Sometimes they are told all is clear and sometimes that there has been a mistake, and there are many other items also delightfully official which add to the worries, but sometimes contribute to the humour of the situations which the writer has to face.

Many of our readers will be familiar with the "secret passages" under the School, and most will know that there are extensive vaults in the foundations. These have been cleared and made available should any of Herr Hitler's tribe stray from their paths and find themselves at night time in our vicinity. Down the monkey puzzle walk we have excavated in the sand nine or ten trenches, each capable of holding about twenty-five people. These have been boarded up and covered with about 2 feet of earth. We have had one or two practices and we have found it possible, even when boys are most widely dispersed down at the various games fields, in School, or on the Scout hill, to get everyone under cover and in possession of his overcoat and

gas mask in four and a half minutes, and so far this seems to be the extent of the effect that the war is having upon the life at Strathallan. From the boys themselves the rationing question seems to play an important part in their minds. Will the Tuck Shop have to be closed? How much butter do we use per head per week in the School, and this latter question came from a boy of only twelve and when he received an answer he promptly divided four ounces into that amount and asked "Shall we have butter for so many days and margarine for the rest, or shall we have some butter each day and some margarine?" It is wonderful how little minds can work and how cleverly some of them can operate in matters that really interest them. Perhaps our greatest problem at the moment is to ensure a complete black-out and this has entailed the making of very nearly five hundred blinds, but this is only the beginning of the problem. We have to ensure that they are pulled down and not pulled up again before the statutory time. Only those who know boys in general, and Strathallians in particular, can realise what a problem is facing the School authorities. We have at least two inspections per night, and now that the mornings are becoming dark it looks as though we shall have to institute them in the early hours too. To the senior boys the problem of this war is a serious one for we have been informed by the Scottish Education Department that they do not intend to hold any Leaving Certificate examinations in 1940, and those boys who require a hall mark on their education are left wondering exactly how they are going to get it. Two or three alternatives have been proposed and our Headmaster is conducting negotiations both with the Scottish universities and professional bodies in order to solve this problem.

Fortunately, the requirements of most universities and public bodies in the various subjects are becoming more similar every day, and work that is being done for the Scottish Leaving Certificate examinations covers more than nine-tenths of the syllabus required for the Cambridge University School Certificate and, to a very

large extent, the work required for the University Prelim., so that no matter what decision the authorities arrive at there will only be minor adjustments to be made. Taking everything into account work should, to a very large extent, proceed along normal lines.

One minor worry has been caused by the notification from the authorities that we were only to receive a seventy-five per cent. ration of our last year's consumption of coal, but this has been offset by the fact that we had received between 150 and 200 tons of coal two days previously. Had this regulation remained in force it would have affected the operation of the swimming bath. So, on the whole, Herr Hitler has failed miserably to disorganise our usual round of activities.

We congratulate Mr. Allan Watt on being the first Scottish youth to win the A.A.A. Youths' Championship. Actually he won two titles and is now double-burrelled champion of Scotland and England. He won the 100 yards in the record time of 10 seconds and then followed up by clearing 22 feet 3 inches to win the long jump. Critics say that he is undoubtedly the fastest sprinter, senior or junior, in Scotland at this moment, and his achievement in the 100 yards is only three yards behind Eric Liddle's famous sprint at Stamford Bridge when he covered that distance in 9 7/10 seconds. Mr. Watt at School played on the wing and many a time has he shown a clean pair of heels to his opponents to score spectacular tries which will long be remembered. He was Sports Champion of the School in 1938.

The School teams this year have been very successful indeed. No match has been lost, only one being drawn and five having been won. This covers 1st, 2nd and 3rd XV's. Although we have no player of outstanding ability, yet the team work is better than it has been for many seasons. In Victor Lowden we have a captain who keeps his men well together and who knows how to inspire them to put forward their best efforts. He plays stand-off half and has a very good eye for a gap in the opposing defence. Our forwards are really the star part of the team, one and all being

what would generally be called "hefty brutes." Our hooker, who almost invariably gets the ball back, has occupied this position for three seasons and rarely fails to give a very good account of himself. The leader of the forwards, Jimmy Molison, is a winger who gives the opposing scrum half a very rough time on the rare occasions when he does get the ball. As a whole the pack is composed of grafters, every one shoving with his weight and always being well up in the loose. It is many years since we had a pack its superior, perhaps only once in the history of the School, the pack which was led by Willie Anderson and George Ritchie who played for Scotland against England at Twickenham. Our two new grounds are functioning excellently and the drainage system laid down last year enables matches to be played when the surrounding fields are sodden. At the moment we have under construction a third match pitch which we hope to complete in time for next season. Any one of these pitches is quite worthy of first class rugby and for the first time for several years it looks as though the three School sides are going to be able to give exhibitions worthy of their pitches, and one might add worthy of some of our best teams in days gone by.

We understand that Dr. D. A. S. Martin, who is a dental officer with one of the field ambulances, and to be on the safe side as regards the censor we will say "somewhere in England," has become engaged to Miss Annette McGill of Bo'ness. We offer to them our heartiest congratulations.

Mr. Jock Wilson of Port of Spain, Trinidad, is on his way home to join up and he is expected to call at School before doing so. He is anxious to get into a battalion with some of his former chums and anyone who cares to send an invitation addressed to the School may be sure that it will be handed to him on his arrival.

We congratulate Dr. George Balfour and Dr. Oswald Brown on their recent successes in their final examination in medicine at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively.

Most of the Old Boy visitors to School nowadays are in uniform and it has been

very pleasing to note that most of them have already attained to two or three stripes on their arms, but no case has yet been brought to our notice of an Old Strathallian working his way through the ranks to a commission, although naturally the majority of the members of the old Territorials hold commissions in H.M. Army.

Mr. Gordon Mortimer of Montrose who left School last term has secured an appointment on board the S.S. "Madura," a passenger ship trading between the United Kingdom and East Africa.

We hear that the outbreak of war interrupted Mr. J. G. S. Forrest's holiday in Africa where he was on a big game shooting expedition. The only home news that his party could get was through two policemen with a morse telegraph. Mr. Forrest has now arrived in this country and hopes shortly to be granted a commission in the R.A.F., under the auspices of which he spent a considerable period of his military training during his undergraduate days at Cambridge.

While in town recently, we encountered Mr. Jones, who will be remembered by many Old Strathallians for his expert coaching in the rugby field. He is at present Games Master at Westminster City School, his one regret being that it follows the "Soccer" code. Over tea, he made many enquiries about the School and Old Strathallians and requested that we should publish his address, Bracken Cottage, The Riding, Woking, Surrey, for he will be delighted to renew acquaintance with Old Boys who happen to be in the vicinity.

The engagement is announced between James McCall Findlay, youngest son of the late Mr. T. S. Findlay and of Mrs. Findlay, Inchkeith, North Mount Vernon, and Alma Steuart Anderson, elder daughter of the late Mr. Steuart Anderson and of Mrs. Anderson, 76 Balshagray Avenue, Glasgow.

We have received a very interesting letter from Mr. W. C. Roy who is tea planting in India. He gives very many interesting personal details and expresses his regret that the war should come and interfere with his prospects but, like most young men similarly situated, he realises that

there is a job to be done for the Empire and that personal ambitions must take second place. We take the liberty of printing a portion of his letter describing an address given by a member of the Madras Legislature on the problem of the Indian Congress. Here it is:—"The meeting was held under the auspices of the European Association and in his address Mr. T. E. James, who is also a member of the Viceroy's advisory committee, dealt mainly with India's position in the war. At the beginning of the war opinion in India was almost unanimous for giving Britain unconditional support and it wasn't until the Congress Working Committee met and issued their statement that any sign of trouble to come was apparent. In that statement, which they claimed represented the views of all Indians, they made their wholehearted support conditional on Britain granting at once certain constitutional reforms. They also made it clear to Congress members that they were expected to follow this lead. The Muslims and other minorities in the country also hastened to make statements, fearing that Britain might make concessions to the Congress without having extended strong guarantees on the treatment of these minorities. The most important of these statements, because it came from the largest minority group, was that of the Muslim League Committee which represents all Mohammedans in India. They asked Britain to do nothing without first consulting the Muslims and it left all Mohammedans free to decide for themselves whether or not they would support Britain. The nett result is that the Congress have said 'Yes, we will support you on certain conditions,' and the Muslim League have replied 'We will support you but do not allow the Congress (Hindus) to form a central government in which we would have a hopeless minority.' Mr. James said that the Muslims' fear of complete control falling into the hands of the Congress is so great that it has to be seen at close quarters to be believed. The Viceroy has made his reply to these groups, and while it has eased the fears of the minorities it has set the Congress into a

ferment. No one knows quite what will happen now but it seems very likely that the Congress minorities will resign in the Provinces and perhaps even launch a non-co-operation movement coupled with civil disobedience. You can imagine the chaos that would result, for in the Provinces Congress Governments have been carrying through their own policies for two years now and managing their own finances. It will be a severe strain on the administration at Delhi to have to take these over now. We are likely to have some trouble even in the Native States for during the last two years the British India Congress, contrary to their election assurances, have been interfering with the internal affairs of the States by encouraging agitation for constitutional reform. In Travancore this has led to riots at Travandrum (the capital) and other places, and on many occasions the Government have had to enforce the Criminal Law Amendment Act whereby agitators can be imprisoned for speeches, etc., which might cause disturbances. I am afraid that Mahatma Gandhi's ideal of non-violence is too lofty for most of his followers especially when the communal element is present. Meanwhile we must just await events, and the European community at least have great confidence in the Viceroy and great sympathy for him in the tremendous task which he is trying to carry out of swinging India's whole resources and support into the struggle."

MARRIAGES.

BARR—ALEXANDER.—At St. Columba Church, Kilmacolm, on Wednesday, 11th October, 1939, by the Rev. J. Y. Campbell, M.A., assistant to the Rev. W. I. H. Marr, M.A., B.Sc., Archibald John Holmes, younger son of the late John C. Barr and of Mrs. Isabella Holmes Barr, Hermiston, Kilmacolm, to Grizel Purdie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Glassford Alexander, Rachan, Kilmacolm.

TINDAL—JAMES.—At Eastwood Parish Church, Glasgow, on 10th June, 1939, by the Rev. Thomas Harper, B.D., Ph.D., S.T.M., John Pinkerton Tindal, chartered accountant, son of Dr. and Mrs. Andrew S. Tindal, 56 Newlands Road, Glasgow, to Margaret Catherine, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. James, 36 Lochlea Road, Newlands, Glasgow.