

THE STRATHALLIAN

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Editorial

IT is almost nine years since the first page of "The Strathallian" was graced with an editorial—so long a time, indeed, that it is with no little trepidation that we have ventured to use the word "graced."

However, to our mind, a magazine without an editorial is rather like a pair of trousers without "turn-ups": both are automatically labelled "utility" and are therefore, if possible, to be avoided.

Admittedly, "turn-ups" have a rather distressing habit of collecting a certain amount of dust and dirt, and on occasion a search may reveal some possibly incriminating evidence—a cigarette-end, for example, or a hairpin nestling cosily in a bit of fluff; but the same search may instead recover some mourned-for treasure—the spring from your cigarette lighter, or the shilling you dropped on the floor.

Just as the "fully-fashioned" trousers, then, have the advantage over their more practical "utility" brethren, in that they may conceal or reveal the somewhat unexpected, so does this editorial hope to serve as the magazine's "turn-ups": it wishes, in short, also to collect.

We think, in other words, that the magazine should not be merely the practical medium for recording the results of matches, or the excellence of this or that school society; there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in that philosophy. We wish to open "The Strathallian" and see the "somewhat unexpected"—articles, short stories, poems—anything of interest—and not necessarily by Strathallians at

present at the School. Where are the boys of the Old Brigade? Where are the literary stalwarts of the past? Where, for example, is the poet whose inspired vision led him, on the blank pages of his Keats, to apostrophise that writer at no inconsiderable length (and not always, we are afraid, in commendatory verse)?

We have, in fact, made a tentative start with this issue to include some of the miscellaneous contributions we desire. We appealed to the School: and when, after a time, we examined what had turned up, we found—yes, a little dust, a little fluff, which we regretfully rejected; and a little incriminating evidence, which we rather more regretfully disposed of; but if we did not discover any gleaming shillings (we were not really asking for very much to start with), we did, at least, find one or two fairly bright sixpences: and these we have contributed to "The Strathallian" fund.

The next issue of "The Strathallian" will appear in May, 1947. We hope we have not appealed in vain.

THE MIKADO.

The School is to present "The Mikado" on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10th and 11th December, 1946. The performance on Tuesday is for the boys only, and that on Wednesday, 11th December, commencing at 6 p.m., is for parents, old boys and friends of the School. Will those intending to be present at the Wednesday performance please notify the Secretary at Strathallan?

School Notes

BEREFT of the pageantry of Sports Day, the war-time Summer Terms of the last few years have lost something of their former pre-war interest. It is with marked pleasure that we record the return to the usual peace-time Sports Day this year; it was with the liveliest enthusiasm that the boys heralded the arrival of the day. Their enthusiasm was not damped, for we had ideal conditions, plenty of sunshine and a blue sky, the School grounds looking at their best with the rhododendrons in blaze, a record attendance of parents and friends, the band of The Black Watch in attendance, well contested sports—described elsewhere in the magazine—and last but not least, a week-end holiday following immediately after the close of the Sports. We hope that we shall see more days like it in years to come. The other function of the Summer Term—Old Boys' Day—was unfortunately spoilt by rain. Coming in small parties during the forenoon and early afternoon there must have been about one hundred Old Strathallians present at 2.30 p.m., the time at which the contests between themselves and the School were due to begin. About that time the weather was on its worse behaviour, and it soon became apparent that the cricket match was fated to be abandoned. Nothing daunted, however, the usual relay race and tug-of-war match duly took place, with the usual results—an easy win for the School in the former and an equally easy win for the F.P.s. in the latter. The Old Boys' Relay Team of Messrs. T. Macfarlane, G. Lyle, E. Yates and R. H. Young, are to be congratulated on turning out under such conditions. Nevertheless, over tea and cigarettes many old friendships were resumed among the visitors, so that we venture to think that the day was not such a failure after all.

During the last session there was a welcome return to the teaching staff of the masters demobilised from the Forces. Mr. George Langstaff, the Senior English master, returned in November, and we observe already an improvement in the efforts of the boys at English composition, an improvement which we hope will not be without

results in the quality (and quantity) of articles written by the boys for the magazine, of which Mr. Langstaff becomes editor. Unfortunately, he met with an accident during the Christmas holidays which necessitated his absence from School during a considerable portion of the Easter Term, but it is good to have him back again fully recovered and in his usual form. Messrs. R. H. Leithead, J. R. Burn, and F. S. Langstaff returned after the Christmas holidays, and Mr. I. Pritchard resumed duties at the commencement of the Summer Term. Because of the return of members of the permanent staff, Miss Larkin left to take up an appointment in London and Miss Headon at Richmond in Yorkshire. We should like to express our appreciation of Miss Larkin's work particularly; she has been at Strathallan for nearly four years, during which time she has had the responsibility of organising the English of the School and of teaching a considerable portion of it, both tasks being performed with considerable success. Three other teachers holding temporary appointments bade us farewell at the end of the Summer Term, two mistresses—Miss J. M. Taylor and Miss M. G. Hamilton—and the history master, Mr. A. Dewar, who goes to Dundee. We wish all five every success and happiness in their new spheres of work. We now have two new housemasters, both of whom have recently been demobilised from the army, Mr. R. P. Coutts, who holds an Honours Degree in Geography at Oxford, and Mr. J. A. S. Taylor, who has a History Honours Degree at Cambridge. Additional staff in the house is very welcome, and to both gentlemen, and to the new mathematics master, we extend our greetings. The vacancy in the mathematics department has been filled by Mr. C. Bartram, an Honoursman of London University, who, fortunately, will also be able to help in the Music department. Our chronicle of staff changes is brought to an end by our bidding farewell to Miss Flora McGlynn of Perth, who has been acting as visiting music mistress during the last two years. Thus, for the first time since 1939, we commence a new session with a full teaching staff.

We had an interesting visit from Captain H. J. Pullein-Thomson of the Public Schools Careers' Association on the last Sunday of the Easter Term. He gave the boys of the upper part of the School a useful, if somewhat pessimistic, talk on openings in the services, professions and business, and interviewed a number of boys privately. It is not the policy of the Careers' Association to suggest suitable careers for boys about to leave school. Their object is more definite, for they offer personal advice to any boy of school certificate age on the best and most up to date methods of qualification in the career he chooses, and they endeavour to make contacts where possible between a boy leaving a public school and holding a school certificate and business firms. The choice of a career, dependent upon so many points, must always be the boy's own selection conditional on his parents' approval. However, the Headmaster is always ready and anxious to give any advice he can to guide a boy on the choice of a career, and Captain Pullein-Thomson is paying an annual visit to Strathallan, the date of his next visit being the end of October, 1946. We hope that full use will be made of these facilities.

The very dry Spring and early Summer have, for the only occasion known, caused us to economise somewhat over the use of water. Two economies effected were the closing of the Swimming Bath after the mid-term holiday, and the somewhat unpopular cutting off of the hot water in the House after 8 p.m. (fortunately it was the Summer Term!). The School may rest assured that these restrictions will not be necessary in Autumn or Winter. To prevent future occurrences of a similar character, a pump has been installed at the Lady's Well in the School valley, and a pipe-line taken from the well along the School drive and up the hill to the gravitational feed tank for the School House. The water in the Lady's Well is excellent drinking water, but it is expected that pumping will be necessary only in exceptionally dry spells like that of April, May and June this year.

Opera has been added to the growing list of activities, and we enjoyed immensely the rendering of part of "The Pirates of

Penzance" at the end of the Easter Term. We think that operatic performances are excellent material to foster school talent, and they have the decided advantage of requiring a fairly large number of players, all of whom gain considerably in learning stage-craft and enlarging their musical appreciation. We hope that "The Mikado," due for presentation in December, will be another great success.

Our heartiest congratulations to Donald Mason, who passed Part I. of the Intermediate Chartered Accountants examination, obtaining a high place in the list of candidates. We also congratulate W. D. Simpson on passing the Cambridge Higher School Certificate in a science group of subjects. This examination is of first year university standard.

Unfortunately, however, one cannot comment favourably on either the quality of work generally or the prowess in school games shown by the senior members of the School during the last session. In the Senior Leaving Certificate Examination there were twelve successes out of nineteen candidates, not by any means in keeping with Strathallan traditions. The Middle School are reminded again that the success or failure in the Leaving Certificate examination depends very largely on the quality of the work done in Senior II. and Senior IV.; it is impossible to obtain a certificate by last-minute feverish activity—this usually results in the muddles becoming more confounded. An improvement must be effected here. The 1st Rugby XV. had a fair season, but the display of the 1st Cricket XI. was a disappointment. As in the classrooms, more determination is necessary to learn essentials thoroughly and much less reliance should be placed on last-minute "hit and miss" methods. We again greatly enjoyed the visit of H. B. Rowan's XI., which for the second season included that great West Indian, L. Constantine. Constantine is rapidly becoming a firm friend of the school—surprising, perhaps, after such persistent demands by the juniors for his autograph—and next Summer will be prepared to give the 1st XI. a whole day's coaching prior to the annual Rowan's

game. We cannot thank Messrs. Constantine and Rowan too profusely for the advice and encouragement they have given to Strath. cricket. For the first time in the history of the School we participated in the Inter-Schools Sports held in Glasgow in June. We are pleased that the Strathallan competitors gave good performances in the events in which they participated. M. S. Wyllie has the honour of being the first Strathallan boy to win a prize at such a contest; he was second in the High Jump under 16 and received the medal awarded.

During the last few years there has developed a tendency to issue unofficially badges for such events as the Rugby sevens. The Headmaster requires that this practice shall cease. The only "colours" awarded are given by the School to the recipient under standardised conditions, and the purchase of the trophy caps from the sports outfitters is the prerogative of the school only. There will be awarded "full" and "half" colours for both Rugby and Cricket, but they will be gained only as the result of real merit.

Last session we had the unusual occurrence of having two school Captains, David Shannon during the Christmas and Easter Terms, until he left to take up veterinary work in April, and J. G. Sandeman in the Summer Term. Unlike in temperament and manner, each carried out the duties of his office with determination and success, and the award of the Houston Medal to the pupil who, during the year, has contributed most by his individual actions to further the interests of the School has been made to Shannon. The School Captain for the session 1946-47 is Norman Mitchell. Although he has only been a pupil here for two years, he has already set a high standard as House Prefect, and we feel that he will prove a true leader of the School in the present session.

W. E. W.

A DAY AT STRATH.

There goes the bell; out tumble a dishevelled mass of figures into the cold wash corridor. After a series of splashes and grunts the pupils return to their bedrooms "with shining morning faces."

The majority climb back into bed until some sleepy-eyed sub-prefect ejects them unceremoniously. Eight o'clock—a mad scramble to make beds, dress, brush hair and get into the dining room. Ten minutes late; never mind, it's bound to be something good for breakfast. A delicious aroma of synthetic tea greets the hungry pupils—and, alas, it's "spam" for breakfast.

Wearily the boys trudge over to school after chapel and take their seats in the lab. to receive two consecutive periods of instruction in chemistry. In comes the master: he takes his familiar stance at the head of the class and announces: "Calculations this morning." A murmur of disapproval runs round the class. Somehow the double period passes; then French; then composition—what a morning! However, the hours drag on until it's nearly time for lunch, but the last lesson is Geometry (analytical). One o'clock—already lunch will be served—so near and yet so far! Amazing!—only seventeen minutes late to-day! Now for a scrumptious meal—soup and fish—ugh!

The one bright spark of the day—it's our "half." SSSh! Mr. Ward's going to announce something. Well, what d'you know?—classes for the whole school! What an afternoon—French, French, English—worse than the morning!

Tea (cricket "washed out" by weather), prep, then supper—bread, margarine, and water.

Bed—the best place in Strath.—the end of a "perfect" day!

J. C.

Roll of Honour

*"They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

- ANDERSON, Peter Gordon, Pilot Officer, R.A.F.V.R.
- BARRIE, James W., Private, Gordon Highlanders.
- BROWN, Stanley Sinclair, Lieut., Royal Artillery.
- BRYCE, Archibald Monro, Lieut., 15/19 King's Royal Hussars.
- CARSWELL, Alexander, Lieut., Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.
- CARSWELL, John Jackson, Flight/Sergeant, R.A.F.
- CRAIG, James Wilson, Pilot Officer, R.A.F.V.R.
- DON, Charles, Sub-Lieut., R.N.V.R.A.
- FORREST, John Gordon Scott, Lieut., R.N.V.R.A.
- FRASER, Alexander Dalgety, Pilot Officer, R.A.F.V.R.
- FULTON, John Wilson, Lieut., 2nd Lothian and Border Yeomanry.
- GALLOWAY, James William, 2nd Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).
- GOODBRAND, Edward Hutcheon, Lieut., R.N.V.R.
- GRAHAM, Henry Robert Balfour, Private, 1st Bn. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.
- HARKNESS, John Furness, Sergeant, R.A.F.V.R.
- HUNTER, William Richard, 2nd Lieut., The Frontier Force Regiment, Punjab—died whilst P.O.W.
- IRONS, David Murray, Captain, 6th Black Watch.
- KIRKLAND, David, R.A.F.V.R.
- LEBURN, George Watt, Lieut., Royal Engineers.
- LUKE, Ronald Vivian, Captain, Royal Artillery.
- McBRIDE, James McAllister, Flight Lieut., R.A.F.V.R.
- McCOLL, Robert Smith, Lieut., 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry, Royal Armoured Corps.
- McDONALD, Ian Leslie, Sergeant/Pilot, R.A.F.V.R.
- McINTYRE, John Alexander Ross, Sub-Lieut. (A), R.N.V.R.
- MACKAY, Edward Bruce, Lieut., R.N.V.R.
- McLACHLAN, William Allison, Lieut., R.N.V.R.
- MACNAUGHTON, Douglas Henry, Pilot Officer, R.A.F.V.R.
- MELVILLE, Andrew Macdougall, Pilot Officer, R.A.F.V.R.
- MILNE, Owen S., D.F.C., Flight Lieut., R.A.F.V.R.
- MITCHELL, John, R.A.F.V.R.
- MITCHELL, Matthew, Captain, R.S.F.
- MOODIE, Arthur M., L/Cpl., A.I.F.
- ORR, John Ronald, Flight/Sergeant, R.A.F.V.R.
- PATON, Peter M., Corporal, The Black Watch.
- PAUL, Robert Lamont, Paymaster Lieut., R.N.V.R.
- ROBERTSON, Weston James, Flying Officer, R.A.F.V.R.
- ROGERS, Andrew Norman, Merchant Navy.
- SCOTT, A. K., 3rd Burma Regiment.
- SMITH, Norman J. W., Merchant Navy.
- THOMSON, Derek, R.A.F.V.R.
- WALDIE, W. J., Lieut., Royal Seaforth Highlanders.
- WALLACE, John Alexander, R.A.S.C.
- WHITE, S. K., Flying Officer, R.A.F.V.R.
- WHYTE, Matthew, Major, A.B.R.O.
- WILLS, William, Major, R.S.F.
- WILSON, Ian A. D., Lieut., R.N.V.R.
- WILSON, John Dalton, Flying Officer, R.A.F.V.R.
- WOOD, David, Pilot Officer, R.A.F.V.R.

The Dramatic Society

President: Mr. A. J. Shaw.

Chairman: D. Shannon.

Vice-Chairman: A. R. Pate.

Secretary: D. L. Mason.

Treasurer: W. D. Simpson.

Stage Manager: J. M. Ritchie.

Electrician: J. Thom.

Committee: L. Barclay, W. A. S. Dryden, E. B. Fairlie, N. Mitchell, R. A. Robertson.

With the record number of 179 members, the Society has had a very successful year. Two three-act plays were performed very creditably in the Commonroom during the session, "Tons of Money" by Ian Hay and "The Fourth Wall" by A. A. Milne. Mr. Shaw gave some interesting talks taken from "The Amateur Actor," and useful work was done in the "I want to be an actor" series.

"The Ghost of Jerry Bundler" was played, mainly by newcomers to the stage, as a curtain-raiser to "H.M.S. Pinafore" at the end of the Easter Term, and the year culminated with the performance of Emlyn

Williams's "Night Must Fall," which had two showings, as reported elsewhere.

A start has been made with the formation of a Stagecraft Guild, and much of the electrical equipment which was used in the second performance of "Night Must Fall" was made by the members of the Guild. Those who were present on that occasion will realise the very considerable improvement that was made in the stage lighting. Never have the Society's electricians had such satisfactory equipment to work with; never have such demands been made on their enthusiasm and skill.

We are sorry to say goodbye to D. Shannon, D. L. Mason, J. Thom, and T. R. L. Fraser, who are leaving us after many valuable years' work in the Society. Our best wishes go with them. Perhaps they will come back to Strathallan some day and see a School show from the other side of the footlights. We hope they will. D. L. M.



"H.M.S. PINAFORE."

"H.M.S. Pinafore"

On the 21st March, 1946, the School presented, as a change from the usual School concert, a version of "H.M.S. Pinafore," and, since comic opera had not been attempted before by Strathallan, thereby created a precedent which proved that future productions of similar works may be anticipated with pleasure; for the performance was admirable in almost every respect.

The programme—apparently anticipating criticism—called the production both "potted" and "a corruption." "Potted" it was indeed, certain scenes only being played; but the ability of the performers saved it from being "a corruption."

Chief among these were D. B. Guy, D. Shannon, K. Frost and D. L. Mason. As Captain Corcoran, Guy sang beautifully throughout, his poise and assurance rapidly dispelling the nervousness that was apparent amongst the members of the opening chorus. With him could be matched Shannon, who, helped by his greater presence and his more powerful voice, very successfully played Ralph Rackshaw. Mason, as the Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, sang well, if somewhat weakly, and though in mannerism and in song he managed clearly to convey his sense of his own importance, in conversation he could with advantage have been somewhat more deliberate. Frost was good as Little Buttercup, and Marr gave to Josephine a sweetness of voice and a daintiness of manner which made the surly unpleasantness of Dick Deadeye (played by McGregor, who obviously enjoyed it) all the more noticeable.

Mr. B. Mordecai and Mr. A. J. Shaw supervised rehearsals and production, and to them much credit for the success is due. Tribute must also be paid to the admirable "make-up" of Mr. S. W. Hughes, to the hard work of the stage managers, J. M. Ritchie and J. Thom, and to Mr. R. N. Bain, who constructed an excellent stage and setting.

After this success, future programmes of similar productions need not so modestly toy with phrases such as "a corruption of."

The opera was preceded by a curtain-raiser, "The Ghost of Jerry Bundler," by W. W. Jacobs. The majority of those who took part were new to the Strathallan stage, but they acquitted themselves well, particularly N. J. C. Anderson as Somers and W. D. Simpson as Penfold. The work of production was done very creditably by A. R. Pate.

F. S. L.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

"Night Must Fall"

EMILYN WILLIAMS'S "Night Must Fall" was presented by the Dramatic Society on March 27th. This is a difficult play for boys, and, although it was on the whole successfully performed, there was about it a certain unevenness.

The first act fell rather flat largely because the prompter was compelled to play too great a part in the drama, but the play improved as it progressed and the third act was at times extraordinarily good. The same unevenness was noticeable in the performance of the individual actors. David Shannon as "Dan," and D. L. Mason as "Mrs. Bramson," were consistently good throughout. To the former go the chief honours; to the latter the credit of almost redeeming the first act.

L. Barclay as "Olivia Grayne" deserves special commendation for the best acted moment of the play. His—or her—entrance after stumbling over Mrs. Bramson's body was superb, and the subsequent scene with Shannon formed the highlight of the play. Of the minor parts, R. A. Robertson as "Dora Parkoe," Mrs. Bramson's maid, was perhaps most in character. The others (except E. B. Fairlie) lacked vigour. The voice of the prompter supplying the lines which the actors should have learnt robbed the players of their self-confidence and destroyed the tempo of the play. On the other hand, Fairlie, supremely self-confident, but over vigorous and over excited, tended to let his cook degenerate into a figure of burlesque.

The producer's own opinion was that the presentation had been a "glorious failure"

and that the actors had just failed to produce the best show that had ever been staged at Strathallan. His faith in their ability to make a complete success of the play remained unimpaired and was demonstrated to be more than justified when a public performance of "Night Must Fall" was given at the beginning of the Summer Term in aid of Forgandenny village funds. This time all the faults of the previous showing were rectified. There was a smoothness, a balance, about the whole thing: the actors had learnt their lines, the prompter was silent. From beginning to end the show was a masterpiece of acting and production. As one member of the audience remarked: "It was a polished performance." The play is a familiar one, the plot being a variation on schizophrenia. David Shannon, who has proved a most versatile actor, reached the climax of his career in the Dramatic Society with his subtle interpretation of Dan. This part calls for clever manipulation and a full meed of praise must be rendered to Shannon in this connection. So sympathetically did he act the part that we felt more pity than horror for this split-personality.

To the part of Mrs. Bramson, D. L. Mason brought his usual artistry. Mrs. Bramson is a difficult character for a schoolboy to portray, but so sustained was the standard of Mason's acting that not once during the whole play was the audience reminded that the voice and make-up were not the authentic tone and look of a querulous old lady. His terror in Act III., where he is left alone in

the bungalow at nightfall, was remarkably realistic, and in spite of the fact that Mrs. Bramson is so patently selfish our sympathies were stirred to the depths.

A delightfully sincere treatment of the part of Olivia Grayne was given by L. Barclay. At two parts in the course of the play in the final scene he rose to histrionic heights seldom reached by amateurs, and it is pleasant to reflect that the Dramatic Society will have the services of this talented actor for at least one further production.

Comedy was introduced by E. B. Fairlie as the Cook. Fairlie is to be congratulated on his restrained interpretation of this character part; we give him best for refraining from the burlesque which had marred his earlier performance. Along with R. A. Robertson, as Dora Parkoe, the housemaid, Fairlie provided and got all the laughs in the play. G. C. Donald as Hubert was the crashing bore to the life. Minor parts were played by A. R. Pate as the detective and W. A. S. Dryden as the nurse: both added colour to the evening and upheld the all-round excellence of the cast.

Effective incidental music was provided by Mr. Mordecai, who contributed to the atmosphere by his variations on the theme "Mighty lak a rose." Mr. Hughes was in charge of the make-up. The direction and production were, as usual, in the capable hands of Mr. A. J. Shaw, to whom credit is due. His selection of the cast was masterly and not a detail of production was overlooked. I. R. S.

Lectures and Entertainments

THE School had the opportunity of hearing several well-known personalities who visited Strathallan during the Christmas and Easter terms.

J. H. Squire, whose name, linked with the Celeste Octet, will be familiar to most gramophone enthusiasts, entertained the School with his autobiographical account of "A fighting musician in forty years of Adventure." His narrative was indeed breath-taking and his adventures were every whit as thrilling as those which have

sprung from R. L. Stevenson's fertile imagination. Some of us, perhaps not easily stirred by accounts of daring deeds and hairs-breadth escapes, regretted that Mr. Squire spoke so little of his life as a musician.

Few of Mr. Escott North's audience are likely to forget his highly interesting and dramatically delivered lecture. He traced the evolution of the broncho from the Spanish horse imported into America, showed how nature had fitted this wild

creature to defend itself against the wolf and the wild cat, and also how man managed to tame him; he drew a vivid, unforgettable picture of a corral and left us all looking forward to the time when he will once more visit Strathallan in answer to an invitation he has already received. We hope that next time Mr. North may be able to show some of his extremely fine collection of lantern slides.

An insight into life at sea was gained from the enthralling talk "Little Ships on long voyages" given by Lieut. Commander Douglas Dixon, D.S.C., who illustrated many of his points with blackboard and chalk. In how many of his hearers was born the ambition to fit a small fishing smack and go sailing across the seas to Scandinavia or some more distant land?

Literature was represented by our remaining two guests. We record with pleasure a second visit by Mr. Edward R. Broadhead, of whom we already wrote a few words in the last issue of the Magazine. This amazingly versatile artiste gave us another series of character studies from Dickens and a rendering of two master-

pieces of humour: "A change of treatment" by W. W. Jacobs, and "MacFiggis's Christmas" by Stephen Leacock. The best tribute we could pay Mr. Broadhead would be to ask him to come and entertain us again next Christmas Term for the third year running—we have done so.

We also had the honour of welcoming L. A. G. Strong to Strathallan. The visit of this eminent broadcaster and author—whose novel "The Brothers" is incidentally in process of being filmed—had been keenly anticipated. None of his hearers, we know, went away disappointed. His subject was "Broadcasting," and his explanation of the technique required for "putting things across" on the air was no less interesting than his illustration of a story written for broadcasting as compared with one intended to be read privately.

The task of our guest speakers is to enlarge the boys' interests—that is, to contribute to their education. This task they performed eminently well. We take this opportunity of expressing to them once more our appreciation and our thanks. A. J. S.

The Debating Society

Chairman, Mr O'Holohan.

Secretary, W. D. Simpson.

THE Society was late in holding its first meeting, and the number of debates was curtailed by the epidemic which broke out a short time before Christmas. For various reasons it was found impossible to restart in the following term.

The few meetings which were held, however, were extremely successful, perhaps the most popular being Mr. O'Holohan's proposition, "Kick a man when he's down." He spoke at considerable length in favour of this motion, which provoked much discussion, especially among the junior members of the School. The debate continued for two successive weeks, but the only person who had any success in refuting Mr. O'Holohan's arguments was Mr. Shannon. Several members of the senior School sup-

ported the motion in order to encourage the members of the house to speak.

On another occasion an impromptu discussion was held, members of the house being called upon to speak on a subject without any previous preparation. This proved most satisfactory, but some of the speakers became rather tongue-tied.

The Society has recommenced its activities this session with Mr. Taylor as Chairman, and it is to be hoped that it will prove as successful as in the past.

W. D. S.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATHALLIAN CLUB.

The list of Life Members of the Strathallian Club has been omitted from this issue. It will be published separately in booklet form.

Chapel Notes

WE had the pleasure of a visit from an old Strathallan boy, William Campbell, who left School in 1926 and is now minister of Radnor Park Congregational Church, Clydebank. He came to us during the week-end of March 16th/17th, spending the most of Saturday with the boys on the rugger field and at the School Cinema, and giving us the treat of listening to the Sunday morning service conducted by one of our own number. On this occasion, too, owing to the absence of the music master, D. L. Mason officiated at the organ, so that the service was truly conducted by Strathallians. We wish to thank the Rev. William Campbell for his kindness in giving us a week-end from his very busy life spent in a thickly populated district of Glasgow, and for his inspiring evangelical address. Our friends, Rev. A. Cameron, Mr. Phil W. Petty, and Captain Baker of the Church Army again officiated in the chapel pulpit on occasions, and many of the older boys of the School will, we hope, remember with appreciation Mr. Cameron's testimony on Armistice Sunday to those fallen in battle.

Part of the chapel collections has again been given to Thimble-row Mission, Perth, and to help in providing a Christmas Treat for Forgandenny children. We think, however, that the boys of the School should contribute voluntarily to the chapel collection instead of having it provided by the school authorities. This change was therefore effected in September, 1946, and a statement of accounts will be drawn up at the end of each school year. A small chapel committee is taking charge of this and has the opportunity of arranging other matters connected with the chapel service. As far as the disposal of the chapel collection is concerned, the principle operating at present, to give part to church and social schemes

requiring funds and to retain the remainder for chapel replacements and improvements, is undoubtedly right, but it will be the committee's duty to work out details.

W. E. W.

The S.U. Group

SINCE, for a long time, Strathallan has had a fairly large number of Scripture Union members, at the beginning of the Christmas Term, 1945, the Strathallan S.U. Group was formed. Meetings were held every Sunday evening in the Library; proceedings were kept as informal as possible, and many members were most helpful in preparing reading and inviting commentary on the S.U. portion for the day. Subjects for discussion were handed in at the start of the meeting, and these, when pulled out of the hat, often promoted very keen discussion among the members, while the leader tried to keep the discussion to the point and from straying to the seemingly inevitable argument about Mohammedanism! Quizzes between two teams and informal debates, which proved most successful in the Summer term, filled the programme for the meetings throughout the year. Meetings closed with a short prayer by one of the boys.

A hopeful sign for the future of the group is that the numbers of those coming along to the Library on Sunday evenings had trebled by the end of the session. It is hoped that S.U. members will continue to give their support to the Group throughout the coming years.

D. S., D. M. W., J. D. S.

Scouting Notes

IN the Easter term Mr. A. J. Shaw, who had done an excellent job in re-forming and running the Scout Troop for the past two years, handed over his position as Scoutmaster to Mr. F. S. Langstaff. We wish to record here our grateful appreciation of his untiring efforts on our behalf.

During the year the Troop has continued its varied activities, and we are proud to state that T/L. R. A. M. Kennedy, with the gaining of his Pathfinder and Ambulance badges, achieved the distinction of becoming a King's Scout.

The trophy for the best patrol of the year was won by the Woodpeckers under P/L. T. R. Fraser; a fine performance by a junior patrol. The Beavers, under P/L. I. Keith, were close runners-up.

The annual Scout Field Day was held on June 15th, near an attractively-wooded part on the Invermay estate, about a mile from Forteviot. Although the day was fine, it was too cold for swimming, a fact which was regretted by many. None the less, an enjoyable time was spent in playing various games—and in cooking.

Eighteen Scouts attended the Camp which was held from 11th-19th July near Forteviot, on the same site as that of the previous year. Owing to the keenness of those present the camp was much enjoyed by all. For the first two and a half days high Summer weather reigned, and bathing in the Earn was very popular. Unfortunately, the weather then broke, and never mended; but, helped by first-class equipment and labour-saving devices supplied by Mr. Bain, morale remained high.

There was, however, one unfortunate happening. Shortly after the camp had started, R. Nairn had the bad luck to suffer from

burns in an accident with a Primus stove, so that he missed the rest of the camp, in all the activities of which he had been participating with great willingness and enthusiasm.

During the week D. Henderson made good progress in his Camper's badge, while R. Kennedy gained his. P/L. A. A. Chisholm and Second M. Cessford successfully completed their First Class journeys. Second-class badges were gained by K. Brown, D. Brown and I. Stevens, while N. Milne and D. Wightman made good progress towards winning theirs. D. Smith gained his Tenderfoot badge.

R. A. M. K

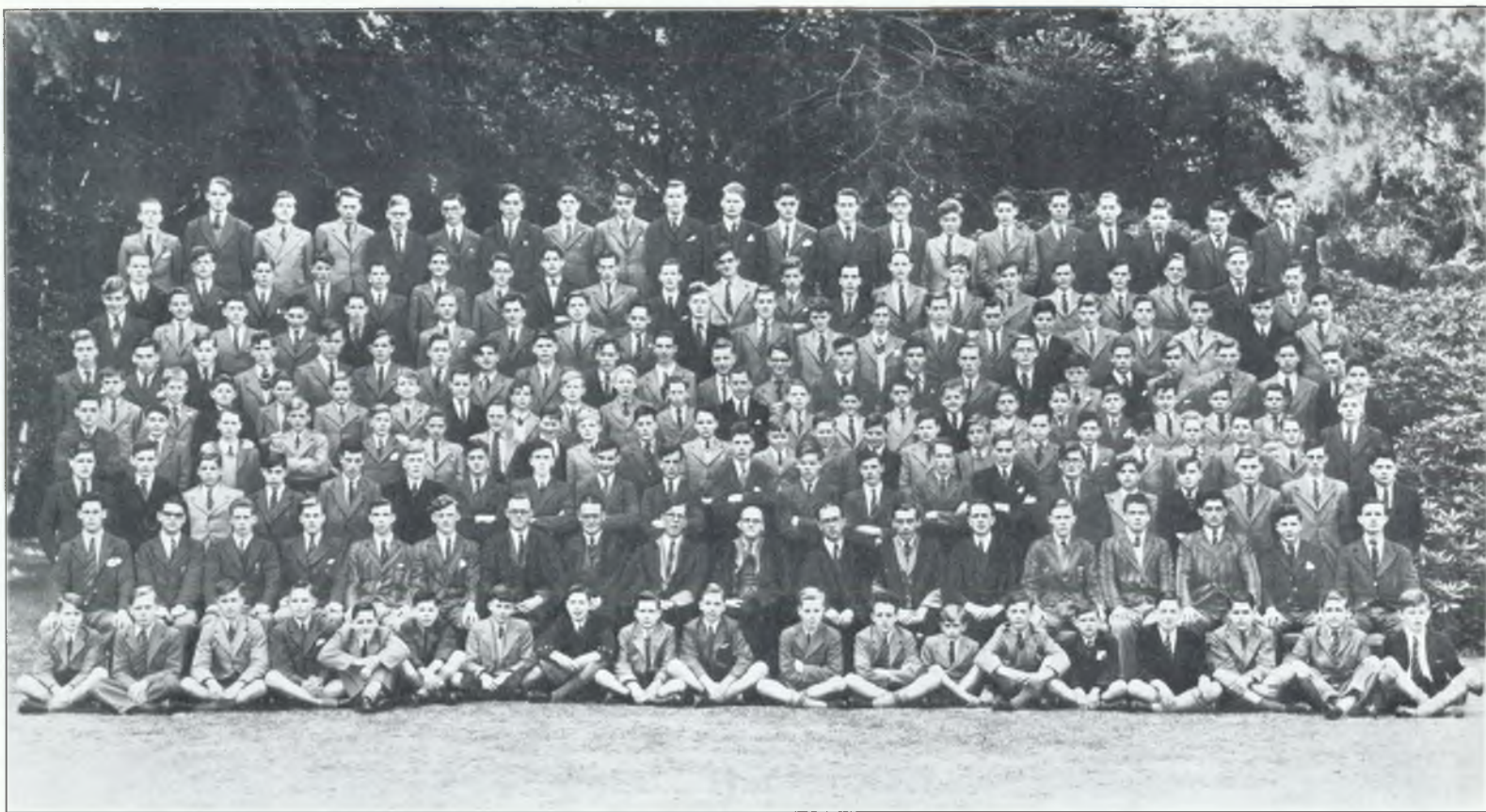
Inter-Schools Camp, Meikleour

THE Strathallan boys who attended the Inter-Schools Camp at Meikleour in August will agree that it was almost ideally situated. There was ample flat ground for the usual camp games, a good tennis court was available, and there was excellent swimming in the Tay.

The combination of good company—there were about eighty schoolboys from many different schools—good fun and good food made for a really marvellous fortnight under canvas, despite the fact that the camp song, "Blue skies above the camping ground," was curiously inappropriate.

Highlights of the camp were the trip to Braemar, the bonfire, and subsequent tent feeds, while the appearance of Mr. Phil W. Petty as the "Grand Yogi of Meikleour" was the climax to a truly magnificent camp concert.

D. S.



THE SCHOOL, JULY 1946.

The Sunset

It was about half-past-nine on a fine Summer evening that I stood on the summit of one of the neighbouring hills, watching the sun go down.

It was a wonderful, intoxicating sight. The marvellous ruddy glow cast by the sun as it sank slowly beyond my horizon entranced me. The trees on the hill, silhouetted against this beautiful mass of colour, resembled cut-outs pasted on to a red and pink background. One or two rooks could be seen making their way back to their nests for the night. A rabbit, startled by the sound of a breaking twig, ran across in front of me. Looking down, I saw a lovely little brook of which I had not been previously conscious. The sunset was magnificently reflected in its slowly moving water.

Turning my eyes once more to the hills, I saw the sun finally disappear. A few clouds drifted lazily across the sky, changing colour from white to pink. It was a wonderful spectacle to see those clouds sail slowly through the sky and, as it seemed, become suddenly bloodstained.

The sun had set. Far off the ravens cawed their goodnights.

J. C. S.

When Greek meets Greck

If a census were taken in Britain to-day of all people who are confounded and baffled by swing-doors, the public would be astonished by its own stupidity; for, the first impulse of the vast majority is to pull at a door marked PUSH, and to push at a door marked PULL.

Swing-doors, indeed, are a menace to the general public. The doors that open both ways present the greater danger, for someone is sure to be coming when you are going, with the result that you may find yourself participating in a tug-of-war, or endeavouring to push the other party off his feet.

Those opening one way, however, are little better. Many a time have I beheld a gentleman strenuously pushing with might and main at a door marked PULL; likewise have I seen others heaving with distorted and strained countenances at doors marked PUSH.

I was considerably alarmed by the distress caused by these doors, and accordingly wrote to the Minister of Home Security, petitioning him to endeavour to stop this, and put an end to the manual labour wasted in unnecessary exertions.

I made a few suggestions, which ran roughly thus:—

(i) That swing-doors, by an Act of Parliament, should be abolished completely before a fixed date. Anyone failing to comply with this law to be subject to a fine not exceeding forty shillings.

(ii) That revolving doors should be substituted in lieu thereof.

(iii) That one way traffic be maintained in all buildings, everyone accordingly going to the right.

In reply to my petition, I received the following letter:—

Ye Olde Lodge,
Bacon-on-Rhynde,
Slops,
1st April, 1946.

Dear Sir,

Since we now understand that your baby is no longer suffering from a cold, we have decided to cancel your application for a priority issue of acid drops.

We remain,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ? (Illegible).

I have not since pursued my petition.

R. A. R.

The Glorious L.C.E.

I'm not very good at English,
As anyone can see.
Alack and alas,
I fear I shan't pass
The glorious L.C.E.

I'm not very good at Francais,
As anyone can see.
So it's not much bon,
Mon attaque upon
The glorious L.C.E.

I'm not very good at most things.
As anyone can see.
Masters may rail,
But I'm sure I'll fail
The glorious L.C.E.

F. H. H.

A. T. C.

THE School Flight maintained its strength throughout the year with 43 Cadets under F./Sgt. J. M. Burnett and made good progress in the several sections of study. Twelve Cadets gained proficiency, and six were awarded the Special A.T.C. Swimming Certificate.

The year has been a difficult one for all A.T.C. units, but the School Flight has kept up its strong team spirit during this period of transition in the status of the Corps, although it has had fewer opportunities of making outside contacts. Two visits for flying in the late Autumn, and the Annual Training Camp at Crail, were the principal items. At Easter, three Cadets attended a course of instruction at Glenmore Lodge, near Aviemore.

The present session (from Sept., 1946) has promise of new and wider interests. A syllabus of training has been introduced in which the old categories of Aircrew, Wireless Trades, etc., have been replaced by a comprehensive scheme of instruction which is common to all Cadets. Within this scheme, plans are ready for the construction of a miniature range and the setting up of a Metal Work Room.

A course of Gliding is now part of regular training, and a party of six Cadets has been attending such a course at Scone and making excellent progress. J. P. R.

A. C. F.

THE work of the Platoon has resulted in good, steady progress throughout the year, and classes studying for War Certificate A, Part I. and Part II., and Signalling were all of good strength.

Twenty-two Cadets passed Cert. A Part II. early in the year, and the majority joined the Signal Section. A further sixteen were later successful in qualifying for War Cert. A, Part I., and continued with training in readiness for Part II. Four of the Signal Section qualified as "Signallers," and the work of several Cadets attending Army Signal courses received excellent report.

Great encouragement has been given to all by the decision of the War Office to take greater account of War Certificate A. It is hoped that all Cadets will benefit by the decision to give early advancement in

the preliminary Military training to all possessors of Cert. A, and to place them in the Regiment or Arm of their choice where possible. The work of the "Q" branch in supplying further much-needed equipment, particularly Signal equipment, is also greatly appreciated.

The attendance at the Annual Summer Camp held at Montrose was disappointing. Undoubtedly examinations and pre-arranged holidays were to blame, but it is hoped that a greater success will attend this most important function in future years. The efforts of those few who attended and obtained such a good report for the Platoon are to be highly commended.

It was with regret, yet with sincere thanks for their service, that we bade farewell to three most popular officers:—Lt. A. Shaw, our first "O.C.", who leaves many high standards to be maintained by his successor, Captain J. R. Burn; Junior Officer Shannon, who has worked so patiently and enthusiastically in helping recruits over the first hurdle; and Cpl. Thom, who has done much to establish the reputation of the Signal Section both within and outside the School. Our good wishes go to all on their "demob."

J. R. B.

The Old Mill

The harvest moon has climbed above the hill;

Her lucent beams survey the land around;
The silver trees with fairy light are crowned,
And all the busy world is hushed and still.

A wanton, wayward stream with mocking trill

Runs iridescent through the moonlit ground;

Its waters murmur sparkling past and round

A tiny knoll where stands a disused mill.

Its gaping roof is rent and cracked and torn;
Its shattered sails will never turn again;
Grey bats among the crumbling eaves now fly

And make their squalid nests where once was corn;

Its walls are scarred with time and streaked with rain,

And derelict it droops beneath the sky.

W. D. S.

Sports Day, 1946

THE Annual Sports, of course, are the climax to the year's activities, and this year all the factors which contribute to an enjoyable and successful afternoon were present.

The positions of the houses in the race for the Blue Flags prior to Sports Day provided all the necessary incentive for a great struggle. Simpson and Freeland were neck and neck with 136 and 127 points respectively. They had a comfortable lead over Ruthven and Nicol. The result of the cross-country run at the end of the Easter Term gave us a sample of this rivalry. Simpson packed their first three into fourth, fifth and sixth positions, to beat Freeland by one point. W. R. Armstrong of Freeland repeated his success of the previous year, covering the three mile course in 19 mins. 20 secs.

In the other inter-house events Freeland and Simpson again, to a great extent, shared the limelight. The Senior Rugby Sevens were won by Freeland with Nicol as runners-up. In the Senior Rugby Final, Simpson beat Ruthven.

The cricket season found Simpson carrying off Senior honours by a win over Ruthven, while in the Junior competition Freeland defeated Simpson. Freeland proceeded to consolidate their position by winning both Senior and Junior swimming relay races.

When the 30th May came along, it was soon evident that Freeland were likely champions; and so it proved. By the end of the afternoon they were in the lead by a handsome margin, Simpson failing to maintain their challenge. Ruthven were third, and Nicol last but their triumph over Freeland in the tug-o-war was some consolation.

The individual events were not nearly so one-sided as the results suggest. Close finishes were the order of the day, and the losers, no less than the winners, deserve congratulation for their great efforts. Some of the performances among the Juniors suggest that there are worthy successors to our present champions.

Major-General Sir James S. Drew, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., kindly presented the prizes, and the following is the list of winners and runners-up of all events on Sports Day:—

OPEN EVENTS.

One Mile—

1. R. Armstrong (F); 2. T. A. Baxter (R).

880 Yards—

1. R. Armstrong (F); 2. J. Allardyce (S).

440 Yards—

1. D. Mackenzie (F); 2. T. A. Baxter (R).

220 Yards—

1. D. Mackenzie (F); 2. E. B. Fairlie (R).

100 Yards—

1. D. Mackenzie (F); 2. R. Walker (N).

High Jump—

1. D. C. Thompson (S); 2. A. R. Pate (F).

Long Jump—

1. A. R. Pate (F); 2. C. Taylor (R).

Hurdles—

1. R. Armstrong (F); 2. T. A. Baxter (R).

Throwing Cricket Ball—

1. J. G. Sandeman (S); 2. D. Mackenzie (F).

Putting the Shot—

1. A. R. Pate (F); 2. M. MacGregor (N).

UNDER 16 EVENTS.

880 Yards—

1. J. McCarroll (F); 2. D. McHarg (S).

440 Yards—

1. D. Hunter (N); 2. A. Blair (F).

220 Yards—

1. D. Hunter (N); 2. I. Johnston (N).

100 Yards—

1. S. Wyllie (F); 2. J. Porter (S).

High Jump—

1. S. Wyllie (F); 2. N. Brown (S).

Long Jump—

1. S. Wyllie (F); 2. I. Johnston (N).

Hurdles—

1. D. Biggart (R); 2. S. Wyllie (F).

Throwing Cricket Ball—

1. R. Philip (F); 2. A. McClelland (F).

UNDER 14 EVENTS.

220 Yards—

1. K. Frost (R); 2. G. Stokes (R).

100 Yards—

1. K. Frost (R); 2. G. Stokes (R).

High Jump—

1. K. Gray (F); 2. G. Dunley (F).

Long Jump—

1. K. Frost (R); 2. G. Dunley (F).

Obstacle Race—

1. R. Nairn; 2. A. Braid.

Three-legged Race—

1. D. Brown and K. Brown; 2. I. Biggart and R. Stevenson.

UNDER 12 EVENTS.

80 Yards—

1. J. Todd (8); 2. C. Wallace (N).

High Jump—

1. C. Wallace (N); 2. D. Brown (S).

Obstacle Race—

1. D. Brown; 2. M. Bendell.

Senior Sports Champion—D. MacKenzie (18 Pts.).

Runner-up—R. Armstrong (15 Pts.).

Junior Sports Champion—S. Wyllie (14 Pts.).

Runner-up—D. Hunter (8 Pts.).

House Championship—

1. Freeland (209 Pts.); 2. Simpson (155 Pts.);

3. Ruthven (118 Pts.); 4. Nicol (97 Pts.).

R. H. L.

Sports Notes

RUGBY, 1945-46.

First XV.

Strathallan School v. Morgan Academy.
(Away). Result: 18—0. Lost.

THE game was played in atrocious conditions. Strath. won the toss and elected to play uphill and against the wind. There was very little science in the game, which consisted mainly of forward mêlès. The Academy forwards carried the ball to our line and twice scored during the first half. At the change over, although 10 points down, we looked forward to victory, which, however, was not to come, as our forwards were not quick enough in the loose, and the handling of the backs left much to be desired. Morgan scored twice in the second half by similar methods to the ones used in the first half, and the score was 18—0 when the final whistle went.

Strathallan School v. Old Boys (Home).
Result: 11—3. Lost.

The Old Boys' team was superior to the School team as the result showed. The 1st must have been too obsessed with the idea that the Old Boys would be too worn out to put up any resistance in the second half, for certainly not enough effort on the School's part was put in. The marking of the backs and the forwards—but especially the backs—was not very strong, and Lowden & Co. took advantage of this to score three times. Lyle replied with a good try, the result of a scissors movement by Armstrong and himself.

Strathallan School v. George Heriot's School. (Away). Result: 22—0. Lost.

The final score does not justify the efforts of the 1st as a whole. The forwards worked hard and the School had really a fair share of the ball. The backs made a good deal of ground once on the move, but could not score. One effort by Armstrong—which he started in brilliant fashion—was entirely thrown to the winds by his failure to pass to the backing-up Meikle, who had a clear field in which to score. The tackling was good on the whole, but unfortunately the Heriot's backs found a weak link in our threes through which their scores came, except for a try by the scrum-half and a penalty kick. Wilson's kicking at full-back was good.

Strathallan School v. Melville College.
(Away). Result: 8—3. Won.

The 1st held a definite advantage over the College team in that we had greater speed, but poor handling by the backs as a whole prevented the score from reaching the level it should have done. A brilliant interception and a good run from over half-way by Mackenzie and a cut through by Pate brought the score to 8-0 at half-time. One noticeable feature was the missing of a conversion from in front of the posts; good place-kicking was sadly lacking throughout the season. In the second half Melville scored a try after their forwards had carried the ball to our line. No further score was registered.

Strathallan School v. Allan Glen's School.
(Home). Result: 8—0. Won.

The ball was greasy and consequently the handling was mediocre. Mackenzie opened the scoring by a brilliant run from outside his own twenty-five. The conversion was missed and at half-time the School led 3-0. In the second half Glen's never threatened our line at all seriously, and we managed to score again through Taylor. The try was this time converted and the final score read 8-0.

Strathallan School v. Madras College.
(Away). Result: 23—0. Won.

Strath. were superior to Madras in every way, although the forwards were more

evenly matched than the backs. The score at half-time was 17-0. The Madras defence tightened considerably in the second half, but Strath. managed to score two further tries. Strath.'s five tries were scored by Taylor (2), Shannon, Mackenzie and Pate. Two tries were converted and Pate had the distinction of dropping the only goal of the season.

Strathallan School v. Morrison's Academy. (Home). Result: 13-17. Lost.

In this game our regular scrum half, Sandeman, was very much missed, although his substitute, Ferguson, worked hard and was always in the "thick of the fight." Lyle opened the scoring for Strath. with a try resulting from good backing up, although it was unsatisfactory in so far as it was kicked along the ground from the half-way without being touched by hand. Mackenzie took a valuable part in this effort and also scored from one of his inimitable solo efforts. Pate also scored a lucky try as the result of an attempt at a drop-goal, which rebounded from the post and which he successfully picked up to run over and score. All the Strath. scoring was done in the first half and we were actually leading 13-11 at half-time. Scrappy defensive work round the base of the scrum, however, allowed the opposing scrum half to score twice in the second half for Morrisons to win.

Strathallan School v. Allan Glen's School. (Away). Result: 8-3. Won.

Although this game was played under dry conditions, it was mainly a forward struggle throughout, and it was the pack who paved the way to victory: they worked hard and well. The two Strath. tries were purely opportunist efforts by Mackenzie and Sandeman.

Strathallan School v. Hillhead High School. Result: 5-9. Lost.

Strath. went on to the pitch with the knowledge that Hillhead had thirteen of the previous year's team playing for them and that they had an unbeaten record, but were not in the least dismayed. Far from it! Strath. opened the scoring with a fine try from Mackenzie and led 5-0. Hillhead,

however, replied with two tries scored in exactly the same manner, namely, by their left wing intercepting a pass from our scrum half on our line. Hillhead, therefore, led 6-5 at half-time, and although play was fairly even in the second half, they managed to score again, making the final score 9-5.

1st XV. Criticisms.

A. R. PATE—was the obvious choice for captain and played a captain's part all through the season. At stand-off he was the mainstay of the three-quarter line, and the inspiration of the side. His handling and kicking were excellent, but he is inclined to be too stereotyped in his methods. Very sound in defence and was the most prolific scorer.

J. G. SANDEMAN—was a tireless worker at scrum-half and struck up a very good combination with Pate. His service and delivery from the scrum were accurate and he used his feet to good advantage. Could quickly turn defence into attack; scored many of his side's tries.

W. M. D. WILSON—filled the full-back position during the Christmas term. His anticipation and touch-finding were faulty, but with some experience and confidence he overcame these defects and was quickly developing into a very reliable full-back.

W. R. ARMSTRONG—had a very good turn of speed, but poor handling handicapped him in all his games. Was weak in defence and his tendency to run across gave his outside men very little scope.

W. C. TAYLOR—first played at centre and later at full-back. Was inclined to over-turn his inside men and showed lack of judgment in dealing with high balls. His fielding and judgment, however, improved with experience. His kicking was lengthy and safe, and his tackling was generally sound.

W. M. MCGREGOR—one of the most effective and consistent backs. Had a good turn of speed, sure hands and used his feet intelligently. Very reliable in defence and made good use of any passes that came his way.

D. F. MACKENZIE—his speed was his chief asset. His handling was fair, but

his tackling poor. Although unorthodox at times was very effective in attack.

D. C. THOMSON—seemed to lack the "big match" temperament and never lived up to his early promise of being a first-rate centre. He was fairly sound in defence, but ineffective in attack due to poor handling and inability to seize the opportunities that were offered.

J. M. BURNETT—was a good leader of the forwards and the most effective in the loose. Fielded well and used his height to good advantage. An excellent defensive player and could lend a hand in any "three" movement.

J. A. S. CRAWFORD—after one game with the 2nd XV. was promoted to the 1st and was the greatest success of the season. His fielding was superb and he dribbled well. Was well to the fore in every movement.

J. D. BARR—was the live-wire and utility man of the pack. A tireless worker, he was always up with the ball and was very reliable in defence.

J. A. MONTGOMERY—a forward of excellent physique, but lacked speed and dash. His fielding was good, but he lacks football sense.

T. A. BAXTER—a very enterprising forward who acquitted himself well throughout the season. His covering-up and craft brought his side out of many difficult situations.

D. YATES—the youngest forward in the team. Lacked dash and determination. Had excellent hands and was a very useful place-kicker, but will need to act more quickly. With more experience he should become a first-class forward.

D. SHANNON—an untiring worker and, although not conspicuous, played well all through the season. Was very good in the loose and his backing-up was a lesson for the whole pack.

R. G. ROGER—although handicapped by an injured knee for some time, hooked well. Was an energetic worker, but will need much practice and experience to develop into a first-class forward.

R. W.

Results:— Second XV.

Morgan Academy, 0; Strathallan, 6.
Stirling High School 1st, 0; Strathallan, 9.
Paisley Grammar 1st, 16; Strathallan, 3.
Morrison's Academy, 5; Strathallan, 3.
Allan Glen's School, 9; Strathallan, 0.
M.T.E., Rosyth, 11; Strathallan, 0.
Morgan Academy, 11; Strathallan, 0.
Perth Academy, 6; Strathallan, 6.

The season 1945-46 opened very well for the 2nd XV., who won their first two games by a good margin of points. After this, however, the 1st XV. "talent scouts" spotted several likely players among the members of the 2nd, and when these "stars" went to swell the ranks of the 1st, much of the 2nd attacking power went with them.

In spite of this, the 2nd's next game against Paisley Grammar 1st XV. was the best of the season, though Paisley had a much heavier pack, with the result that their three-quarter line had more than a fair share of the handling of the ball. However, although the odds were heavily against them, the Strathallan side managed to keep their opponents' score down to a minimum through good tackling and excellent teamwork. The three points gained by Strathallan in this game were awarded for a penalty kick scored by White.

The fourth game was again a bitter struggle against a heavier pack, this time that of Morrison's Academy 2nd XV., and as the day was a wet one it was due mainly to a valiant struggle by the forwards that a try was scored.

The fixtures at the beginning of the Easter term were cancelled because of poor weather conditions, and the first game of the term, which was also the last game of the season, found the 2nd determined to redeem their honour by defeating Perth Academy. Throughout almost all the game Strathallan were leading by 3 points, and it was due only to a free kick in the last minute of the game that the Perth team scored the necessary points to equalise.

The season was, on the whole, one of desperate struggles against heavier opponents, and, though the majority of the games were lost, it was still a satisfactory season from the point of view of team-work, and most of the games were thoroughly enjoyed by all who played in them.

CRICKET, 1946.**First XI.**

*Matches Played 12; Won—2; Drawn 2;
Lost—8.*

THE first half of the cricket season was a record of defeat after defeat in spite of a promising opening game which the School might have won had they adopted a bold policy of going for the runs. As the individual batsman may strike a "bad patch" and find himself struggling to get out of it, so the team found themselves fighting against a succession of defeats in which the element of luck, a part of any and every game, never seemed to favour them. However, they were a nicely balanced side, capable of getting runs, and one felt that all they needed was just one convincing win and then their true form would assert itself.

We waited until the 15th June for this win, against Dunfermline, when C. Allardyce took six wickets for 12 runs and paved the way. On the following Saturday Mitchell and Brown provided a further indication of the team's potentialities by putting up an exceedingly fine stand which realised 56 runs. Nicol and Allardyce both bowled steadily and maintained a good length, and we registered our second victory. The stage was set for the visit of H. B. Rowan's XI., including Constantine and Messado, and we were certainly looking forward to it with stouter hearts now that the team was more self-confident. Nor were we disappointed—a total of 81 runs was a creditable performance, and again the honours fell to a partnership by Mitchell and Brown. Mitchell returned a fine 38 runs, giving only two chances, and the nine runs scored by Brown gives no indication of the sterling worth of his defensive play.

The last two games showed just what a difference self-confidence can make. R.N.A.T.E. won by nine runs only, but found themselves fighting for every run against keen fielding and bowling of consistent length: and in the School innings A. R. Pate's 52 not out was the best individual score of the season. The evening game against Meigle C.C. saw Strath. at their best—the batting was of a high standard, the fielding superb, and the

bowling once again both accurate and steady. Those who saw it will not quickly forget the thrilling finish when Meigle needed ten runs in four minutes and every ball bowled was a drama in itself. However, Meigle had everything to win and nothing to lose by going all out for the runs, and, in spite of the lion-hearted bowling by both Allardyce and Nicol, Fate was on their side. We lost—but it was a glorious defeat and one that augurs well for next season when most of this young Strath. team will be back again.

Generally the team, while young and on the small side, was well balanced, and it soon became evident that only the last three places presented any difficulty to the selectors. The two main criticisms to be levelled against them would be: first, a lack of enterprise which revealed itself in the timid and purely defensive batting in the Rowan game and the inability to go all out for runs such as in the Meigle game; second, the lack of individual initiative and anticipation in the field—a fault more apparent in the earlier part of the season than the latter—which led to a stereotyped and fixed rather than a flexible fielding side capable of altering and adapting itself to individual batsmen.

Those of the team who merit special mention would perhaps be Mitchell, Brown, Somerville, Allardyce (C.), and Nicol. Mitchell proved that he has the right temperament for cricket and the ability to score off the loose ball, patiently waited for—and it has been noticeable that his wicket-keeping has shown a vast all-round improvement since Messado's able demonstration in the Rowan game.

Brown found his way into the 1st XI. after one game in the 2nd, and soon showed there was no doubt about the wisdom of his promotion. His defensive play is extremely good and when he has developed some scoring strokes also he should be a bat well worth watching.

Nicol, like Brown, moved up from the 2nd XI., where he had already proved his worth as a bowler. He bowls a consistently good length ball with a fine easy action. His

physique, strength and temperament give him power to bowl unchanged for long periods.

C. Allardyce, seen on his best form, is undoubtedly the most promising bowler of the season. More experience, particularly in adopting his field, and more self-confidence to allow him to "pitch 'em up" on all occasions should make him master of all visiting batsmen next season.

Somerville has perhaps shown greatest all-round improvement during the season. His work in the field has been consistently good. He started the season as a speed bowler, but greatly improved his reputation by abandoning some of his speed for a better length and greater accuracy. His batting had little to recommend it at the start, save perhaps the power to hit the ball, but by dint of his efforts at nets he developed into a promising, if not stylish, bat. All that remains to be gained is the ability to discern and respect the good ball, when Somerville should make runs freely and become a useful all-rounder.

Second XI.

The second team played six matches, winning two (against Morrison's Academy and Arbroath R.N.A.S.), and losing four (the two return matches against Morrison's and Arbroath, and the two matches against Robert Gordon's College and Forgandenny). Of individual performances the best were D. Mason's 40 not out (out of a total of 85) in the first match against Morrison's; D. Mackenzie's and W. Dryden's 31 runs each in the match against Forgandenny, and H. Nicol's hat-trick in the same game; and R. Hill's 30 in the first match against Arbroath.

1st XI. Batting Averages.

	Innings.	No. times not out.	Total Runs.	Highest Score.	Average.	Catches.
Pate - - - - -	12	2	203	52*	20.3	5
Mitchell - - - -	12	2	133	38	13.3	3
Brown - - - - -	5	2	30	18	13	1
Duncan - - - - -	12	0	123	28	10.25	2
Somerville - - - -	10	0	100	24	10	2
Sandeman - - - -	11	1	99	30	9.9	6
Allardyce J. - - -	10	0	82	26	8.2	3
McGregor - - - -	7	0	45	31	6.4	0
Allardyce C. - - -	9	4	28	11	5.6	2
Dawson - - - - -	8	1	32	15*	4.6	3
Dryden - - - - -	5	0	19	7	3.8	1
Mason - - - - -	4	0	12	6	3	3
Nicoll - - - - -	2	1	1	1	1	1
Taylor - - - - -	5	0	5	3	1	2

1st XI. Bowling Analysis.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wkts.	Ave. runs per wkt.
Allardyce C. - - -	126.5	20	358	28	13.8
Duncan - - - - -	36.1	4	141	9	15.7
Pate - - - - -	33	2	132	7	17.4
Dawson - - - - -	69	13	214	11	19.45
Nicoll - - - - -	39	2	161	8	20.1
Somerville - - - -	35.5	2	139	6	23.2
Sandeman - - - -	14.6	0	94	4	23.5
McGregor - - - -	7	0	47	2	23.5
Taylor - - - - -	35	12	104	4	26

SWIMMING, 1946.

THE year has been principally one of steady progress in the winning of Swimming Badges by several boys. Unavoidable circumstances curtailed some of the usual activities. In the first place war-time shortages of equipment prevented any water-polo. Secondly, a severe water shortage brought all swimming activities to a premature close in the Summer Term. In spite of these handicaps the session as a whole has been enjoyable and successful. A new departure was a swimming match against Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen. Aberdeen being noted for its swimming strength, we were not unduly depressed at the result in this, our initial venture. The visitors took all the swimming events, but Strath. retaliated by winning both diving events. The display of life-saving methods by the Aberdeen team afterwards was by no means the least enjoyable item on the programme.

The other big attraction was the swimming of the inter-house events. Freeland won both relays, with Nicol and Ruthven runners-up in the Senior and Junior respectively. The diving was taken by Nicol, with Simpson second.

The following gained Swimming Badges during the year:—W. Nairn, R. Frost, J. Innes, A. Stephen, K. Rome, P. Dunley, I. Ritchie, J. Hart, A. Lawson, J. Cullen, M. Kennedy, D. Shannon, H. Harding, D. Brown.

R. H. L.

Old Boys' News

BATTLE of Britain pilot, Flight Lieutenant R. A. Innes, of Glasgow, has taken over command of the Glasgow University Air Squadron, one of the two University Air Squadrons that will continue under peacetime conditions. In addition to taking part in operations in the Battle of Britain, Flight Lieutenant Innes was wounded while serving with a fighter squadron in the defence of Malta.

The award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Temporary Lieutenant-Commander John Alastair Montgomerie, R.N.V.R., of Glasgow, was officially announced in September, 1945. The award was made "for great skill, daring, and leadership shown in an attack by the 59th Motor Torpedo Boat Flotilla on a superior German force off the coast of Yugo-slavia, which resulted in the sinking of an enemy destroyer." Lieutenant-Commander Montgomerie was mentioned in dispatches in 1941.

Behind the official citation of the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Sub-Lieutenant Victor S. Lowden of Dundee—"for gallantry in air action in the Tokio area"—lies the story of the last British fighter attack of the war over Tokio. Operating from the aircraft carrier "Indefatigable," which was attached to the American Fleet, he was leading six Seafires to the attack when they encountered 24 Jap Zeros. The result of the "scrap" was—six Zeros destroyed and four "probables"; one Seafire lost. Indirectly Sub-Lieutenant Lowden also took part in the signing of the peace—he provided air cover outside Tokio Bay. He is now demobbed and is with one of the Dundee jute firms.

When a B.O.A.C. Hythe Class flying-boat left Poole, Dorset, recently to inaugurate the Dragon route to Hong Kong, Radio Officer J. Campbell, whose home address is Lagmohr, Dunkeld, was a member of the crew which flew the aircraft on the first stage of its journey to Augusta, Sicily. He joined Imperial Airways, one of the predecessors of B.O.A.C., in 1935 and, with the exception of four years during the war when

he flew with Scottish Aviation, has given continued service with the B.O.A.C. since that date.

Dr. John T. Donaldson has been demobbed and is now in Edinburgh.

It was very pleasant to see Mr. Alistair M. Nicol (School Captain 1944-45) when he paid a visit to Strathallan on his leave from the Navy.

After six years in the army, Mr. W. C. Roy has returned to civilian life in Travancore, one of the major Indian states. We hope to have a visit from him when he comes to Scotland in 1947. A near neighbour of his is Mr. C. Oswald Stewart of Greenock.

Mr. George T. Lamond, who left School in 1945, is now associated with the management of the Invercauld Arms Hotel, Ballater.

Old Strathallians may have read in the press of the sad fate which overtook Alexander L. Campbell, the younger of the two brothers Campbell from Dumbarton. Along with a companion, Alec intended to spend a sailing holiday among the islands on Loch Lomond on 25th May last. It is thought they were coming from the island of Inch Ionaig on the Monday when tragedy overtook them. A large hole in the side of the boat indicated the possibility that they may have been blown on to a submerged rock. Alec was at Strathallan from 1939 to 1943 and then proceeded to the Dental College in Glasgow, where he was a most promising student. We extend our very deep sympathy to his parents and to Douglas.

Mr. R. B. Paton has forsaken the Law and we hear he is now a director of the Grant Educational Company, Glasgow.

Mr. John Roger, Cupar, was winner in both the open and confined horse-leaping classes at the Fife Agricultural Society's show held at Cupar on 15th June.

After demobilisation, Mr. Alastair Lambie has started business again as a stockbroker in the office of D. H. Henderson & Company, 104 West George Street, Glasgow. He served

in the 2nd Battalion Glasgow Highlanders as a Company Commander, and was twice wounded.

Mr. Norman MacLeod of Edinburgh has been demobbed and is studying at Lincoln College, Oxford.

Mr. Boyd Wyllie of Broughton is completing his training as an engineer with the firm Mirrlees Watson.

Mr. Ian Aitkenhead of Ayr has been with the R.A.S.C. in Egypt; he was stationed near Port Said.

On leaving Cambridge, Mr. R. Wylie Gregory received an appointment with the Admiralty at Greenock in the Torpedo Experimental Establishment, but at the end of the war he joined the Cotton Research Association in Manchester. His address is 13 Kinsfield Drive, Didsbury, Manchester.

Mr. Ian N. Stubbs is in the Navy. His ship spent three months clearing a large minefield to the north of Genoa, during which time he was able to visit, among other places, Milan, Naples, Rome, Florence and Leghorn.

Mr. I. K. Lawson of Dundee, who was a P.O.W. in Germany, is now a qualified C.A.

Mr. G. A. Murray, of North Berwick, has joined the staff of the Union Cold Storage Company, Brazil. His address is c/o S. A. Frigorifico Anglo, Caixa Postal 129B, Sao Paulo. He is at present on their million acre ranch near Camp Grande, where fifty to sixty mile rides are common occurrences.

We are pleased to announce the following passes at Cambridge University:—D. K. Common obtained a First Class in the Second Year Prelim. and was awarded a college exhibition of £40 per annum; J. B. Clark obtained a Third Class in the Second Year Prelim.; L. M. Barrett passed Third Class in Part I. Natural Science Tripos; and Ian D. Stuart obtained a Third Class in Part I., Economics Tripos.

Our Edinburgh University correspondent has supplied the following list of passes:—John Calder and L. S. Smith obtained their M.B., Ch.B. degrees; Jas. Wyllie graduated B.Sc. (Agriculture) and, in addition, gained his N.D.A. at Leeds; D. W. Milne and V.

G. Milne passed the Second Professional Examination; and M. M. Milne and A. E. M. Reekie passed the Third Professional Examination.

From Glasgow University we have the following passes:—E. S. Dawson gained his B.Sc. (Engineering) degree with Second Class Honours; J. M. Macharg gained his M.A. degree; he acted as Treasurer of the University Conservative Club and was a member of the University 1st Rugby XV.; R. W. Harrington and Alexander Boyd passed the M.B., Ch.B. Third Professional Examination; and I. W. W. Fingland passed the M.B., Ch.B. First Professional Examination; he is a member of the University First Rugby XV. and Secretary for the Rugby Club.

Mr. George McHarg of Stranraer was successful in gaining his National Diploma in Agriculture. He also gained the prize for the best student of his year at the Glasgow and West of Scotland College of Agriculture.

The Club Secretary had a most interesting letter from Mr. Hugh B. Hamilton. During the war he served with the East African Army Service Corps. He is now demobbed and back in the firm Vacuum Oil Company of South Africa Limited, Nairobi, Kenya Colony. He wishes to be remembered to all Old Strathallians of his time at School. His youngest brother is a new boy at Strathallan this session.

Mr. S. S. Ferguson is now back with the I.C.I. in Bombay after service with the R.I.N.V.R. as Commander. His elder brother T. M., after the dreary business of getting out of Burma in 1942 when he was a Lieutenant in the R.N.V.R., transferred to the Indian Army and later was attached to General Staff Branch and finished up with Lieutenant-Colonel's rank plus M.B.E. and O.B.E. He was mainly employed in Special Service Operations, combined and otherwise. After extended service in Arafah with 14th and 26th Division he was with the first landings at Rangoon in May, 1945. He is now back with the Port Commissioners in Rangoon.

In a letter to the Club Secretary, Mr. T. I. Farquharson, Bhadreswar, Bengal, says

that he met a few Old Boys during his service with the Rajputana Rifles, Indian Army. Tommy Lang was at O.T.S. in Bangalore at the same time as himself, as also was Dan Smith, who was in the same platoon. "Coffee" Roy he met in Poona at Christmas 1940, and later, while he was in G.H.Q. Mideast, he saw Neil Gillanders

are on the Board of Governors of the School.

Club Members will be interested to learn that since 1938 159 new Life Members have joined the Club, the increase each year being:—1939—17; 1940—2; 1941—7; 1942—14; 1943—19; 1944—25; 1945—23; 1946—52.

At the time of going to press it has been ascertained that the following Decorations

A. G. M. AND DINNER

After an enforced lapse of seven years the Annual General Meeting and Dinner will be held in the Marlborough House, Shawlands, Glasgow, on Saturday, 14th December, 1946. Owing to food rationing, numbers will be restricted to one hundred. The Annual General Meeting is timed to commence at 6 p.m. and the Dinner at approximately 8 p.m. Dinner or lounge suit. On account of the long period which has intervened between this Meeting and

the last — with the inevitable accumulation of routine business which must be done — your Council have decided that the circular giving particulars of the arrangements for the evening (which will be sent to all members in due course) shall include a summary of the changes in the administration of the School and general Club matters since 1938, with the object of covering possible points which members might raise at the Meeting.

and Bill Edwards, who were in hospital for some time in Cairo. In 1943 when travelling by train between Haifa and Cairo he met Harry Todd, who was at Strathallan at the same time as himself.

We learn with pleasure that Mr. David J. Bogie has recently been elected to the Boards of the three following companies:— Investors Mortgage Security Company Limited; Second Investors Mortgage Security Company Limited; and Macniven and Cameron, Limited, makers of the "Waverley" pen. We also learn that our secretary, Mr. J. B. Maitland Cowan, has been elected to the Local Glasgow Board of the Law Union and Rock Insurance Company. Mr. Bogie and Mr. Maitland Cowan

and Honours have been awarded to Strathallians during the Second World War:—

D.S.G.—3.

M.C.—1.

D.F.C.—2.

O.B.E.—2.

M.B.E.—8.

Mentions in Despatches—19.

Territorial Decoration—4.

Testimonial Efficiency Medal—10.

Croix du Guerre—1.

The Headmaster would like to thank all Old Boys who so kindly responded to the request for used rugger kit. The First XV. have been fitted out completely this season.

Births.

DOW.—At Park Nursing Home, Glasgow, on 5th January, 1946, to Bunt, wife of Lieutenant J. Alastair Dow, R.N.V.R., 16 Ledi Road, Newlands, Glasgow, a son.

LEBURN.—On 7th October, 1946, to Barbara, wife of Gilmour Leburn, Gateside, Fife, a daughter.

PARK.—On 28th October, 1945, to Mary (nee Clark), wife of James P. W. Park, "Glan-y-mor," Balwearie Road, Kirkealdy, a daughter.

TAYLOR.—At Lindores Nursing Home, Glasgow, on 15th May, 1946, to Muriel (nee Martin), wife of Dr. W. O. G. Taylor, 5 Clifton Place, Glasgow, a daughter.

SMITH.—On 9th October, 1946, to Mr. and Mrs. George B. Smith, 97 Strathearn Road, West Ferry, Dundee, twins, a son and daughter.

Marriages.

ANDERSON—BEESLEY.—On 21st July, 1946, at St. Margaret's Church, Streatham, John, triplet son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Anderson, Scotby, Carlisle, to Margharite Sybil, widow of Flight Sergeant D. R. Beesley, and only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Webb, Streatham, London.

GUTHRIE—McMASTER.—At Glenapp Kirk, on 26th January, 1946, by the Rev. A. M. Logie, M.A., William Moir Guthrie, Major, Royal Engineers, second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Guthrie, Jesmond, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire, to Mary Barbara, younger daughter of the late James McMaster, Balgroggan Mains, Sandhead, and of Mrs. McMaster, Lochryan Hall, Cairnryan.

KEIGHLEY—NORTH.—At St. John's Church, Morecambe, on 30th April, 1946, by Canon Greenalgh, Captain Jeffrey T. Keighley, 2nd Battalion Cameronians (S.R.), only son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Keighley, Woodville, Colston Road, Bishopbriggs, to Alice Winifred, younger daughter of Mrs. May North, Morecambe.

McCOLL—GREENSHIELDS.—At Giffnock South Parish Church, on 8th July, 1946, by the Rev. E. Ormrod Rodger, M.A., Donald, Captain, R.A.M.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. T. N. McColl, Whitecraigs, to Moyra, daughter of D. M. Greenshields, D.S.O., and Mrs. Greenshields, Glasgow.

MACFARLANE—CROSBY.—At Trinity Church, Pollokshields, on 12th September, 1946, by the Rev. Dr. Geddes Macgregor, Thomas, only son of Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Macfarlane, 69 Newlands Road, Glasgow, to Mary Isobel, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Crosby, 52 Gleneaira Drive, Glasgow.

SANDEMAN—BROWN.—At the Memorial Chapel, Glasgow University, on 12th June, 1946, by the Rev. E. T. Hewitt, M.A., assisted by the Rev. John A. Fraser, M.B.E., T.D., M.A., Wilfred McKenzie Sandeman, M.B., Ch.B. (flying officer, R.A.F.), elder son of Dr. F. W. and Mrs. Sandeman, St. Katherine's, Hamilton, to Isabel Winter Kerr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Brown, St. Edmund's, Stair Park, Girvan.

Death.

CAMPBELL.—Drowned in Loch Lomond, on 27th May, 1946, Alexander Lawrance, aged 19 years, dental student, younger son of Douglas N. Campbell, dental surgeon, and of Mrs. Campbell, Strathend, Dumbarton.

