

# THE STRATHALLIAN

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## Editorial

ONE of a family of birds in the order *Picariae* has this term discovered how pleasant life is in a tree overlooking the lawn. The comparative rarity of such a guest has caused considerable interest, and even gave rise to a certain partisan spirit among those who maintained, on the one hand, that it was *Dendrocopus Minor*, and, on the other, *Porcus Major*. It is now generally accepted, however, that it is a woodpecker; but what is not finally settled is whether the novelty of having so uncommon a guest is not outweighed by its rather high-handed disregard for the accepted rules of etiquette. In the sacrosanct pre-breakfast hours, for example, it is alarmingly peckiferous; and it has even been heard to applaud, though in a somewhat muted strain, during a cricket match.

Our other *rara avis* is, we regret to say, still with us. We refer, of course, to what we have referred to so often — the lack of sufficient worthwhile contributions to the magazine. For this reason we welcome the Headmaster's decision to award a "star" to the author of any original contribution deemed worthy of publication, and hope that this added incentive will spur on the budding poets, writers and artists to give of their best. That this optimism is not entirely without foundation is borne out by the response to the announcement of the "star" award. Over forty contributions were submitted, and it is possible that the small number considered acceptable was due to the short time — a week — allowed to intending contributors; for, as we pointed out in our last Editorial, only the best that a boy is capable of is good enough, and that can be achieved, usually, only by careful thought and constant and arduous revision. We hope that in the months that lie ahead before our next issue thoughts of and for the magazine will not be allowed to "pass in smother."

It is with pleasure, too, that we record other new departures — the institution of House concerts; the substitution, for organised walks on Sunday afternoons, of cross-country runs and timber-felling in the grounds; the Christmas party, so thoroughly enjoyed not only by the boys, but by members

of the staff and their families — a happy precedent, we hope, for future years; and the formation of three new societies — for wireless enthusiasts, scientists and fishermen. The Angling Club, it is true, is not mentioned elsewhere in this issue, but we must confess that that is not the fault of their enterprising secretary, whom we told, somewhat callously, that he might at least catch a fish before he attempted to describe it. The fish, we can now state, has been caught; we look forward to an account of its capture in our next issue.

“In our next issue” reminds us that we should be grateful if all contributors would bear in mind the hardships of an Editor’s life and do their best to see that the second half of the name which the post-war generation of Strathallians have so thoughtfully chosen for him does not degenerate into a meaningless mockery. In other words, if all contributions reached us, at the latest, by October 15th, we should verily be content. What depresses us, indeed, editorially speaking, is the time wasted and the energy spent in struggling through the shifting sands of vague or broken . . .

But why does that remind us of tennis?

## School Notes

SINCE the publication of our last issue a number of events have taken place which materially affect the daily life of the School. Of those perhaps the most important is the most recent, the introduction of Saturday Morning School, with a corresponding reduction of class work during the week.

The Geography Room has been given new and much improved accommodation in the old Prep. Classroom, suitably fitted up with ingenious blackout services to facilitate the operation of the epidiascope.

The appearance of Academic Prizes has stimulated considerable enthusiasm in certain quarters. These prizes are awarded not on a competitive basis, but upon work of merit over a period. Any boy who can produce a piece of work worthy of recommendation to the Headmaster earns a star towards the aggregate of seven required for an award. At the time of printing several boys have already acquired their first star. Prizes are also to be offered for competitive work involving research in special subjects.

We offer our warmest congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Steele on the birth of their daughter.

We also congratulate the following on their success in the Cambridge School Certificate examinations at Christmas: F. P. Allan, R. D. Hunter, D. I. J. Law, L. J. McCarroll, J. Porter, J. C. Shaw, T. M. Templeton.

Sports Day will be 4th June, 1949.

Old Boys' Day will be 25th June, 1949.

Founder's Day will be 8th October, 1949.

## Chapel Notes

At the beginning of the Spring term the House Tutors enthusiastically accepted the Headmaster's suggestion that evening prayers should be held in the Chapel, at which attendance should be completely voluntary. The response of the boys, particularly among the Seniors, has been most encouraging and comforting to those who feared that our generation was reverting with ever increasing momentum to heathenism. Attendance at these prayer meetings has shown that they obviously filled a need and that Christianity is still in demand.

We also welcome the appearance in the Chapel of flowers which, in the past, were reserved for the too infrequent special occasion.

When the Chapel fund accounts are next published, they will undoubtedly show a loss, the result of a decision to devote most of the Sunday collections to outside charities. Many grateful letters of appreciation have been received, and the boys are happy to know that their donations contribute to the alleviation of suffering. What better purpose could there be?

We express our grateful thanks to all the preachers who conducted Sunday services in the Chapel: Rev. Allan Cameron, B.D.; Rev. Ian A. Moir, M.A., Ph.D.; Canon Railton; Rev. J. L. Fyfe Scott, M.A.; Rev. R. Thomson, M.A.; Rev. T. B. Stewart Thomson, D.D.; Rev. Professor W. S. Tindal, O.B.E.; Rev. R. Selby-Wright, M.A.; Major Woodger of the Salvation Army; and the Precentor of Perth Cathedral.

## Scripture Union

THE Scripture Union renewed activities at the beginning of this session. In Mr. Minty a competent president was found, and meetings were held regularly each Sunday evening in the Library. Special short services were held at the beginning of each month.

Mr. Beveridge, the Scripture Union Secretary for Scotland, paid us a welcome visit and brought with him some interesting films on "Science and the Bible," which were enjoyed by the whole School.

During his stay at the School in February, Canon Railton spoke to a full meeting. He stressed the need for putting across our faith to our fellows, especially through the Bible.

A Discussion Group has been formed, but after one discussion, in which the seniors endeavoured to find a way to defend their faith in the world, the discussions were temporarily suspended in order that we might listen to Dorothy Sayers' broadcast play sequence, "The Man Born to be King." The discussions, it is hoped, will be resumed in the Summer term.

Many new members have joined; we hope to see many more in the near future.

J. M.

## The Library

WE are deeply indebted to Mrs. Wills for her generous gift to the Library; these books belonged to her son, J. Wills (O.S.), who was killed in action during the war, which makes us appreciate this gift all the more.

We should also like to thank W. Rowan (O.S.) and T. MacFarlane (O.S.) for the many books they have been so good as to present.

The official title deed of the School's Coat of Arms now hangs in the Library for all to see. It is to be hoped that this will revive in some at least an interest in the art of heraldry.

## Adriatic Action

THE moon's cold light lit up islands and sea alike, making the white cottages and tiny church of Molat village stand out with a ghostly radiance.

At the mouth of the narrow inlet and merged in the shadow of a small cliff lay a Harbour Defence Motor Launch. Her task was to guard the Macnare Channel, the main gap in the chain of rocky islets which fringe the Dalmatian coast, through which passed all the munitions and supplies for the campaign against the occupying Germans. Enemy "E" Boats and "F" Lighters had made many attempts to mine this channel, and so successful had they been that the Naval H.Q. at Zara had decreed that there should be a nightly patrol to discourage this activity.

The January night was a cold one and the frosty air found its way through the layers of scarves and sweaters with which Peter, Sub. Lieutenant R.A.N.V.R. in command, had swathed himself. As he rested his elbows on the bridge of his tiny craft, every now and again sweeping the horizon to seaward with his binoculars, his thoughts must have often strayed to happy days spent surfing and sunbathing on Bondi and Manley beaches in his far-away Dominion.

Suddenly the sound of a high-pitched engine note broke through his reverie, and, as his finger pressed the alarm buzzer for "Action Stations," the dark shapes of three "E" Boats in close formation came sweeping round the point. Peter must have known that he stood very little chance in a fight with three opponents, each armed with four torpedoes and weapons which included 40 mm. and quadruple 20 mm. guns; nevertheless, he shouted down the voice-pipe to his wireless operator to bang out an enemy report, rang full ahead on his telegraphs, and ordered his two single Oerlikons to open up. There could only be one result to this very brave and gallant action, and that came swiftly.



MOLAT VILLAGE, NORTH DALMATIA

With a final savage burst from their guns, aimed in the general direction of the village, the "E" Boats departed, no doubt highly satisfied with their night's work. Had they been able to call upon the services of one of their Fuhrer's celebrated crystal-gazers, their satisfaction would have been short lived...

The crews of His Majesty's M.T.Bs. 699, 706 and 698 were tired, wet, and well and truly "fed up." To use them for a dull patrol like the Macnare, with the Venice-Pola convoys just asking to be attacked, seemed absurd. The "E" Boats would be unlikely to return after their success of the preceding night, and their Ustachi spies would most certainly have informed them that the patrol now consisted of three M.T.Bs., a very different proposition from the solitary



H.D.M.L. — a complete waste of time and a most uncomfortable way of spending it, they mused, searching the night for an non-existent enemy.

At about five o'clock in the morning the Senior Officer of the unit heard the voice of his "Sparks" calling up the voice-pipe to the bridge. "Signal for you, Sir. It's headed 'Immediate': 'Partisan reports enemy vessels aground Unie Island; locate and destroy.'" As if by magic, every trace of lethargy and fatigue vanished and within a minute the M.T.Bs. were foaming their way north-westward up the Adriatic.

They reached the island just as dawn broke. The sea was calm, the excellent visibility revealing with a disturbing clarity the wireless masts and fortifications of Pola a few miles away. With a silent prayer that the Hun would be so overcome with his misfortune that he would be sound asleep and that the stranded vessels were not Destroyers, the S.O. continued slowly down the coast, eagerly scanning the beach with his binoculars. As the unit reached a small light-house, the voice of Philip came over the inter-com: "There they are, Johnny, just to the left of the point. Pity their poor Navigating Officer!"; and there, shining in the sun, lay three "E" Boats, all in perfect station, well and truly grounded close to the beach.



"E" BOATS SURRENDERING AT ANCONA, MAY, 1945

As the M.T.Bs. wheeled to port to close their range, a burst of fire from the nearest vessel was swiftly silenced by the arrival of one of Johnny's "fish," which detonated with a colossal explosion, shaking the neighbourhood for miles around and sending figures running from the boats to seek the somewhat meagre shelter of a ploughed field. In a few minutes what once had been three fine examples of the German hundred-foot "E" Boat were a blazing shambles, as shell after shell from six pounders, Oerlikons and point fives

poured into their hulls. From a clump of what looked like gorse bushes came some spasmodic Bofors return fire, but it too fell silent after the arrival of a well-placed six-pounder shot.

"Right, Philip, Mike," came Johnny's voice over the intercom. "We'll pack up now. We've had enough target practice for to-day." And as they journeyed homeward, every now and then turning to observe a further explosion as torpedo after torpedo blew up as the flames reached them, the thought uppermost in their minds was that Peter and his gallant ship's company had in some small way been avenged.

"V59."

### THE QUEST

Like Isis she did not move in the mournful boat,  
Like Isis she did not move when the rowers sang,  
Like Isis she wept warm, innocent tears,  
As they bore her across the diaphanous waters,  
From behind the tall, bright walls she loved,  
To her quest.

The whispered prayers still fell  
From the ashen pallor of her lips:  
Her purpose still was firm to find the secret of her dreams.

But when to the olive chalice of her ear she pressed,  
Imploringly, the fantastic, painted shell,  
It murmured only of the mingling of land and sea,  
Mockingly re-echoed the sea's monotonous sounding.

Now she hearkened to the sighing of the reeds,  
Hearkened 'neath the saddest of cypresses,  
Shrinking into herself at the recurring sound  
Of the attenuated voice, wailing of all but the quest.

So we knew she had been denied,  
When she ascended with soft-dragged feet the fluted steps,  
Looking neither to right nor left in her affliction,  
But advancing forward reluctantly towards the veiled sanctum,  
Where the sonorous bell tolled incessantly, fatefully,  
Reiterating its funereal calling, summoning  
To the looming darkness  
And the quest.

I. M. W.

## Report of the Committee appointed to investigate complaints that the standard English Authors are obsolete, and to find substitutes

The Board of Education,

Sirs :

It has long been the complaint among schoolboys that certain English authors of the 17th century and somewhat later no longer express the trend of modern thought and that students of those authors have their thinking moulded by men who could not realise the conditions of modern life. A meeting was therefore held and this committee formed. We have investigated the matter and beg to bring to your notice the following findings :

After long and laborious discussion with English teachers of every description, the committee decided that the English-teaching fraternity was, for some reason, not entirely in favour of "Beano" and "Dandy" or even "Wizard." We were unable to discover any reason for this antipathy, but it undoubtedly exists. An alternative suggestion, that the juvenile section of a weekly paper known as the "S—y P—t" be used, was also vigorously turned down by these same gentlemen.

The committee, therefore, was on the point of reporting that owing to the extreme paucity of suitable contemporary literary productions the very reasonable desires of the students could not be complied with, when an alternative was brought to our notice.

It would appear that some reformation-thirsty scholars not long ago produced a series of revues called "House Concerts." In these House concerts the standard of script-writing and acting was so high that many of the more serious-minded students felt that it would be a major tragedy if such unique achievements should be irrevocably lost to posterity. Therefore these patrons of the arts put before the committee the suggestion that "those outmoded crackpots," as they somewhat mysteriously termed the authors to whose productions they had objected, could be replaced by the organisers of the House concerts in the list of people whose works were most suitable for School study. Their argument ran on the following lines: The language and spelling of the House concerts were modern, and thus the student would learn and appreciate modern English in all its beauty instead of the



primitive productions of Ch——er and the Latinised compositions of M——ton. Secondly, the subjects were those which the schoolboy mind could appreciate and comprehend, and therefore more profitable discussion would accrue from a study of these works than would ever be a result of gazing blankly at the iambic pentameters and plagiarised plots of Sh——re. Thirdly, these House concerts embraced a great variety of writings: comedy, melodrama, tragedy and romance each received its share of treatment. Great poetry and elegant prose were there in plenty, with an abundance of resounding oratory such as C——o never achieved. Moreover, the advocates of the movement pointed out that literature was not the only one of the arts to be embellished by the budding men of letters. Ballet was produced, and produced in a delightful manner, as an old theme but with a new treatment; and the power of the human voice was turned to surprising account, in settings ranging from unaccompanied singing to grand opera. Truly these talented youths could have no limits to their genius—such, at least, was the view of the talented youths.

The members of the committee, however, would also like to indicate their hearty concurrence with the above views, and bring the suggestion to the consideration of the Board. They would prefer, however, to retain the anonymity of its members, as Mr. L——f's brow has been thunderous of late, and certain gleams in the eyes of other members of his department are causing the committee no little concern.

In order to facilitate the deliberations of the Board, the committee has great pleasure in affixing to its report a specimen examination paper showing the suitability of the suggested works for this purpose.

C. B. G.

[The Editor regrets that prudence and pressure of space forbid the publication here of the suggested "Highest English" paper. He understands, however, that copies may be obtained on application to the anonymous members of the committee.]

### THE THIEVES OF TIME

Strathallan clocks, say all who know,  
Are either far too fast or slow.  
Unfortunates, when late for meals,  
Declare that everybody feels  
The clock that hangs near the saloon  
Should show the time of noon at noon.

The clock at School is always fast,  
For when it's nine it shows five-past.  
The dining room's the only one—  
Or so they say—that scorns such fun;  
But though I run with all my might,  
I find at breakfast that's not right.

*Moral*

Tempus fugit—how time flies!  
Can't clocks be made to synchronise?

D. G.



The 1st XV which met the Old Strathallians on the 23rd March, 1949

## HOME THOUGHTS ON EXAMS.

O to be more learned  
 Now exams. are here!  
 And whoever swots these evenings  
 Has not so much to fear,  
 For the hardest maths. and perplexing graph  
 You will polish off with a cheery laugh,  
 While others through their papers plough  
 In Scotland now!

R. E. F.

## Applied Physics

He saw the group waiting for him to begin his discourse and he began to feel nervous. He realised that it would be difficult to convince them of his theory, and, as he walked slowly towards them carrying his apparatus, he tried to sort his arguments clearly and concisely in his mind, so that he could present them logically and convincingly. The group hushed as he reached them, and he began.

The theory was based on Fletcher's Trolley Experiment; they could not dispute that. He admitted that the moment of inertia of the body (from Boyle's Law) might, by acting with the limiting friction at the point of contact, provide the Kinetic Energy to enforce the law duodimensionally, but it could not turn the trajectory through an angle of more than  $260^\circ$ , and this was more than sufficient to keep the body outside the rectangular parallelogram of forces which formed the danger zone.

He saw his audience was looking incredulous; and he realised that his first line of argument had failed and that he must rely upon his second to save the issue. The vertical velocity could be calculated from Newton's First Law of Dynamics (deduced from the theorem of Pythagoras); and his calculations from Joule's Law showed that, when he observed the second impact (with the white substance), the parabolic path of the body, through the differential wheel and axle, was such that it would have cleared the parallelepiped with ease. The dimensions of the parallelepiped were  $\frac{31}{12} \times \frac{1}{4}$  ft., the volume (according to Victor Meyer) constituted mainly by neon, oxygen, helium, carbon-dioxide, nitrogen and  $H_2O$ ; and the weight of the slightly oblate spheroid was  $\frac{11}{55}$  lbs. The man in the white overall, who had been standing 70 ft. away during the experiment, must have made some arithmetical error to have come to his erroneous conclusion.

The orator saw his listeners begin to smile. He knew he had failed. He grew exasperated and his voice rose as he finished. "But I tell you it wasn't l.b.w., new rule or no new rule!"

W. B. L.

## Lectures and Entertainments

LECTURES and entertainments contribute in no small measure to the general education and cultural development of the boys. To the various musical recitals given in the past six months and recorded elsewhere in this magazine we must add the talks given by well-known speakers whose visits to Strathallan left us so much the richer in knowledge and experience. We were delighted to welcome back Mr. C. J. Allan, whose lecture, "Renowned Feats of Railway Engineering," illustrated by well-chosen slides, told the epic story of the railway engineers' triumph over nature. Another lecturer paying us a return visit was Mr. Escott North, who put on the full kit of an American cowboy to describe to us the life of cowboys and cattlemen, whilst Mr. Graham Woodmansterne — a new-comer to Strathallan — illustrated his talk, "Glimpses of Northern India," with some fine coloured films.

Equally interesting was the film shown by the chief inspector of the S.S.P.C.A., and the Royal Navy earned our gratitude by giving us the benefit of two visits by Lieut.-Commander J. W. Mott, who spoke first on the Navy as a career and, during his return visit, on "The Battle of the River Plate."

Our very special thanks go to Colonel A. Gomme-Duncan, M.P., who gave up a Sunday evening to talk to us on the Houses of Parliament. His talk was both instructive and entertaining, and was enlivened by a great deal of good Scottish humour which helped to endear him to his audience. If, as we hope, Colonel Gomme-Duncan pays us a return visit in the not too distant future, he may rest assured that he will receive a warm welcome and that we shall be glad to hear him speak on any topic he may choose — even the Groundnut Scheme.

Reference may also be made here to such School outings as visits to the cinema to see the film of the Olympic Games and "Scott of the Antarctic" and the Senior boys' visit to the Perth Theatre to see an excellent performance of "As You Like It."

The accounts of the activities of the various School societies give information as to the "home-made" entertainments provided by the boys, but some reference may be made here to the House concerts, which were initiated during the Spring term. Lack of experience and of rehearsing time may perhaps account for the somewhat low standard of performance, or perhaps the boys have not yet learned to choose items which make thorough rehearsing really worth while. Generally speaking, succeeding concerts showed improvement on those preceding, and the last of the series — that of Nicol House —

was a very decided success. We would especially congratulate Nicol House on the originality of their production and the boys responsible on the ingenuity and real ability they showed in writing the script of "Narkallan" and in producing it in a manner not unworthy of the parodied Gilbert and Sullivan.

A. J. S.

### THE DRAMATIC AND OPERATIC SOCIETY

POSSIBLY the advent of "House Concerts" was in many respects most welcome, but these entertainments killed all Dramatic Society activity during the Easter term. The result is that many may find themselves in sympathy with the views of the member who remarked, "Tell me, just what have we had for our 2/-?" Let us hope, if these concerts — certain of which were most enjoyable — are to become a School institution, that some arrangement can be made whereby they are spaced out over the two Winter terms and not condensed into four consecutive weeks in the short Easter term, which already has numerous activities.

During the Christmas term, however, the society, which had a record membership of 183, was fairly active, and although Mr. Shaw's presidential address was missed, special mention should be made of Mr. Minty's production of "The Monkey's Paw." This proved a most enjoyable performance, as more care had been taken with production, setting and lighting than is usual for common-room productions. During this term the society also gave "Husbands Supplied," a most amusing farce. A talk, illustrated by a film strip, was delivered on the subject of "Behind the Scenes at a Theatre"; and play readings, including readings of the three acts of "I Killed the Count," constituted the programme for other meetings.

Although we again missed our Easter play, the Christmas production of "The Pirates of Penzance" was thoroughly successful, and the society is very pleased to extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Minty, who was in charge of the production.

This term the committee have visited Perth Theatre to see "Arms and the Man." After the performance the members were privileged to be taken backstage, where they spent an enjoyable half-hour.

It is with pleasure that we learn that several past members of the society are continuing to maintain their interest in amateur theatricals after leaving School; if we can be of any assistance, we shall be only too pleased to help them.

In conclusion, the society wishes to express its thanks to all those who have been so helpful in numerous ways this session, and to those members leaving School we say "God speed and good luck."

J. C. S.



## **"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE"**

FOR the annual Christmas term concert the Dramatic and Operatic Society imported into the gymnasium a glimpse of Cornwall, that land of golden sands and blue skies where the pirates are kinder hearted, the policemen more sympathetic and the maidens more beautiful than anywhere else.

The choice of "The Pirates of Penzance" was a happy one, for most boys are pirates at heart, while General Stanley and his faithful policemen are parts to suit the most law-abiding taste. The younger boys, too, have ample scope to show their promise as General Stanley's daughters. The demands made on the musical and acting capabilities are well within the limits of a schoolboy cast, while the settings require the utmost of the stage manager and his assistants.

As to the actual performances, it would be best to echo the Sergeant of Police — "But perhaps it would be wise not to carp or criticise." For if the voices of some of the leads were not quite adequate, the chorus singing more than compensated, and if General Stanley's daughters were somewhat stiff, the spectacle they made in crinolines and nightgowns fully made amends. The performances were really live, the pace was excellent, and every member of the cast was audible and distinct.

Of the individual performances little need be said. Frederic was ably portrayed and sung by Falconer. Biggart was the very spit of a rollicking buccaneer and his powerful bass was heard to good advantage. He was well supported by his henchman, Samuel, played by Stokes. Calderwood, as General Stanley, though he did not extract the maximum from his part, acquitted himself well in a difficult role. Naylor, as Sergeant of Police, gave a particularly live performance. General Stanley's daughters, played by Milne, Little, Ferguson and Marshall, showed considerable promise. Milne, as Mabel, improved with each performance, and he deserves high praise for his singing of this difficult part. Brown, as Ruth, made an admirable foil to Mabel's charm.

One of the highlights of the production was the scenery, designed and painted by Shaw. The electricians and property masters ensured that the settings and costumes were seen to full effect. Throughout the performances the cast was ably supported by the School Orchestra, led by Mr. McConnell. The high quality of the production testifies to the excellence of the musical and stage direction of Mr. Mordecai and Mr. Minty.

J. C. F.

## MUSIC NOTES

DURING the Christmas term our activities were centred on rehearsals for the production of "The Pirates of Penzance" and preparation of choral work for Chapel services.

In November we were fortunate in having a violin and pianoforte recital with Miss Rita Scott (piano) and Mr. J. McConnell (violin). The programme consisted of Sonata in D and "Spring Sonata" by Beethoven, a Sonata by Dvorak, a Nocturne by Chopin and "Mazur" by Młynarski.

Preparations for an Easter concert were well in hand, but owing to general re-organisation it was found necessary to cancel it.

Early in the term a noteworthy visit from the Oxford String Players was greatly appreciated, when they played works by Boyce, Bach, Handel and Mozart.

On the last Monday evening of term Mr. Stobie and Mr. McConnell gave us a recital of violin and pianoforte music of a high standard. Their programme included Sonata in A by Cesar Franck, Concerto in D by Mozart, Polonaise in A Flat by Chopin, Nocturne in F by Chopin, Concerto in D Minor by Wienianski.

A Music Society has now been formed and will meet a few times in the Summer term. We hope to organise a visit from the Perth Choral Society, together with recitals both vocal and instrumental with artistes from Perth. These will be arranged for Sunday evenings.

The School Choir is now busy rehearsing Anthems from newly-acquired Oxford Church Anthem Books, and this will undoubtedly raise the standard of our choral efforts in the Chapel services.

B. M.

## THE DEBATING SOCIETY

THE Society continued its regular fortnightly discussions under the guidance of the chairman and interest was maintained at a comforting level. Speakers came forward from throughout the Senior School—in certain cases, it is true, requiring gentle persuasion. Most acquitted themselves creditably, and inexperience was the main fault.

The subjects were chosen from a wide field. Birss and McFadzean opposed the motion "That the present system of school examinations be abolished," but were defeated by Shaw and Biggart, who proposed a system based on examination of class work and general efforts throughout the term. "The abolition of blood sports" was advocated successfully by Bannerman and Hepburn, despite a determined resistance by Clayton and Stokes. It may be a token of the times that

a large majority favoured the continued existence of football pools. On another occasion the house enthusiastically supported a motion seeking "greater measure of self-government for Scotland." An interesting debate on the desirability of conscription in time of peace followed, although that ubiquitous child, the atom bomb, distracted much attention from the main subject. Frost and Stuart (A. A.) were foiled by Thomas and Boyd in their attempt to do away with peace-time conscription.

A debate in which members of the staff were the principals was a highlight of the session. Messrs. Potts and Silver proposed "That in the true interests of humanity the study of science should be abolished," but failed to gain popular support and were somewhat heavily defeated by Messrs. Burn and Forsyth by 75 votes to 15.

Towards the end of the session a novelty "balloon debate" was held, the principals being Mr. H. Truman, at that time in running for the U.S.A. Presidency (L. J. McCarroll); Prince Philip (B. E. Marr); Professor Piccard, the Belgian scientist (W. B. Naylor); and Mr. J. A. Rank, the film magnate (D. W. Burden). After much interesting and often personal discussion, Prince Philip was judged the least important and cast overboard. Mr. Truman, as usual, carried all before him.

A hopeful feature of the debates was the response from the floor of the house. Stalwarts in this respect were D. W. Burden, D. A. Biggart, J. C. Shaw and A. C. Currie.

Although attendances tended to drop off in the last weeks, owing to the pressure of House concerts and the "Highers," the society finished the session on a confident note, and the general response, especially among the Junior School, augurs well for the future.

R. P.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

THE society, which has a membership of over fifty, has had several meetings during the last term and a half. One lecture, by Mr. Silver, was given on the subject of "Enlargers." A second, by Mr. Shaw, as was a third, by the Headmaster, mainly concerned composition. The Headmaster's lecture was very ably illustrated with his own photographs shown on the School epidiascope.

Last term many films were sold to members and more are on the way. The committee are expecting to see the results appear in the exhibition which, it is hoped, will be held on Sports Day.

K. F.



"THE MOUNTAIN" — J. C. Shaw

### THE ALCHEMISTS' SOCIETY

TOWARDS the end of the Christmas term, Dr. Haldane started making enquiries among the Seniors concerning the formation of an Alchemists' Society, and, the response being very favourable, the society began to function the next term. It was decided that it should consist of twelve boys only, to be chosen from the science students of S6 and S5A. S6, of course, were given priority, while the remaining places were filled in from S5A. The chief condition of membership was that each member of the society should give a lecture on any branch of chemistry that interested him. Owing to the large number of other societies already functioning in the School, the society could meet only once a fortnight. Dr. Haldane himself started the ball rolling with a talk on "War Gases," and in the course of the talk many slides were shown, while specimens of the gases he discussed were passed round. Unfortunately, only one other lecture was delivered that term, as many of the members had external examinations to consider.

It has been decided to let the society lapse during the Summer term, but next session Dr. Haldane hopes to get the society into full swing and has many attractive projects in mind, including several outings.

C. B. G.

### **THE WIRELESS CLUB**

WHEN Mr. Forsyth joined the staff this session, it was found that there were two masters, Mr. Steele and Mr. Forsyth, who had considerable experience as radio engineers. When it was also discovered that several boys in the School were anxious to learn something about the theory and practice of wireless construction, it was decided to start a society to accommodate them, and the club was formed at the beginning of the Easter term. A few lectures were given, to acquaint the members on the basic principles involved, and work was started on one-valve sets. Many, if not all, of these sets are now working, including some very neat sets built to commercial designs; and although there may not be any lectures this term, it will be possible for members to forge ahead on their own.

C. B. G.

### **AEROMODELLERS' CLUB**

THE Christmas term was not marked by any outstanding developments, but in the Easter term model building was again taken up enthusiastically by a considerable number of boys. Unfortunately, the enthusiasm of a few of the younger and more inexperienced modellers rather wore off during the term, when their models did not function as was hoped. However, the club hopes to resume its full activities during the Summer term.

G. W.

## **Combined Cadet Force**

### **ARMY AND BASIC SECTIONS**

SINCE the last account of cadet activities there have been several important changes in organisation, and, as forecast in that account, we now write under the heading "Combined Cadet Force." The total strength of the whole unit, including the Air Section, has increased from approximately 60 to 100 cadets, and we hope that there are other members of the School who will yet join the ranks.

It would be untrue to say that the organisation, with its increased numbers, has not creaked on occasions, but we feel that great strides have been made and that the help given by Messrs. Steele and Coutts should receive warm acknowledgment. Particularly, too, we wish to thank the Officer Commanding 6/7 Black Watch, T.A., for his kindness in allowing Sgt. Masson to help with instruction, and, lastly, R.S.M. Jack, A.A.I. to Perth County Cadet Committee. R.S.M. Jack has been with us for only two terms, but by his enthusiasm and perseverance he has raised the standards within the unit and



endeared himself to all—even though there are some who do not believe his story about the bullet! We hope his association with us will continue.

The new shoulder flashes have been commended by everyone and give us yet another incentive for achieving the highest standards. We hope that all cadets will make an effort to provide themselves with a khaki shirt, tie and boots during the coming months.

The improved standards of which we have spoken are supported by the 100 per cent. success achieved in the last Cert. A examinations. Thirteen cadets sat and passed Cert. A Pt. II, while twenty-two cadets sat and passed Cert. A Pt. I. To all we offer hearty congratulations.

Of the thirteen cadets who sat the Part II examination, twelve have decided to form themselves into a Demonstration Platoon. This is a new venture which we hope will be successful both in bringing enjoyment to the participants and further help and guidance to the training of the younger cadets. At the same time we hope that the Signal Section will continue, as it provides experience of yet another important arm of the Services, which many ex-cadets are joining during their period of National Service.

At last we have obtained two huts, which we propose to use for a store and a .22 range. The latter will not be wholly indoor, but with the help of Sgt. Wolfe of the Air Section we hope that it will be possible to make it of use during both daylight and darkness.

The annual Summer camp will take place this year at Barry Camp, Carnoustie, from 14th to 21st July, and we look forward to a record attendance and hope the weather may be as good as on our last visit.

Two cadets, L/Cpls. Naylor and Guthrie, have this Easter attended a course on civil engineering at R.E. Training Centre, Longmoor, Hants. These and similar courses are now becoming much more numerous, and we hope that cadets will avail themselves in greater numbers of the opportunities offered. They provide a cheap, but good, healthy holiday, a chance to see something of the other branches of the Army, and the opportunity of mixing with and measuring up against cadets of other schools and thereby furthering the name of Strathallan.

Finally, we have to bid farewell to Sgt. Brown, N. We thank him for all he has done to help in building up the unit, which, when considered with his many other activities, is no mean contribution. For the future, we wish him "Good luck."

J. R. B.

### R.A.F. SECTION

TOWARDS the end of the Winter term, Headquarters raised Strathallan from Flight to Squadron status. "The old order changeth . . ." seemed appropriate enough then, but after only a few months we were absorbed into the newly-formed C.C.F., and the unit is now termed "R.A.F. Section, Combined Cadet Force." Teething troubles apart, the unit is thriving satisfactorily, and the future is full of promise.

As a result of intensive study, seven cadets were presented for Part B Proficiency (Air Crew) in the following subjects: Meteorology, armament, navigation and airmanship. All the cadets were successful, and we heartily congratulate I. Anderson, K. Brown (passed with credit), D. Johnstone, J. Shaw, E. Spink, I. Stevens and K. Rome.

At the time of writing J. Shaw and G. Wolfe are studying for the Advanced Training Badge, and it is reasonable to assume that they will bring this coveted honour, for the first time, to Strathallan.

In November a most enjoyable trip was made to H.M. Dockyard at Rosyth, where the cadets were shown over the fleet aircraft carrier H.M.S. "Implacable." Later, two visits were made to Balado and Scone aerodromes; at the former Ansons were flown and at the latter Tiger Moths. Apart from a reluctant Anson at Balado, the trips were uneventful and the usual flying training programmes were maintained.

The entire unit will pay an official visit to Scone on June 5th, when it is hoped that those cadets but newly graduated from the Basic Training Group will be airborne for the first time.

With the rapid expansion of the unit, the following promotions have been made: Flight sergeant, K. Rome; sergeant, G. Wolfe; corporal, J. Shaw.

By their enthusiasm and zeal, these N.C.Os. have set a fine example to all cadets. Flight Sergeant K. Rome in particular is to be congratulated on being "capped" for Scotland in the Rugby International, Scottish A.T.C. v. English A.T.C., at Croydon on New Year's Day. Although playing in the unusual position of full back instead of his normal place in the "threes," Rome gave a good account of himself in a thrilling game which England won in the last minute of time by 8 points to 6.

The unit will be under canvas for the week 16th-23rd July at either Weston-Super-Mare, Driffield, Cosford or Montrose, the final decision being with the Air Ministry.

W. S. H.

## Scout Notes

In the Winter term the Troop programmes were usually devoted to First or Second Class Badge work, but on two occasions we were pleased to have visits from the County Commissioner, Lieut.-Col. J. O. Dundas, and the District Commissioner, Dr. A. M. Robertson. The former's visit provided an exhilarating and strenuous afternoon ("Crossing the Orinoco" will not easily be forgotten), and that of the latter, if not more strenuous, was decidedly more vocal.

During the Spring term we were very pleased indeed to welcome another Scouter, Mr. D. Silver, whose knowledge, experience and enthusiasm will prove very valuable to the Troop.

This term was also noteworthy for three other items. First, eight of those Scouts over fifteen were given the opportunity of learning about police work. On four successive Thursday evenings they visited Perth headquarters, where they inspected cells, acquired some knowledge of police organisation and traffic control, and were initiated into the mysteries of the fingerprint department. Secondly, one Sunday a "Scouts' Own" was held. It is intended that we shall hold one a term, so that we shall always be mindful of the Scout Promise and Law. Thirdly, the first round of the competition for the Hunter Prize was concluded, resulting in a narrow lead for the Lions over the Bulldogs.

For this term the re-arrangement of the School time-table, which permits the Troop to meet on afternoons during the week, is to be welcomed; for some time it had been felt that Saturday morning, with its distractions of detention, School matches, riding and parents' visits, was not a suitable time for a parade. Now, however, it is anticipated that progressive programmes can be arranged in the knowledge of regular, full attendance.

To Scouts the Summer term is a challenge to be out of doors as much as possible, and, in addition to the camp near Aberfeldy from 14th to 23rd July, at least three week-end camps are being arranged. We shall, therefore, be rather busy.

F. S. L.

# Rugby Football 1948-49

## 1st XV

Played 20 ; won 11 ; lost 8 ; drawn 1. Points for, 203 ; points against, 147

						For	Agst.
Sept.	22	P. S. Morris's XV ...	...	...	Home	3	25
"	25	Robert Gordon's College ...	...	...	Home	23	6
Oct.	2	George Heriot's School ...	...	...	Away	5	5
"	9	Old Strathallians ...	...	...	Home	17	8
"	16	Morrison's Academy ...	...	...	Home	9	0
"	27	Scottish Wayfarers ...	...	...	Home	11	14
"	30	Allan Glen's School ...	...	...	Away	3	6
Nov.	3	Melville College ...	...	...	Away	9	0
"	6	Morrison's Academy ...	...	...	Away	24	5
"	9	George Watson's College ...	...	...	Away	0	8
"	20	Morgan Academy ...	...	...	Home	36	3
Dec.	4	Aberdeen Grammar School ...	...	...	Away	13	0
Jan.	15	Paisley Grammar School ...	...	...	Home	22	5
"	22	Glasgow High School ...	...	...	Away	3	6
"	29	Royal High School ...	...	...	Home	6	5
Feb.	12	Trinity College, Glenalmond ...	...	...	Away	0	23
"	19	Dundee High School ...	...	...	Home	3	0
"	26	Dunfermline High School ...	...	...	Away	3	11
Mar.	12	Hillhead High School ...	...	...	Away	3	9
"	23	Old Strathallians ...	...	...	Home	10	8

## 2nd XV

Played 15 ; won 6 ; lost 8 ; drawn 1. Points for, 155 ; points against, 173

						For	Agst.
Oct.	2	Stirling High School 1st XV ...	...	...	Home	10	19
"	16	Harris Academy 1st XV ...	...	...	Away	6	23
"	23	Morgan Academy ...	...	...	Away	17	6
Nov.	6	Morrison's Academy ...	...	...	Home	15	0
"	13	Madras College 1st XV ...	...	...	Home	0	6
"	20	Trinity College, Glenalmond ...	...	...	Away	6	16
"	27	Bell Baxter School 1st XV ...	...	...	Home	8	3
Dec.	4	Aberdeen Grammar School ...	...	...	Home	17	0
Jan.	15	Paisley Grammar School ...	...	...	Away	14	0
"	22	Glasgow High School ...	...	...	Home	3	3
"	29	Harris Academy 1st XV ...	...	...	Away	5	13
Feb.	12	Stirling High School 1st XV ...	...	...	Away	11	16
"	19	Madras College 1st XV ...	...	...	Away	0	29
March	5	Bell Baxter School 1st XV ...	...	...	Away	3	6
"	12	Dunfermline High School ...	...	...	Home	43	3

**Under 15½ XV**

Played 17 ; won 10 ; lost 6 ; drawn 1. Points for, 221 ; points against, 154

					For	Agst.
Sept.	25	Robert Gordon's College	...	Home	6	17
Oct.	2	Stirling High School	...	Home	60	0
"	16	Morrison's Academy	...	Home	11	16
"	23	Morgan Academy	...	Away	27	3
"	30	Allan Glen's School ...	...	Away	9	6
Nov.	6	Morrison's Academy	...	Away	8	3
"	9	George Watson's College ...	...	Away	3	29
"	13	Madras College	...	Home	23	0
"	20	Trinity College, Glenalmond	...	Away	0	8
"	27	Bell Baxter School ...	...	Home	24	5
Dec.	4	Aberdeen Grammar School ...	...	Home	12	10
Jan.	15	Paisley Grammar School	...	Away	14	0
"	29	Trinity College, Glenalmond	...	Home	11	16
Feb.	19	Madras College	...	Away	12	8
"	26	Dunfermline High School ...	...	Away	0	15
March	5	Bell Baxter School ...	...	Away	12	8
"	12	Hillhead High School	...	Away	0	0

**OTHER RESULTS**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Agst.
4th XV ...	6	3	3	—	85	57
Under 14½ XV ...	2	2	—	—	29	6
Under 13½ XV ...	4	2	—	2	12	6

**HOUSE MATCHES****Senior League**

Freeland	v. Nicol	...	...	...	won	11—0
	v. Ruthven	...	...	...	won	10—0
	v. Simpson	...	...	...	lost	0—10
Simpson	v. Nicol	...	...	...	won	21—0
	v. Ruthven	...	...	...	lost	5—6
Ruthven	v. Nicol	...	...	...	won	19—0

**Junior League**

Freeland	v. Nicol	...	...	...	lost	0—18
	v. Ruthven	...	...	...	lost	0—25
	v. Simpson	...	...	...	lost	0—3
Simpson	v. Nicol	...	...	...	lost	0—6
	v. Ruthven	...	...	...	lost	0—3
Ruthven	v. Nicol	...	...	...	draw	0—0

Final placing and award of Flag points :

Ruthven, 15 ; Simpson, 10 ; Freeland, 5 ; Nicol, 0

THE remarks in this report make a new departure, for they are confined to the 1st XV. Members of the other XVs will perhaps be disappointed not to find any reference to their achievements, but it is the 1st XV that sets the example and reflects the spirit which is abroad in the School.



From the very first trial it became evident that the pack would pick itself, and, apart from two separate occasions when Howie and McCarroll were unfit, we made no alteration in the original eight — McCarroll, Stewart, Biggart, Currie, Bell, McFadzean, Hunter, Howie. However, whatever advantage we obtained from this undisturbed combination was offset by the immediate problems in the three-quarters. In Gilchrist, Hill, Brown and Rome we had an experienced and formidable spearhead of attack who, given a fair share of the ball, would lay the foundations of victory; but outside and behind them were the two problems. We lacked a reliable full back and fast and speedy wings who could finish off a movement once the opening had been made. After a number of experiments, Bruce, in spite of his youth, deservedly won for himself the position of full back, and on the wings we found that Naylor and Marr were the most satisfactory. It was therefore not until November 3rd, against Melville College, that we first fielded the side which, in all our minds, stands as the recognised School XV.

At Christmas we had every reason to be satisfied with ourselves. We had played 10 games, won 7, lost 2 and drawn 1, scoring 150 points against 55 — a record which compares favourably with that of last year. Most of the scoring had been done by the fast three-quarter line, and the low scores against us indicate the strength of our defence.

At the beginning of the Spring term we were faced with the problem of replacing Biggart and Howie. This gave Calderwood and McClure their chance to win a place in the XV. The pack played well enough, perhaps never better than against Royal High School, who easily outweighed them, but the "fire" had departed, and it was never recaptured until the last game of all.

Then came the first severe blow — Brown's injury. Coming just before the Glenalmond game, it was a bitter disappointment. The result of that game speaks for itself. The results of the next three games, however, were even more disappointing, and the team did not again find its true form until Brown was fit enough to play once more, in the last match of the season against an exceptionally strong O.S. side, the outcome of which was a surprise to all. The School XV surpassed themselves and played with true inspiration. The game proved two things — the value of Brown's captaincy and his ability as a player; and the justification of intensive training. The game was indeed a fitting conclusion to the season.

## Cross Country

With the chances of success more evenly distributed, this year's cross country produced great enthusiasm, individual and group training spins being both serious and frequent.

Thanks are due to those who, debarred by circumstances from taking the active part they would have preferred, were yet willing to carry out the somewhat uncongenial duties of markers.

### RESULTS

#### HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

1—Simpson                      2—Nicol                      3—Ruthven

In the Senior Section the placings were:

1—Simpson	...	...	...	45 points
2—Nicol ...	...	...	...	72 points
3—Freeland	...	...	...	81 points
4—Ruthven	...	...	...	110 points

The Junior placings were:

1—Ruthven	...	...	...	54 points
2—Nicol ...	...	...	...	82 points
3—Simpson	...	...	...	87 points
4—Freeland	...	...	...	128 points

#### INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

##### Seniors

Time, 24 mins. 15 secs.

1st (equal)	J. A. Chalmers (N)
	I. Kennedy (N)
3rd	R. T. S. Stewart (S)

##### Juniors

Time, 16 mins. 7 secs.

1st	...	W. C. Wallace (N)
2nd	...	J. A. Bruce (R)
3rd	...	R. S. Chalmers (N)

D. S.

## Cricket Fixtures, 1949

### 1st XI

Date	Opponents	Ground
Saturday, 30 April	Robert Gordon's College	Away
Wednesday, 4 May	Perth Academy	Home
Saturday, 7 "	Morrison's Academy	Home
Saturday, 14 "	Glasgow High School	Away
Saturday, 21 "	Hillhead High School	Home
Tuesday, 24 "	Trinity College, Glenalmond	Home
Saturday, 28 "	Allan Glen's School	Away
Saturday, 11 June	George Heriot's School	Away
Thursday, 16 "	H. B. Rowan's XI	Home
Saturday, 25 "	Old Boys	Home
Saturday, 2 July	Daniel Stewart's College	Away
Saturday, 9 "	Forgandenny Cricket Club	Home
Wednesday, 13 "	Staff XI	Home

## 2nd XI

Date		Opponents	Ground	
Saturday,	30 April	— Robert Gordon's College	...	Home
Saturday,	7 May	— Morrison's Academy	...	Away
Saturday,	14 „	— Glasgow High School	...	Away
Saturday,	21 „	— Hillhead High School	...	Away
Saturday,	28 „	— Allan Glen's School	...	Away
Saturday,	11 June	— George Heriot's School	...	Home
Saturday,	18 „	— Trinity College, Glenalmond	...	Away
Saturday,	9 July	— Bell Baxter School 1st XI	...	Away

## Old Boys' News

## THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Marlborough House, Glasgow, on Saturday, 18th December, 1948, at 6 p.m. Mr. Gilmour Leburn, President, was in the chair and the meeting was attended by approximately sixty members. The meeting had a very full agenda before it, and after the opening formalities had been observed proceeded to elect Office-Bearers and Members of the Council for 1948-49. The names of those elected are printed on the inside of the back cover.

The Honorary Treasurer submitted the Annual Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Account, a copy of which is printed in the supplement. The accounts were approved, and the Treasurer informed the meeting that in terms of the Constitution £69 would be transferred to the Trustees of the Club for investment. The meeting approved a motion by Mr. R. B. Reid, seconded by Mr. J. A. Dow, that the balance of £13 1s. 1d. at credit of Mr. Riley's Presentation Fund be transferred to the War Memorial Fund.

Amendments to Articles 34 and 35 of the Constitution were proposed by Dr. D. J. Bogie and seconded by Mr. R. B. Reid and were approved. So far as the former Article is concerned the amendment provides for the appropriation, for the promotion of the interests of the School, of part of the Capital Funds of the Club. In turn this amendment necessitates one to the Article following to the effect that grants in the case of necessitous circumstances should not be made unless the market value of the Capital of the Club exceeds £500. (The Council hope to provide copies of these and previous amendments for the use of members before the next Annual General Meeting.)

A report on the War Memorial Fund was then submitted, and the Chairman explained various suggestions which had been made to the Council to supplement the Fund and the reasons why these had ultimately been rejected.

Members were reminded that the Council in the Explanatory Memorandum of 18th September, 1948, had recommended that the sum of £1000 out of the Club's Capital Funds should be transferred to the War Memorial Fund, and a formal motion to this effect was therefore moved by Mr. R. S. Johnston and seconded by Mr. H. Gilmour. The views of various members were heard, and the Chairman accepted two counter motions, the first of which was to provide a guaranteed annuity of £25 per annum to the War Memorial Fund for a period of seven years subject to renewal at the termination of this period; and the second was to substitute, for a donation of £1000, one of £850. After discussion the first counter motion was withdrawn and the original motion and remaining counter motion were put to the vote, the original motion being carried.

It was then reported that a draft Deed of Trust for the administration of the War Memorial Fund had been prepared, and the Chairman explained the wide principles on which the Deed had been drawn. The Chairman also explained the arrangements which had been made for members to peruse the draft Deed of Trust, and on the formal motion of Mr. J. B. Maitland Cowan, seconded by Mr. William M. Shanks, the draft was approved.

A motion proposed by Mr. R. R. Fraser, seconded by Mr. R. B. Reid, that the President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary and Treasurer for the year 1948-49 should grant the Deed on behalf of the members was unanimously approved. The meeting then approved the nomination of the following persons to be Trustees under the Deed of Trust: Messrs. R. D. Linton, J. A. Dow, R. S. Johnston, J. M. Turner and J. Lusk.

A formal motion instructing the transfer of the War Memorial Fund to the Trustees acting under the Deed of Trust was then approved.

It was brought to the notice of the meeting that the Club's elected representative on the School Board of Governors retired at the School Annual General Meeting in 1949 and that it would be necessary to elect a successor. The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. N. Guthrie Reid and at the same time accorded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Barr for the manner in which he had performed his duties.

The meeting unanimously approved the admission to Honorary Membership of Mr. Ward in recognition of past services to the Club.

The meeting also approved admission to Life Membership of the thirty-seven persons who had submitted applications during the year.

The Chairman reported that there was a number of annual subscriptions in arrears and advised the meeting that the Council, considering this matter, had, after sending final notices, suspended the membership of those persons whose subscriptions were two or more years in arrears until such time as the arrears were liquidated; this action was approved.

Before closing, the meeting recorded its approval, firstly, that the monthly luncheons should be continued for a further year; and secondly, that transport to club functions should not be run in future unless a financial success was assured.

### **FROM OUR CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CORRESPONDENT**

This term is, perhaps, the most pleasant of all. The weather is very fine most of the time and the river crowded with boats of all shapes and sizes. The Backs are indeed beautiful, and it is a great pity we do not have enough time fully to appreciate our surroundings. For this is also the term when examinations must be taken, and nowadays these are more important than ever before.

Ian S. Stuart and G. S. Lowden are taking Part II of the Law Tripos, and are going down at the end of this term. Both intend to continue their careers as chartered accountants and are going into different firms in Dundee.

John Hall and Iain Hendry will take Part I Law Tripos this year, and hope to return for another year. The former has been elected captain of St. John's College Rugby Football Club, and we wish him good luck in this capacity.

The only remaining Strathallian is James S. Lowden, who is studying Mathematics and indulging in a game of squash now and again.

The St. John's College Rugby Team visited Paris in January, and among the party were John Hall and Gordon Lowden. The trip was a great success, but fuller details can be obtained only by cross-examination of the members concerned.

### **FROM OUR ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY CORRESPONDENT**

The Strathallan population of the University was almost doubled this year by the entry of two bejants into University College, Dundee. Mr. L. Forbes has returned from the Services and entered the Faculty of Science, while Mr. Ian P. Johnston, fresh from School, is studying Engineering and also playing rugby for his faculty and the University 2nd XV. Mr. K. M. Anderson, also in U.C.D., continues with the Science



course, but now considers himself too old for rugger and is often to be seen wielding a hockey stick in a valiant attempt to retain a little of his youth.

In the "Old Grey City by the Northern Sea" a notable is Mr. D. Scott Anderson, who is Secretary of the Students' Representative Council; he took the part of Mary Queen of Scots in this year's Kate Kennedy procession. It is also rumoured that during the afternoon of charities' parade he was seen wearing a schoolboy's cap and shorts and sucking a lollipop!

Mr. John Anderson, also in St. Andrews, reports that he intersperses his hard work for his medical degree with occasional bursts of energy on the rugby pitch.

This being the total number of Strathallians in the University at present, we close with the hope that many more students from Strathallan will choose to be wearers of the scarlet gown.

### **FROM OUR GLASGOW UNIVERSITY CORRESPONDENT**

THE year seems to be slipping by swiftly and very little of note seems to have happened in the way of University activities; but, although collectively there is stagnation, individually much work has been done.

G. W. Pate has gained further honours for himself and the School—for it is to the School that he gives credit for his sure foundation—by coming out first in Mechanics and in Electrical Engineering and winning the Walker Prize (for being voted the best student of his class). Our heartiest congratulations!

Nicol Low, while not aspiring to such heights, has nevertheless done with his studies and passed his degree examination. He has been playing exceedingly well for the Varsity XV, but was most unfortunate in suffering a number of injuries which kept him out of the game for some time. He did, however, manage to play for Scottish Universities against the Army at Murrayfield in March.

Alan Stuart, in first year Engineering, has done very well. We congratulate him on passing his degree examination, the result of which has just come to hand. Gavin Vernon, also in first year Engineering, passed the examination too, and we extend our congratulations to him.

While this seems to be entirely a success story about engineers, let us not belittle the efforts of the Medical, Science and Art students, whose examinations are yet to come.

Still abreast of the tide in the Science Faculty are Douglas Simpson and Robert White, who, we have noticed, has

joined the Varsity Tennis Club, although it is too early to record whether he plays in the team, as matches have not yet started.

In second year Medicine and still with their heads above the water are Eric McCracken, Drummond Stevenson and Sandy Pate. Their sufferings are delayed till June. Good luck to them!

Robin Newton, Ronald Peters and Graeme Sandeman seem to be surviving the rigours of a University education. Both Ronald and Graeme played rugby for Varsity, Graeme playing for the 1st, when he unfortunately received an injury to his knee which prevented his playing during the latter half of the season. Ronald Peters's name has also appeared on the tennis section's notice board in connection with the men's championship. All three will be sitting degree examinations in June.

Our most advanced representative in Medicine, Ian Fingland, appears to be progressing most favourably and is keenly looking forward to his Midwifery course at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, in the Summer. He has been playing well for Varsity at rugby and was a member of the Seven which won the Ayr Sevens tournament for the fifth successive year.

Last, but by no means least, are the Arts students. Ronald Fraser — if we may extend our metaphor — is swimming strongly for the shore. We have not seen him much this year; could he be recovering after his speech at the Old Boys' Dinner? Frank Reid we have seen once — it is sincerely hoped he is "coming along nicely."

### MISCELLANEOUS

THE Annual Dinner was held in the Marlborough House, Glasgow, on Saturday, 18th December. All who attended will agree that it was as enjoyable and convivial a function as ever.

Mr. A. J. G. Brown of Cupar, Fife, is now Assistant District Officer at Iringa, Southern Highlands, Tanganyika. After demobilisation he resigned from the bank and secured an appointment in the Colonial Administrative Service, being granted five years' seniority on account of his seven years' war service. After taking Colonial Office courses at Queen's College, Oxford, and London University he married Miss Nan Allison of Newport in April, 1948.

Mr. David Shannon, writing from Gatehouse-of-Fleet, reports that in September, 1948, while attending a pre-release course at No. 3 Army College, Swindon, he met Messrs. Archie Wallace and Maitland McHarg, the latter being then Second

Lieutenant on the Staff of the College. He writes that it was a great pleasure to meet two old friends in such a place as Swindon.

Mr. J. J. Beatson (1931-37), writing from Haifa, where he is with Messrs. Steel Brothers & Co., Ltd., would welcome news from any Old Boys who are in that part of the world.

Mr. A. J. S. Anderson of Dundee (1938-44) writes that as from 1st May, 1949, his address will be c/o The Borneo Company, Ltd., Bangkok, Siam, and he would be very pleased to see any Old Boys who are in that part of the world.

The Editorial Board tender their apologies to Mr. David J. Whitton (1937-41) for a mis-statement which appeared in the magazine of November, 1948. Mr. Whitton, who is at University College, London, taking a four-year course in Classical Arabic, states that although at one time he held a post with B.O.A.C. he has no intention of taking up commercial aviation as a career.

The name Ian G. Gilchrist, A.R.P.S., at the foot of many a breath-taking study of sun, sea and sail might not suggest to many an Old Strathallian of the late "twenties" and early "thirties" that they were looking at the work of one of their contemporaries. Yes, Ian Gilchrist, that quiet, rather shy, ginger-headed boy, is now one of the most sought after exponents of the photographic art, particularly in its reflection of the ever-changing moods of sun and sea. As a boy at School a kindly uncle had given him a camera, and with words of encouragement and help launched him in the hobby which was to become his life's career. His passion for the sea and sailing led him from a stockbroker's office at the outbreak of war to the wireless cabin of a merchant navy vessel. Invalided out, he joined a local experimental marine aircraft station, where he worked on the development of the "Q" type rubber sailing dinghy. With the end of the war, Ian Gilchrist took the plunge and made photography and journalism his profession. So successful has he been that there must be few yachting publications which do not include an illustration of the work of this talented young photographer. The publication of his second book, "Call of the Wind," shows how well he is able to capture the atmosphere of sailing in all its facets and in its pages one can verily smell the salt sea air.

Congratulations to Hamish Dawson are due on three counts: firstly, the passing of his final chartered accountancy examinations; secondly, his three international rugby caps for Scotland this season; and, thirdly, his appointment as captain of Glasgow Academicals for the coming year.

The Secretary is anxious to acquire an Addressograph machine, and before buying a new one would like to enquire of members whether they have one with which they might be prepared to part for a modest consideration.

### BIRTHS

**BEATSON.**—At a Nursing Home, Haifa, on 3rd November, 1948, to Mrs. M. Beatson, wife of J. J. Beatson, a son.

**CHAPELLE.**—At 235 Milton Road East, Joppa, Edinburgh, on 30th April, 1949, to Sheila and Victor Chapelle, a daughter.

**McINROY.**—At Pilmuir, Milngavie, on 2nd December, 1947, to Betty (née Timperlake), wife of Graham S. McInroy, a son.

**PEACOCK.**—At a Glasgow Nursing Home, on Sunday, 10th April, 1949, to Betty (née Gerrard), wife of Robert A. Peacock, 741 Shields Road, twin daughters.

## Strathallian Club

1949

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