

# THE STRATHALLIAN

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## Editorial

WITH the advent of the Festival of Britain, the editorial minds turn towards visions of dazzling pageantry and floating skylons. Stark reality, however, superimposes itself and, as the nebula clears, we are left with a dull picture of toffee papers liberally strewn everywhere but in the receptacles provided; of the desecration, through open windows, of Mozart by untuned violins; and of mutiny in the ranks, as the more recalcitrant element of Basic B refuse to respond to the uncompromising demands of their drill instructor.

The subject of cadets reminds us that the best armies march upon their stomachs. The school authorities, we are happy to report, have shown concrete appreciation of Napoleon's adage by building a brand new tuckshop, in what was once the cloakroom. Under the progressive guidance of the Housekeeper, this admirable institution, though rendering us periodically insolvent, has already done much to supplement the funds of various school societies, whose activities are reported elsewhere in these columns. We are quietly grateful.

The record consumption of the ice-cream procured by the new tuckshop was registered by a member of the 1st XI, who, after a nerve-wracking two-and-a-half overs at the wicket, drowned his sorrows in two liquid "family bricks," sunburnt after a five minutes' wait on the scorer's desk.

If we take a stroll over to the nets any night of the week, we are sure to find the Headmaster expounding his new batting technique to a crowd of ever-improving batsmen who are in constant fear of dropping their left elbows or showing too much right shoulder. The Headmaster, like Mr. Winston Churchill, promised nothing for our first attempts—he will therefore not be disappointed. We take consolation from the fact that Yorkshire recently could score but a meagre 49 against, of all teams, Surrey.

As we stand padded-up, bat in hand, we curse Jupiter Pluvius for his untimely return from a highly successful monsoon tour of the Malabar coast. But as the weather forecast predicts a thunderstorm, we hope that it will be one of offers to contribute to the next number of *The Strathallian*.

Any budding Beaverbrooks are asked to refrain from hiding their light any longer under the bushel.

And now, if you can read these columns with as much relish as they were compiled, we both can say "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din."

### **SALVETE**

**January 1951**

Boe, R. F. ; Leishman, K. F. L. ; McGregor, J. S. M. ; Ross, E. ; Smith, M. R. B. ; Stuart, G. C.

**May 1951**

Baird, D. A. ; Brough, J. A. ; Dillon, D. M. A. ; Fergusson, G. M. ; Greirson, S. W. ; Hamilton, P. M. ; Hunter, W. D. ; Jack, W. D. ; McKinnon, W. N. ; Orr, K. C. L. ; Orr, S. L. C. ; Orr, W. B. C. ; Paton, J. ; Rowand, J. ; Shiels, M. B. ; Simpson, E. J. B. ; Weeks, G. G. D. ; Weeks, R. B. D.

### **VALETE**

**December 1950**

Blanche, R. B. ; Bryson, H. ; Calder, D. R. ; Gardiner, A. Q. ; Innes, J. ; Kennedy, I. ; Stevenson, A. N. ; Stuart, R. G.

**April 1951**

Appleby, J. C. ; Appleby, R. M. C. ; Braid, W. S. S. ; Yates, M.

## **School Notes**

IN April we were sorry to say goodbye to Mr. K. D. Minty, who left after three years as Latin master to take up an appointment at Wrekin College. His unfailing energy and good humour were a stimulating influence in the school, and he is much missed in all the many activities to which he willingly gave his spare time. We hope that he will return sometime to preach at our Chapel Service.

At the end of May, Mr. G. H. Forsyth left us to take up his new appointment at Turriff Academy, and the School lost a most pleasant and valuable member of the staff whose specialised knowledge and ready help was much appreciated, particularly in the Scout Troop, Workshop, and Radio Club.

At the end of this term we are sorry to lose five other members of the staff:

Mr. J. R. Burn, who leaves after twelve years, interrupted only by distinguished war service. Under his charge, the efficiency of the Corps has improved beyond recognition, and the time and energy he has given to this work has been much appreciated. An inspiring teacher of Mathematics, he was a wise and understanding Housemaster who will be a great loss to every sphere of the School's life.

Mr. F. S. Langstaff was appointed in 1941 and returned here as English master after the war. He has set us all a high example of hard work and cheerfulness. The Scout Troop particularly owes a great deal to him and has flourished under his charge. A first-class Hockey player himself, Mr. Langstaff has enthusiastically organised the game here.

Mr. G. Langstaff came to us in September 1935 and has been a most energetic and popular member of the staff, his long service being interrupted only by the war. Despite his responsibilities as Senior English Master, Mr. Langstaff has cheerfully undertaken many extra duties which have come his way, and, for the past twelve months in his position as Second Master, his singular administrative skill has done much to promote the smooth running of the school. He will always be remembered as a wise counsellor by parents and boys alike, and his valuable services will be much missed.

Mr. I. Pritchard.—His absence will be felt on the playing-field, where he had devoted much time and energy to coaching the 1st teams with conspicuous success. No less will he be missed in the classroom, where his enthusiasm has aroused for so many an interest in economics and book-keeping.

Captain (S) I. T. Rees, R.N. (Retired).—During his year at Strathallan he has made the most of the opportunity provided by his unique position as our first Bursar to institute many economies. We are grateful for all his work.

We offer to all those members of the staff and their wives our very best wishes for success and happiness in their new appointments.

We welcome the following new members of the staff who joined the School in January, 1951: Mr. D. E. Cutforth, Mr. M. S. Maxwell and Mr. D. E. Young, who are graduates of Cambridge University, and Mr. G. West, a Scholar of Trinity College, Dublin; also Miss B. R. Pearson, who is secretary to the Headmaster.

The following gained Cambridge School Certificates in December 1950:—

Baird, K. A.; Bryson, H.; Campbell, A. I. G.; Chalmers, R. S.; Henderson, S. M.; Holden, G. R.; Kennedy, I.; Morgenthaler, P. T.; Stewart, I. F. B.; Tulloch, W. A.; Williams, K. B.

Academic prizes have been inaugurated this term as distinct from our former system of "Star" prizes, and both School Prefects and Sixth formers have been given special rooms across at school in which to study. The old Art Room has been converted into a well-equipped Music Room, and the Gym. porch has been furnished with lockers for running strip.

The School is grateful for the following gifts :—

£500, a metal lathe and a circular saw from three of the Governors who have asked to remain anonymous.

Two violins from Mrs. J. Baird, the mother of K. A. Baird, of Inverkip House, Inverkip.

A very fine collection of some 250 gramophone records from Mr. H. Bemersyde Rowan, an old Strathallian.

Our thanks are also extended to two members of the staff who have made possible the purchase of orchestral instruments and a wood lathe.

There is a shortage of pianos and more orchestral instruments, and any help in this connection would be very much appreciated.

## In Defence of Modern Poetry

MODERN poetry has again been attacked, and, as few modern poets seem to be stirred into action, it falls to me to defend Art against the attack of the Philistines, not daring, however, to take to myself the name of poet; it is easier to be a critic.

I will pass over the disregarded distinction between poetry and verse and answer some of the critics. Following the advice of Clausewitz I may even use offence for my defence. Some common criticisms are, briefly, that the modern (in this case we are only considering the free verse writer) has given up form, rhyme and rhythm, and thus is not a proper poet; that he loses himself in massive similes; that he is unintelligible.

It should be unnecessary to point out that modern poetry has form, an irregular form, but still a form of sorts. The painful restrictions of verses and lines are foreign to the freedom of to-day; it prevents the free and rapid development of a theme if a writer has to compress or extend his lines, and to find a rhyme for "rhythm" if he happens to have been so lacking in foresight as to use the word.

To say that rhyme is necessary is surely the most fatuous of the objections, since it excludes Homer, Vergil, Milton and Shakespeare from the ranks of the poets; the word is not synonymous with rhymsters. If the offended reader of free verse would look at his dictionary he would find that rhythm and metre are not the same thing. A line is not rhythmical simply if one can say it in the di-dum, di-dum, di-dum or even the tum-titty, tum-titty, tum style, and a line does not lose its rhythm if it lacks this metre. "The cat sat on the mat" has metre. "The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places; how are the mighty fallen!", "Let us now praise famous men

and our fathers that begat us," and a hundred other portions of scripture have rhythm. There is no question which is poetry.

If it is true that modern poets lose themselves in massive similes, after the manner of the four masters I have mentioned, that is the highest praise. But, as a matter of fact, modern poetry is marked by a simplicity which uses sometimes rather startling one-word metaphors such as those in James Thompson's "It was the lovely moon,"

It was the lovely moon—she lifted  
Slowly her white brow among  
Bronze cloud waves . . .

This contains three succinct metaphors which might have been treated in this way :

It was the moon that lifted up  
Her orb like to the brow of some  
Fair virgin with a visage pale,  
Thus seemed the moon amongst the clouds  
Which rolled as do the angry waves  
—But sea as man has never seen ;  
Not made of sea but cast in bronze  
As by some far-off Afric serf . . .

There have only been half-a-dozen men who could have made these metaphors more effective in the second style than the first. The modern is wise enough not to try, but to develop an original, not an imitative treatment of metaphor.

The unintelligibility of a piece of verse does not prevent it from being poetry, for although I can not understand Dante, he is still a poet. And the modern writes in his own language. He is understood by fewer people than Dante, true, but nevertheless his words have some meaning. If a caterpillar on a leaf reminded Blake of his mother's grief, he is entitled to put the caterpillar in a poem without explaining what it means, just as much as Dante could leave his Italian unexplained to an Englishman. Shakespeare put down what he felt, and so does the modern, but the modern poet's shorthand, which expressed to himself what he means, is unfortunately unintelligible to the world in general. It is, none the less, poetry if it has the essentials of poetry.

I do not propose to enter into a long discussion on the essentials of poetry, but to take them for granted as Emotion, Imagination, Beauty. The modern has thrown off false and stock emotions. He has got down to the emotional bed-rock. His main outlook is hopeful; he believes in ideals—God, life and love—but his work is tinged with melancholy and cynicism. His imagination is so free that it is often a stumbling block to the Philistines; for it is colourful, sweeping and swift, even extravagant, but it is one of the chief charms



of the poetry of to-day. The form is not unadorned, but it scorns the rococo and is beautiful with the simple grace and colour of a Greek temple. It needs no artificial beat or jingling rhyme for its appeal. If its spontaneity and attendant freedom of form are, as is apparent, the chief objections to it, Tolstoy's remark on *Arniel's Journal*, his private and sincere jottings, may be opposite. "What is precious to us in an author's work is only that inner labour of his soul, and not the architectural structure in which usually, and I think perhaps always, distorting it, he packs his thoughts and feelings."

A.D.M.

### THE CRYSTAL PALACE

A hundred years ago, in May  
The Exhibition on display  
Was Crystal to the heavens free.  
A million people flocked to gaze  
At splendours of Victorian days.  
It was a wondrous sight to see.

The sunbeams glittered on the glass,  
The ladies streamed across the grass,  
Their crinolines a-flying free.  
They stared at it and gazed in awe  
Upon the Palace that they saw.  
It was a wondrous sight to see.

The statesmen and the princes all  
Marvelled at the wondrous hall.  
The children simply danced with glee,  
They went inside and looked around  
—The vaulted roof, the walls, the ground.  
It was a wondrous sight to see.

"The Nine Day Wonder" it was named.  
The Crystal Palace then was famed;  
And has gone down in History.  
Although it isn't there to-day  
You often hear old people say,  
It was a wondrous sight to see!

R.A.G. (III A).

## Rio De Janeiro

THE fleecy white clouds rushed past the Constellation's windows as it started its slow descent to its destination, Galeau Airport, Rio de Janeiro. After emerging from the clouds we were flying into Rio's famous gateway between the Pao de Asucar, the Sugar Loaf, with the famous holiday resort, Niehteroi, on our right. As we banked sharply prior to

landing we caught a glimpse of the Christ Statue and the Copacabana beach where the South American surf-riding championships are held annually. We touched down, and were ushered into the spacious Customs Office, where we found the officials quite prepared to neglect the inspection of the luggage for an adequate tip. Outside, the Pan American Airlines' coach was waiting to take us to the city, eight miles away.

It was only as we drove off that we realised that the airport was in fact situated on an island which was joined to the mainland by a palm-lined causeway. A quarter of an hour later we were in the city centre with its skyscrapers that seemed to hang over the wide avenues along which strolled the Brazilians dressed in their highly coloured clothing. We lunched at one of the city's expensive restaurants, and set off on a sight-seeing tour. First, we visited the poorer quarter near the docks with its cobbled narrow streets, tumbledown dwellings and small plot gardens. In this area, we saw the most colourful spectacle of our visit—the market. There the merchants, dressed in their national costumes, mainly as an attraction to tourists, sold fruit, flowers, food, cheap jewellery, souvenirs, and a multitude of fancy goods.

En route for the Sugar Loaf, we passed through the residential part of the city, the Copacabana beach, with its large white flats, a stone's throw from the sea in front of which the owners' yachts and cabin cruisers lay lazily at anchor. Arriving at the foot, we entered into a two-way, floodlit tunnel running for about a quarter of a mile through the hill, whence we climbed to the top in the *téléférique*. Descending from here, we visited the huge open-air zoo where the animals are kept as far as possible in their natural surroundings. Then we moved on to the Petropolis Hotel, a luxuriously decorated imitation Tudor building which possesses every amenity including yachts, a golf course, swimming pool and tennis courts. Here we had afternoon tea.

Our next visit was to the Christ Monument on a hill on the other side of town, from where we had a magnificent view of the whole of Rio and the surrounding district. The harbour was specially impressive with its many various types of ships from which the launches could be seen leaving from time to time. Coming back into the city we passed the Municipal Stadium at which the World Football Cup matches were recently played. Night falls extremely rapidly in the tropics, and by six o'clock it was dark. Later in the evening we walked along the almost deserted promenade watching the reflection of the lights dancing on the smooth waters of the bay. In the centre of the boulevard ran long thin islands with red, white and blue fountains on them among the gay tropical

flowers. The Christ monument in its magnificence was by now floodlit, too, and it seemed to dominate the impressive scene.

Finally we returned to our hotel, having thoroughly enjoyed our first enthralling day in this enthralling city. We looked forward to the remainder of our stay there and to the many pleasant hours it would most certainly provide.

I.F.B.S.

## Learning To Fly The Proper Way

On the evening of Monday, April 9th, a cadet walked up the drive into Scone Aerodrome to begin flying training. His mind was filled with a thousand thoughts, on how to fly and how not to fly, furiously gathered from a book on his way to the aerodrome; and he also wondered if he had said "Goodbye" to his parents for the last time.

The receptionist did not help to dispel the illusion of impending death; and it was with some uncertainty that he wandered off to find Hut 68, which was to be his billet for the coming fortnight. Here he made the acquaintance of his fellow cadets, who had nothing but tales of woe to impart. It appeared that there had been no flying for quite a time owing to the gusty nature of the wind. Hence an air of utter gloom and boredom had spread over the entire party. Better weather was, however, forecast for the next day.

The following day, as it happened, there was a slight breeze of 45 knots, and so there was no flying, as Tiger Moths are liable to fall to pieces if flying in a wind of more than 20 knots. The first day was therefore spent on the ground looking over the Moth and making the acquaintance of the instructor.

The second day was similar, but at last the hour dawned that was suitable for flying, and the cadet was told to don his flying kit. It was with great excitement that he climbed into the cockpit, but this immediately changed to alarm when he realised he had forgotten how to secure his safety straps. But the instructor, knowing cadets of old, left nothing to chance, and before climbing into the front cockpit checked the cadet's harness. According to the instructor the cadet had made a good start—instead of being strapped into a plane he should have been strapped into a pram.

However, the first flight was uneventful and the flying hours slowly began to mount. The cadet did not make any serious mistakes until his first solo, except the usual errors made by most learners, such as completing a spin in two



thousand feet instead of five hundred feet, or becoming lost when the plane was practically flying over the aerodrome; but at his first solo he had one of the narrowest escapes in his life.

On the day that he was told that he could fly alone, he received the announcement with mixed feelings, but at last he had his chance to prove his mettle. He had no wish to back out, so he put his kit on and started walking out to the plane, which was waiting on the tarmac. An ambulance and fire-tender standing nearby gave the cadet rather a fright, but at last he climbed into the cockpit, and after final checks on the engine, he taxied out to the take-off point without fault.

He then looked round, and seeing the run-way clear, opened the throttle wide, but as he did so, the plane began turning towards the hangars, and at the same time it was gathering flying speed. The instructor stood stock-still and said a silent prayer, whilst the fire-tender and ambulance started moving forward. This all happened in a few seconds—the worst few seconds ever experienced by the cadet. As the plane hurtled towards the hangars, he frantically pulled the stick back into his left thigh and jammed on left rudder.

The plane rose drunkenly, did a sickening lurch just off stalling speed, made a tight turn to the left, and missed the hangars by inches. But he was safe and climbed to five hundred feet to complete his circuit, a white-faced though happy lad. The instructor mopped his brow and went inside—he knew everything would be all right. Sure enough, as if in repentance of such a bad take-off, the Moth touched down without a bump for a perfect landing. After his first solo, things came much easier to the cadet, and soon his take-offs and landings were first-class.

At last the thirty hours were completed, and he passed out! He was overjoyed at getting his A Licence, but in a way he was glad that it was over, and he would always remember the experiences of his first flight and his instructor who did so much with so little.

L.J.S.R. and I.G.S.

## A Visit to a Coalmine

AFTER the Cambridge School Certificate Examination in December, the Lower Fifth paid a visit to No. 2 Kelty Colliery. Mr. Gibbs had kindly offered to organise and supervise the trip on a free day after the exams.

Few of us will ever forget our first trip underground: the descent in the cage was breathtaking in its rapidity. On arrival at the foot of the shaft, we were impressed by the large dimensions of the workings, which we had imagined as dimly

lit low passages and certainly not at all like these electrically lit roadways. At the coalface, about a mile from the foot of the shaft, we were more cramped, and all around water dripped monotonously and weird yellow fungi grew through cracks in the roof, in places almost brushing our heads. Here we were shown the various means of mining coal at the face, how it is placed on to conveyer belts, loaded into tubs, and drawn by powerful diesel locomotives to the shaft, whence it is raised to the surface.

At the surface again, we had a snack lunch, and then went on to see the surface mechanism. Here we saw how the coal was raised to the ground level by means of winches, how it was separated from the shale, and how it was finally washed. After the thrill of being below, this part of the visit seemed rather dull, but it was no less interesting and instructive. Our tour of inspection over, we had our pithead bath and left shortly after. Before returning to School we spent a pleasant two hours in Perth and returned in the evening having spent a most enjoyable and beneficial day.

A.I.G.C.

## Activities

At the beginning of the Easter Term, the Headmaster instigated an Activities Period—about an hour between tea and preparation—in which boys who did not shine on the playing field might assume their place of credit in the general life of the school.

In this new period, the comparatively old societies thrived and new societies were formed under the guidance of several of the masters. Mr. Gibbs formed a Country Dancing class, which has proved very popular, and is, at the time of going to print, rehearsing for a Country Dancing Display on Speech Day. Mr. West invited boys up to his room to listen to music, both classical and modern, and visits to concerts in Perth have been arranged. The Aeromodellers, who now have a room of their own in the old tuckshop, are flourishing, and several competition models were made which were entered in the A.T.C. Wing Rally at Leuchars. The Wireless Club was formed under the guidance of Mr. Forsyth, who has this term supervised an excellently equipped Workshop Club, which, it is hoped, is to have the use of the two School lathes. Mr. Young, one of our new staff, started a Chess Club which meets regularly, although the Activities Period is rather too short for the lengthy games, which require continuation at a later date. Mr. Greig has an Art Society, which meets to discuss the history of art, and which gives the members an opportunity to do some practical work and to improve their technique.

This term, boys are constructing a 9-hole golf course under the supervision of Mr. Cutforth. Much preparatory work has been done, and it is pleasing to note that several boys are now sending home for their golf clubs. Negotiations are under way at present to take parties of golfers to neighbouring golf courses for rounds at the week-ends.

The small music-room in the office quadrangle was converted into a Current Affairs Room. This room has been supplied with a well-balanced selection of current magazines and periodicals, which give ample scope for those wishing light-reading and those seeking to keep abreast of economic and political trends. There is also an extensive selection of career pamphlets. Mr. Appleby gives lectures on general topics once a week.

It is hoped that Activities will continue to thrive, and we thank the masters for the amount of spare time they have devoted to providing suitable occupations for our leisure time.

D.S.C.B.

## Scout Notes

THE first item to be mentioned here is a sad one, for we have to record the departure of Mr. G. H. Forsyth, who, as Scouter, has given invaluable assistance to the Troop. We are very grateful to him for all he has done for us, for his practical skill and his unfailing readiness to help.

On the other hand, the next item is a cause for pleasure: we are glad to say that N. M. Milne, our Troop Leader, has been chosen as one of the Scottish contingent for the 1951 World Jamboree at Bar Ischl in Austria. We congratulate him and wish him an enjoyable time there. We shall look forward to hearing later of his experiences.

While he is there, we shall be spending our annual summer camp at Fungarth, a farm near Dunkeld, from July 21st-31st. While perhaps not quite so attractive in some respects as last year's site, this offers possibilities of both swimming and boating, as it is near a loch—and it is, too, a good starting-off place for many interesting hikes.

Meanwhile we shall be preparing for it by our activities this term, which include four week-end camps and as much other out-door work as possible. The prolonged winter kept us from this until towards the end of the Easter term, and even then it interfered with our "Bob-a-Job" Week efforts. Nevertheless we managed to raise £9—an achievement which can be regarded as very satisfactory.

Towards the end of the Easter term, too, there was some reorganisation within the Troop, the Patrol Leaders forming a patrol of the more senior members, their aim being to found

and establish traditions for a Senior section. We wish them well in their endeavours and dare to hope that before very long this Senior section will increase in strength, becoming a valuable contribution to the life of, and important influence on, the School Troop.

Lastly, we welcome to the Troop those who have recently joined us and we congratulate D. W. Spray, H. Hay, E. Cameron, and C. Haddow, on gaining their Second Class Badge, and the following on being promoted Patrol Leaders :— C. Haddow, the Beavers; D. N. Forgan, the Bulldogs; J. G. Thomson, the Curlews; D. A. Laird, the Eagles; E. Inglis, the Seagulls; and H. Hay, the Lions.

F.S.L.

## Combined Cadet Force

### ARMY SECTION

THE year commenced with intensive training for the War Certificate A Examinations which took place on 3rd November. The results were most gratifying, there being a 100 per cent success with 47 candidates in the Part I exam, and 14 passes out of 17 in the Part II exam.

During this period there was a large influx of recruits, and mention must be made of the creditable work put in by Sgt. McKee and Cpl. Stewart with the initial training of these cadets.

With exams. over, pressure was eased when 34 cadets left the basic section for the Air Section. From then on training continued on work for Signal Classification and Cert. A. Parts I and II.

The range has been in operation since the start of the new session, and great progress has been made. Efforts were first made to produce a representative shooting team, and also to give every cadet elementary instruction prior to his passing of the Empire Test during the year. The school team competed in the Country Life Schools' Shooting Competition for the first time. Although they showed great keenness and were diligent in practice, they would be the first to acknowledge their own limitations, and the truth of "Practice makes perfect."

Mention must be made, with our thanks, of the hard and able work put in by our new school R.S.M.—R.S.M. Clancy—with the range and general administration of the shooting practice. The results of his labour will be more clearly shown in the future when we hope to see a School Rifle Club and Shooting Team as prominent activities.

Since the New Year, piping and drumming instruction has been given by Pipe-Major A. Sinclair and Cpl. Brogan of the Scottish Horse. There are approximately 12 boys in each class and excellent progress is being maintained. It is hoped that these cadets will form the nucleus of a School Pipe Band by this time next year. Volunteers will be required to form a new class in September next, and it is hoped that all boys who are keen will come forward.

The most recent innovation is our entry to the Wireless No. 12 set net. This has been primarily through the keenness and enthusiasm of Sgt. Milne, who has undertaken responsibility for the training of the Signal Section during this term. Although very much in its infancy, the work on this No. 12 set net promises to be interesting and already contacts have been made with several of our neighbours, and reports from the corresponding English C.C.F. No. 12 set net have been received from as far south as Liverpool, although instructions forbid us working on this net.

The annual camp is to be at Garelochhead this year and a preliminary inspection has been made. It is hoped that we will be favoured with the fine weather for this period and that the contingent will again increase its reputation in competition with the other schools.

A warm welcome is extended to Mr. Maxwell, who has joined us, and we trust he will enjoy his work with the contingent.

J.R.B.

#### **R.A.F. SECTION**

The session opened with the screening of the excellent coloured film taken by K. A. C. Brown, when as Flt./Sgt. of the Air-Section he visited Canada last summer under the Reciprocal Visits Scheme. We thank K. A. C. Brown for journeying from Glasgow to give a running commentary on the film, which made it doubly interesting.

The results of the Advanced Training Examination held in November were more than satisfactory. With a record number of 8 candidates, it is most gratifying to report that all were successful, gaining one distinction and 7 credits. We congratulate Flt./Sgt. J. G. Brackenridge, who passed with distinction, also the following seven cadets who passed with credit:—Sgts. J. A. Chalmers, D. S. C. Brown, I. J. S. Russell, I. G. Stott, Cpl. D. C. Rossie and cadets R. B. Blanche and A. N. Stevenson.

The squadron paraded for inspection by Wing-Commander J. Bradshaw, O.B.E., who presented the above-named cadets with their certificates. In addressing the squadron, the Wing-Commander said "The Strathallan R.A.F. Section is rapidly



establishing an enviable record in Scotland. The pleasing feature of this record is that it is not only in examination results but also in the field of sport. An excellent combination."

As if to emphasise and broaden Wing-Commander Bradshaw's words, our next success was in the air. After competitive interview at R.A.F. Turnhouse followed by numerous flying aptitude tests at Home Command H.Q. at White Waltham, Flt./Sgt. Brackenridge, Sgt. I. G. Stott and Sgt. I. J. S. Russell were awarded Flying Scholarships. With



AWARDED FLYING SCHOLARSHIPS—

SGT. I. J. S. RUSSELL, FLT./SGT. J. G. BRACKENRIDGE, SGT. I. G. STOTT.

monetary value in the region of £250 each, the Scholarship allows the cadet thirty hours flying instruction, with subsequent qualifications for a Pilot's A Licence. Normally it is quite a thrill for the cadets to fly over the familiar terrain of Strathallan, but it must be a much greater thrill to fly solo over the school.

In sport too the unit has excelled. Sgt. J. A. Chalmers, Cpl. W. A. McMillan, and Cadet J. A. Bruce played for Scotland against England at Mansfield Park, Hawick, in the A.T.C. Rugby Football International. Scotland were worthy winners by eleven points to five. W. A. McMillan scored a fine try, while J. A. Bruce kicked a magnificent penalty goal from some 40 yards.

The same three players featured in the Wales v. Scotland game at Stradey Park, Llanelli. Unfortunately the Scottish pack was completely subjugated by the fiery Welsh forwards, and seldom got the ball from either the loose or the set scrums. J. A. Bruce again kicked a lovely penalty goal, but Wales, the better side, won by fourteen points to six. Cadets I. Lochtie and F. C. T. McLay were travelling reserves for both games. Rugby Blues were presented to J. A. Chalmers, W. A. McMillan and J. A. Bruce by Air-Commodore Wardle, A.O.C. 66 Group.

Due to the advancing of the date of the Wing Rally at R.A.F. Leuchars, the unit returned to school on the Friday and competed on the Sunday. With but the Saturday to rehearse, it was only by a special effort that the Squadron was able to win the Cup for Drill and Inspection. The trophy was presented to Flt./Sgt. Brackenridge by Air-Marshal Sir Edward Baker. Sgt. I. G. Stott was awarded a medal for being second in the Aircraft Recognition Competition with 188 points out of a possible 194. Cadet C. Raitt obtained first prize in his section of the Aeromodelling Competition and as a reward he will later be flown in a Service Aircraft.

A record number of forty cadets will sit the Proficiency Examination in July. This is a new type of examination and our first venture. The examination embraces Airmanship, A/C Engineering and General Service Training.

The unit thanks the Headmaster and Governors who have allowed the Air Section the permanent use of a room at school. The room has been tastefully decorated and is now well equipped for both work and recreation.

We welcome Pilot Officer J. A. Gibbs as an additional officer to the unit. Mr. Gibbs, who saw War Service with Air Transport Command, is proving a real acquisition.

The Squadron will spend annual camp at R.A.F. Hullavington, Wiltshire, from 24th-31st July.

W.S.H.

## Lectures and Entertainments

THE ability to make one's own amusements is a sound prescription for community living. Yet the fitness of things would be ill-preserved were the ideals of self-expression and self-sufficiency to impede the stimulus of ideas and influences from without. Last term the School was indebted to a number of visitors who helped to maintain this due balance.

Dr. W. O. G. Taylor—an old boy—interested us in a lecture dealing with Medicine as a Career. It may have been that his plain-spoken discussion of the difficulties facing the

young student and practitioner daunted the more timid of us, yet our final impression was of the great satisfactions to be derived from the medical profession.

In a series of delightful and vivid characterisations, Mr. Edward Broadhead reintroduced the school to some of the memorable figures of 19th century fiction. Particularly enjoyed were Mr. Broadhead's impersonations of Mark Tapley—Martin Chuzzlewit's ostler, and Svengali—the sinister Jew of Gerald du Maurier's "Trilby."

Three films were shown during the term and the School found something to admire in the production and photography of all. A more intimate touch was provided by the showing of a film "Canadian Tour" for which we have to thank Sq./Ldr. Gass and K. A. C. Brown, who left last summer. Brown was one of a party of air cadets selected to visit Canada, and the scenery and experiences enjoyed by these young airmen were well depicted in the film.

This term the School welcomed Lt./Cdr. Douglas-Morris, whose lecture, assisted by films, gave us a clear insight into the function of modern capital ships in the Royal Navy.

To all its visitors the School extends its thanks and hopes that they will come again.

A.J.S.G.

## The Operatic and Dramatic Society

### **Christmas Concert, 1950**

THE Christmas Party was followed by a concert. This opened with the five House-tutors, ludicrously dressed in tails and dicky fronts, introducing themselves to the audience in a lively chorus. The artists, who were introduced by Mr. Gibbs, included Stalin, a Coatbridge Washerwoman, and a Tibetan Llama: these were portrayed by R. B. Leishman, W. M. Thom and J. McKee respectively. Then followed some short but amusing sketches. Current popular songs were rendered by a trio consisting of R. G. Stuart (Piano), D. I. Muir (Drums), and H. I. B. Fitzpatrick (Alto-Saxophone). This item was greatly enjoyed, and the boys showed their appreciation by joining in the numbers.

After the interval, the curtain rose to disclose a small company of negroes crouching round a camp fire, singing old negro spirituals. The solo, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" was finally rendered by Mr. Minty. The excellently lit back-cloth depicted a palm tree swaying in the tropical evening breeze. A tale in verse, "The Belle of The Ball," was then told by Mr. Greig, clad in kilt and plaid. The entertainments ended with a hilarious caricature of a dress rehearsal.

The whole concert, which enjoyably helped to pass the last night of the term, was enthusiastically produced by Mr. Gibbs.

J.D.H. and R.S.L.

### **End-of-Term Concert, Easter 1951**

THE end-of-term concert consisted of two main parts, a short one-act play, and an Italian extravaganza.

The play, "Russian Salad," by Philip Johnson, had as its theme the intrusion into a typical English home of several Russian Bolsheviks, bent on crime, a topic greatly appreciated in the middle and junior schools. L. Ferrier played the part of the young wife of an M.P. who yearned for adventure; he played the part well, and with a little more experience to dispel his obvious strainedness, he should prove most useful to the Dramatic Society. Marshall and Millar supplied the adventure in the form of two Russians searching for another Russian, Prince Lubiloff, played by Mr. Appleby, who was seeking asylum in this country. Millar, who has had very little experience, played his ferocious part well, considerably helped toward the desired effect by the make-up artistry of A. J. M. Paul and his helpers. There is really little need for comment on L. D. Marshall, an old hand, who played the part of the beautiful female companion of Shnitz as successfully as he has portrayed many parts in the past. Mr. Appleby portrayed the Prince admirably, but his real success was the production of such a well-acted play in the incredibly short space of three weeks—weeks of very hard work on his part. Finlay played the part of the maid well: he showed great keenness throughout the rehearsals, and should be valuable in larger parts in the future. Wallace, the M.P., who also has had little experience, played his part very well in a mature and natural manner. The stage setting was simple, but not lacking in detail.

The Italian extravaganza consisted of excerpts from "The Barber of Seville" and was greatly enjoyed by the unskilled as well as by those able to appreciate the quality of such a work.

Mr. Minty, who took the part of the Count, acted well, and his singing was really pleasant. Marshall was effective as Figaro, though his singing was disappointing. Mr. West took the part of Fiorello in easy manner, and was a useful leader of the chorus. Dr. Bartolo, played by Mr. Young, was most amusing, whilst Miss Goodall, as Rosina, suited her role well.

The scenery was very striking, and drew much applause as the curtains opened. N. M. Milne is to be congratulated on his skilful manipulation and setting of the lighting. In short, the whole production was a great success, and was a fitting close to the term.

J.G.B.

## Debating Society

This session has been a full one in the annals of the Debating Society, last year's number of meetings having been doubled, and its attendances considerably augmented.

At the beginning of the year, however, we were unfortunate in losing Mr. G. Langstaff, who had so willingly filled the post of chairman for so long. Mr. A. J. S. Grieg took over then, and enthusiastically furthered the Society's interests throughout the Christmas Term. We started the Easter Term again under new leadership, this time that of Mr. E. A. Potts, who has presided since then in his singularly humorous manner.

To start the session off on the right foot, our first meeting took the form of a "Balloon" Debate. The four occupants were The Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, Lord Nuffield, Sir Alexander Fleming, and Danny Kaye. R. B. Blanche, as Churchill, was the only speaker who appeared to have the courage of his convictions, and obtained 67 votes out of an attendance of 77.

In our two subsequent debates, the motions that "In the opinion of this house, Britain is a declining nation," and "In the opinion of this house, blood sports are inhumane and should be abolished," were both strongly defeated.

Our fourth debate, held on January 26, was of a strongly topical flavour. The motion was that "In the opinion of this house, the person or persons responsible for the removal of the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey are highly to be commended," and it drew our largest attendance to date—101. Patriotism rather than strong arguments, won the day, and the motion was strongly, if a trifle rowdily, upheld by 76 votes to 25.

A business meeting was held on Feb. 2, and on Feb. 16, the motion that "In the opinion of this house, strikes are not justifiable" was carried by 52 votes to 19. In our second last debate of the year, the motion that "In the opinion of this house, the C.C.F. is unnecessary and out of date" was rejected by 42 votes to 9.

Due to the proximity of the Scottish Leaving Certificate Examinations, the staff kindly offered to speak for us at our last meeting. After several days in which the school's interest in the motion "That in the opinion of this house, Modern Art is 'Bunk'" had been aroused by reproductions of Picasso and Matisse posted at prominent positions in the School, Mr. Potts and Mr. Minty proposed the motion, with Mr. Appleby and Mr. Cutforth in opposition. Mr. G. Langstaff made a welcome return to the chair for this meeting. Mr. Potts opened the debate by suggesting to the house several general points which he illustrated with quotations and examples. Mr.



Appleby stressed the effect of the realism of art and widened the house's conception of art itself. Mr. Minty approached the topic in his characteristically logical manner, and Mr. Cutforth suggested the manner in which we must judge art. Then followed several short but interesting speeches from the floor of the house. The principal speakers wound up their arguments, and the motion was defeated by 69 votes to 38—our best attendance of the year: 107.

D.I.M.

## The "Mock" Murder Trial

As a novel change from the usual debates, the Debating and Dramatic Societies decided to hold a "Mock Trial." It was arranged that Mr. Appleby, one of the House-Tutors, should be "brutally murdered," the assassin leaving certain clues. Once the body had been discovered the "police" would be called in, their job being to collect enough evidence to justify an arrest prior to a trial. The following is based on the day-to-day reports of the incident which appeared in the "press" on the School noticeboard:—

At 8.55 on the evening of the 15th February, 1951, Mr. Appleby, a House-Tutor at Strathallan, was found lying dead in his room by L. D. Marshall, who immediately called the police. The strong arm of the law, embodied in the persons of Inspector Russell and Detective-Sergeant Paul, soon arrived at the scene and conducted an investigation.

After several days during which the news-thirsty public had been constantly appeased by reports that the investigations were "proceeding apace," J. G. Brackenridge, the School Captain, was arrested on a murder charge at the end of breakfast, despite considerable physical protest. It was not long, however, before Brackenridge was released, and L. D. Marshall, who discovered the body, was arrested in his place. While the police intimated that the former arrest had been made as a "blind," shrewder observers attributed the release to lack of evidence, and considered it the necessary sequel to an unnecessary arrest.

The trial took place several days later under the excellent supervision of Mr. Justice Potts, who combined both clever wit and astute judgment in delighting both accusers and accused. Marshall was ably defended by J. McKee, who used his Irish brogue to great effect in dealing with J. A. Chalmers, Counsel for the Prosecution.

From the outset, the Prosecution based their case solely on the fact that Marshall had been in a position whereby he could have committed the crime; such evidence as they produced was

obviously labelled at once, even by the layman, as circumstantial. The Defence countered this with an attempt to show that while Marshall could have committed the crime, he did not have sufficient motive.

Throughout the proceedings, the large audience's interest was sustained by the piquant geniality of the Judge, who was obviously enjoying his elevated position. The accused, for his part, seemed obviously conscious of his impending acquittal, and had soon settled down to a game of poker with the attendant constables, where, to the crowd's delight and his fellow-players' chagrin, he played the joker on all possible occasions. However, when he proceeded to down the dubious contents of a large bottle, the Judge, withdrawing the licence he had previously allowed, confiscated it, and conscientiously disposed of the contents.

The trial concluded with Marshall's acquittal, due, perhaps, not only to the lofty yet authentic language used by the Defence, but also to the fact that some members of the jury felt disinclined to send a fellow commoner to the gallows. This was at least a happy ending for all concerned, and, judging by the applause which followed the cessation of the proceedings, the evening provided both instruction and amusement.

H.I.B.F. and A.D.P.

## Music Notes

WEIRD and wonderful noises have been heard for the past few months coming from dormitory and classroom. Some ten boys have taken up various orchestral instruments—the oboe, the clarinet, the flute, the trumpet and the horn—under the patient guidance of Mr. Maiden, and an orchestra is to be re-formed before long.

In contrast to the rough tones of the oboe and trumpet, other sounds of more Sylphlike quality are to be heard along the passages of Riley House. A keen group of juniors are meeting regularly to play their recorders under Mr. West and Mr. Young.

In the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Pianoforte examinations, held in Perth in March, A. C. I. Duncan passed in Grade VI, and H. R. H. Hay in Grade III. L. M. Urquhart gained a pass with merit in the Senior Trinity College Music Examination in May.

As the Easter term progressed, the informal gramophone recital meetings in Mr. West's room became increasingly popular, at the inevitable expense of breathing space and comfort. Those who came to these meetings will be grateful to Mr. H. B. Rowan, an Old Strathallian, who has kindly presented to the school a fine collection of some 250 records,

which will be available in the new music-room for anyone in the gramophone club to play on the new record-player.

At the moment, rehearsals for the Operatic and Dramatic Society's performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore" are in full swing. The ship has been launched, and will make her maiden voyage during December. A performance by the above Society was, in the past, a regular annual event, and it is hoped that "H.M.S. Pinafore" may be the first in a long line of productions in future years.

D.E.C.

## Chapel Notes

THE Chapel is gradually taking a more prominent part in our school life and we extend our sincere thanks to all who have come to preach to us during the past term. We greatly appreciate these visits.

The choir was very sorry to say good-bye to Mr. Ross, whose place has been taken by Mr. Cutforth. The members of the choir have now been reseated at the Holy Table end of the Chapel, where they are better able to lead the rest of the school. Their singing of two anthems during the Easter Term—"God be in My Head" by Walford Davies and Wesley's "Lead me, Lord"—was well rendered.

On Easter Sunday the whole school attended evening service in Forgandenny Church. The lessons were read by the Headmaster and Mr. Bain. The Rev. A. Cameron preached the sermon. This visit to our local village church was very much enjoyed by all of us.

The departure of Mr. Minty has been a loss to us all, for he did so much to help us in the Chapel, but the spiritual side of our lives continues to be looked after. Our evening prayers are now a fixed part of our daily life, providing us with a few quiet moments at the end of a busy day.

J.A.G.

## Scripture Union Notes

THE Scripture Union suffered a heavy setback when Mr. Minty left at the end of the Easter Term. Mr. Minty gave much moral support to the seniors, especially in his discussions which were held regularly each Sunday evening. Under his guidance it can be said that the Scripture Union flourished and his good influence was felt by all. Mr. Silver has enthusiastically filled the vacant position, and in the homely atmosphere of his house the seniors continue to gain moral help. Mr. Gibbs has continued to lead the juniors, who have proved very keen.

Mr. Beveridge, the Secretary of the Scottish Branch of the Scripture Union, visited us last Christmas Term with two excellent films which illustrated well the way in which Science is proving the Bible. These films were enjoyed by the whole school and we thank Mr. Beveridge sincerely for his great kindness.

Many new members have joined us and to them we extend a cordial welcome. Some of our number hope to attend a summer camp on the Mull of Kintyre, where it is hoped that they will spend a very pleasant holiday during the last fortnight in August.

J. McK.

## The Young Farmers Group

At the beginning of the Easter Term the Young Farmers Group was inaugurated. In that respect it is difficult to know the exact stimulus which led to twenty or so boys, of all ages, meeting to form the Group. The success of the project was uncertain, since there was no tradition in the school to assist members in planning a programme. That the Group has up to now enjoyed an interesting and useful existence is largely due to the enthusiasm of its members and also to the ready help and encouragement given us by the East of Scotland College of Agriculture.

The lectures and discussions again last term touched upon many different aspects of agriculture, including poultry management, pig-keeping and potato cultivation. In addition a most interesting visit was paid to the Perth Shorthorn Sales, and although the auction had been concluded before our party's arrival, many of the farmers' sons amongst us were able to spot the champions and instruct their companions on the finer points of a Scottish Shorthorn.

At the start of this term, the Headmaster granted the Group an area of uncultivated land in order to carry out potato cultivation experiments. Some of the members interested in horticulture have also planted various types of garden vegetables.

This term the Group hopes to visit a number of neighbouring farms, and a trip to the Royal Highland Show is under consideration.

J.T. and W.P.R.

## The Aeromodellers' Society

THE school aeromodelling club is at last on its feet again, thanks largely to the efforts of Mr. J. A. Gibbs in procuring for us the old tuckshop, which we have been able to fit up as we wish and use as our permanent premises. The club now

boasts a membership of fifteen, of whom about nine are almost veteran model flyers, and former members of the School club which was in its prime three years ago.

The promise of a new club-room prompted several members to bring a variety of models back to School this term, and even in the first fortnight, the sound of diesel engines from control-line models has been frequently heard from the direction of School.

It is well known that the club does not confine itself solely to one type of model: the models under construction at present are:—4 control-line stunters, 5 free-flight power models, 4 gliders, and 3 planes powered by "Jetex" units. There is, however, still a remarkable lack of rubber-powered models, and although there are one or two under construction at present, it is hoped that several more will be in evidence in the near future.

A fortnight after the beginning of term, a general meeting was called at which Mr. Gibbs presided. During the course of this meeting new club rules were formulated, a committee was elected, and numerous measures for improving the club's facilities were discussed. It was also proposed that some of the more experienced members should stage a flying display, but a decision upon this matter has not yet been reached.

At the beginning of term, two models from the club were entered in the R.A.F./C.C.F. Wing Rally at Leuchars. Unfortunately the weather was too windy for flying, and as a result the models were judged solely on appearance. C. J. C. Raitt won first prize for control-liners with his "Happy Harold" entry. This was the first major competition into which the club had entered, but the result is encouraging and augurs well for the future.

I.G.W.T.

## Angling Club Notes

DESPITE the somewhat discouraging results obtained from the Earn last season, several members have taken courage in both hands and brought back their fishing kit this term. It is hoped later in the term to have a day at Glenfarg reservoir, and a few members have obtained permission to fish in the River May.

In the Christmas term, a small start was made towards an angling section in the Library. Mr. Coutts' gift of Walton's "Complete Angler" formed a basis to which other books were added, bought with a small subscription taken earlier to cover any club requirements.

I.L.T.S.



## Photographic Society

At the end of the Christmas Term we were very sorry to say goodbye to Mr. Coutts, under whose kind interest the society has thrived for the past three years. At a farewell meeting R. B. Blanche, whom we also lost, presented him with a hide-bound presentation photograph album as a token of our gratitude for his unfailing interest in us.



THE ROAD TO THE STATION — G. R. HOLDEN.

Many thought that with the departure of Mr. Coutts the society would cease to function. However, at the commencement of the Easter Term, Mr. Maxwell kindly consented to take over the vacant presidency. We are sure that under his leadership the society will flourish as in the past.

In the past session good use has been made of the dark-room, and, as members became more practised in the use of the enlarger, the standard of work produced has shown marked progress. Outside activity was naturally restricted during the winter, but with the approach of summer it is hoped that our members will have plenty of opportunity to photograph our lovely surroundings. In this connection an extensive range of films and darkroom requirements have been procured, and is now available for members' use.



WESTMINSTER — I. F. B. STEWART.

It is proposed to hold the Society's Annual Competition and Exhibition during the Speech Day week-end. The entries so far, though not so numerous as last year, have maintained the high standard attained in previous exhibitions.

The following are now officials of the Society:—

President, Mr. Maxwell; Secretary, G. R. Holden; Treasurer, D. I. Muir. Committee Members—I. J. S. Russell, J. A. Chalmers and R. Shaw.

G.R.H.

## Workshop Club Notes

At the beginning of term the workshop club was inaugurated under the leadership of Mr. Forsyth, whom we are unfortunately to lose in the very near future.

In forming the club, it was found necessary to make two classes of members—Full, and Ordinary. The full members received instruction from Mr. Bain and Mr. Boag. We should like to thank them both most sincerely for their help, and for fitting out the workshop so well.

At present there are six ordinary members and ten full members. The membership of the club has been kept low up

till now in order that the more seriously interested members might have both ample use of the equipment and adequate working space. It is, however, hoped to admit a limited number of new members at the beginning of next term.

In conclusion, we should like to thank Mr. Forsyth for all his services and patient interest while bidding him a reluctant farewell.

P.T.M.

## Radio Club Notes

At the close of last term the Radio Club was just beginning to come into its own. This was due to the efforts of certain members of the staff. The first to whom the club owes thanks is Mr. J. R. Burn. Had it not been for his generous donation of the C.C.F.'s surplus wireless sets, many of the receivers now under construction would have proved impossible owing to lack of components. The club is also very grateful to Mr. Forsyth, whom we are unfortunate to lose in the very near future, and to Mr. Gibbs, for their patient and tireless interest. It is due to their work that most of the sets now under construction are nearing the testing stage. With what results they will pass this stage we have yet to hear, but with so excellent tuition prospects are indeed good. Thanks are also due to the tuckshop for so generously donating £15 for components which the club, it is hoped, will build into a P.A. set for future speech-days and similar occasions.

The new workshop which has been allocated to the club this term has proved a great asset, as the Physics Laboratory was never really satisfactory owing to the necessity of clearing away one's "rig" after each constructional session.

The membership of the club now stands at 12, and although this leaves much to be desired from the point of view of keenness, it provides a convenient number for the workshop, which tends to be overcrowded with too many sets under construction at the same time.

N.M.M.

## Scottish Command C.C.F./AC.F. Wireless Net

EARLY this term it was decided that the No. 12 wireless set would be installed so that Strathallan could attempt to join the Scottish inter-schools net. The station was duly set up and Strathallan went on the air on the 8th May, 1951.

Since then many interesting contacts have been made, our furthest distant Q.S.O. to date has been Liverpool College. Regular transmission has been made to Merchiston Castle and Trinity College, Glenalmond.

Personal messages have been passed from Strathallians to both Merchiston Castle and Trinity College pupils, and it is thought that this regular contact will in future prove an interesting and useful service to the school.

Unfortunately, however, the transmitter has developed a fault which has led to the closing down of the station until the transmitter can again be put into a serviceable condition.

N.M.M.

## Rugby Football, 1950-51

THE Strathallan 1st XV 1950-51 earned the right to be rated as one of the best which has represented the school. The present fixture list is a formidable one presenting no easy victories, and the record of games played does not present the whole story in itself. It does not reveal that we met Heriots, our first defeat, when back in school barely a week from our Summer holidays, and Glasgow High, another defeat, on the very first day of the Spring Term. Neither does it reveal the period of quarantine which prevented serious rugby for a full three weeks, or the shocking weather conditions which led to cancellations just when the team had struck form. When these facts are taken into consideration, then the record makes satisfactory and even pleasant reading. We lost to George Watson's, our heaviest defeat, because we met a bigger, stronger and better pack who saw to it that our threes received little of the ball; but we did manage to defeat both Glasgow Academy and Glenalmond in two games which provided as much excitement and good football as one could wish for.

The strength of the team may be gauged by the results of the club matches also. Pannure scored twenty of their points in the first quarter of an hour, and spent the major portion of the second half defending their line. United Colleges, St. Andrews, have had a remarkable season, scoring over 300 points, but on November 25th they paid the school the compliment of saying that ours was the hardest and best game they had had in the Winter Term. To hold the Perthshire XV to a draw was no mean feat, and the game against the Old Strathallians was hard fought. In general, the forwards were outplayed in both tight and loose, which was only to be expected considering the height and weight of the Old Strathallians' pack, but the threequarters defended resolutely and were by no means outclassed.

The strength of the team was in the pack. Of the eight or nine—for K. B. Williams turned out more often than not—it would be invidious to pick out any single boy for special mention when there was so little to choose between any of them. Even so I feel that J. M. Maguire must be given this distinction, for it was his hooking which ensured us a fair





D. C. ROSSIE, W. A. TULLOCH, J. TODD, G. R. HOLDEN, R. M. D. GRANT, M. YATES, F. C. T. McLAY, W. C. WALLACE.  
 J. M. MAGUIRE, J. A. BRUCE, W. A. McMILLAN (Captain), J. McKEE, J. A. CHALMERS.  
 M. J. B. DUNCAN, I. M. LOCHTIE.



share of the ball, even against the much heavier club sides. The shove generally in the tight proved adequate, but the line-out work was weak and showed little or no improvement. The forwards were, however, quick to realise that it is the loose game which really counts, and they used their speed to be up on the ball, looking to feed the threequarters on all occasions whether by a quick heel or flung-out pass.

Behind the forwards, Bruce at full-back was a tower of strength, with his good sense of positioning, safe handling, and lengthy kicks; his departure this year leaves a gap which will be hard to fill. McMillan and Chalmers were strong-running centres, and their games, particularly that of the latter, improved throughout the season. At scrum-half, Lochtie had an extremely good season, though he owed much to Todd's ability to field a ball at any height or any angle and still be able to set his threequarters in motion. Between them they forged an effective link which made it possible to put the finishing touches to the pack's valiant efforts. Wallace, on the left wing, lacked the essential speed we would have desired, but his defence was sound and his rugger sense adequate to cope with any situation. The right wing presented a problem which we filled in the shape of speed by Duncan. For the sake of defence, Muir was preferred. Both did what was required of them, and proved adequate for our needs.

The results of the 2nd, 3rd, 15½ and Junior XVs reveal even more the effects of cancellations than that of the 1st XV, but their interest and enthusiasm never flagged, and generally speaking the standard of rugby achieved was most satisfactory.

The House matches were staged amidst the customary excitement and displays of partisanship. As the results indicate, Nicol emerged worthy victors to take possession of the Rugby cup for the first time since 1943/44.

The following have been awarded full colours:—

W. A. McMillan, J. A. Bruce, J. McKee, J. Maguire, M. Yates, F. C. T. McLay, I. M. Lochtie, W. A. Tulloch, G. R. Holden, J. Todd, J. A. Chalmers, D. C. Rossie, R. M. D. Grant, W. C. Wallace.

The following have been awarded half colours:—

D. I. Muir, K. B. Williams, M. D. Duncan, H. I. B. Fitzpatrick, W. P. Roger, R. H. M. Dillon, A. J. M. Paul, W. G. McCombs, K. A. Baird, I. J. S. Russel, D. M. Murison, A. D. Pottie, T. A. Kerr.

I.P.

1st XV Record						F	A		
Sept.	30	—	George Heriot's School	...	...	H	0	12	L
Oct.	21	—	Hillhead High School	...	...	H	12	3	W
"	28	—	Allan Glen's School	...	...	A	0	3	L
Nov.	1	—	Pannure	...	...	H	8	28	L
"	7	—	George Watson's College	...	...	A	0	13	L

					F	A	
Nov.	15	— United Colleges Dundee	...	...	H	6	3 W
"	25	— United Colleges St. Andrews	...	...	A	0	12 L
"	29	— Glasgow Academy	...	...	H	9	6 W
Jan.	20	— Glasgow High School	...	...	A	0	12 L
Feb.	17	— Dundee High School	...	...	H	45	0 W
"	20	— Glenalmond	...	...	H	8	3 W
"	28	— Perthshire	...	...	H	8	8 D
Mar.	3	— R.A.F. Leuchars	...	...	A	18	8 W
"	28	— Old Strathallians	...	...	H	0	20 L

**2nd XV Record**

					F	A	
Sept.	30	— Stirling High School 1st XV	...	...	H	6	3 W
Oct.	21	— United Colleges St. Andrews 3rd XV	...	...	A	8	6 W
Nov.	11	— Madras College 1st XV	...	...	A	0	19 L
"	29	— Glasgow Academy	...	...	H	10	6 W
Dec.	9	— Glenalmond	...	...	A	0	22 L
Feb.	8	— Madras College 1st XV	...	...	H	6	5 W
"	20	— Glenalmond	...	...	H	0	13 L
Mar.	3	— Bell Baxter 1st XV	...	...	A	3	3 D

**3rd XV Record**

					F	A	
Sept.	30	— Stirling High School	...	...	H	18	0 W
Nov.	11	— Madras College 2nd XV	...	...	A	14	0 W
Feb.	17	— Dundee High School 2nd XV	...	...	A	3	0 W
Mar.	3	— Bell Baxter 2nd XV	...	...	A	12	19 L

**HOUSE RUGBY**

League Points :—	Sen.	Jun.	Total	Pts. (flag)
NICOL .....	15	3	18	15
RUTHVEN .....	10	5	15	10
FREELAND .....	0	8	8	5
SIMPSON .....	5	0	5	0

## Hockey Notes

With a gap of approximately a month between the last Rugby fixture and the end of the Easter term, it was decided that the school should play Hockey as its main sport. Mr. Bain and his assistants, converted the paddock into two pitches, and the innovation was entered into with zeal by seniors and juniors alike. Keenness was the keynote, and under the patient coaching of Mr. F. Langstaff and several other members of the staff, considerable progress was made.

The brief season terminated in a match between the School and the Staff, which provided many useful hints for the juniors and liberal entertainment for all.

The game commenced at a fast pace and exchanges were even until W. C. Wallace broke away and gave Dr. Haldane no chance of averting a goal. The school held its lead despite the loss of J. A. Chalmers with a slight injury, and at half-time Mr. Forsyth also had to retire hurt for a brief period. The school, making full use of their speed, were held in check by clever handling and ball-placing of their opponents. Mr. G. Langstaff, however, rounded off a close passing movement to score the equaliser after Mr. F. Langstaff had displayed much energy and skill to the staff's benefit. The game ended in a 1-1 draw.

**Staff XI**—Dr. Haldane, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Greig, Mr. F. Langstaff, Mr. Burn, Mr. Potts, Mr. Minty, Mr. G. Langstaff, Mr. Appleby and Mr. Silver.

**School XI**—C. F. T. McLay, M. D. Rossie, D. S. C. Brown, D. C. Rossie, J. A. Bruce, D. I. Muir, W. A. McMillan, D. M. Murison, W. C. Wallace, J. A. Chalmers and G. R. Holden.  
W.A.McM.

## Cross Country

AFTER the close of the rugger season in early March, the majority of the school settled down to conscientious training for the cross-country race. Early in the Easter term the Sports Committee decided that, for the first time, the cross-country would be run in the school grounds, so that a permanent course could be agreed upon and records kept. The Senior course arranged covered approximately  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the school grounds, including parts of the mud flats, Scout Wood, and Valley. The Middle and Junior courses were slightly shorter in length, but still contained the arduous parts of the Senior course.

The actual race was run on the last day of term, and evoked keen House spirit both from the runners and the spectators. In the Inter-House Competition Nicol proved to be a little too good for Simpson and gained 5 points towards the Flags. Simpson were very worthy runners-up.

### INTER-HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

1—Nicol; 2—Simpson; 3—Freeland; 4—Ruthven.

### INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

**Senior**—1, J. A. Chalmers (N.); 2, N. V. Upsdale (F.); 3, R. S. Chalmers (N.).

**Middle**—1, R. S. Little (N.); 2, R. Grant (S.); 3, F. M. Allardyce (F.).

**Junior**—1, R. A. Patterson (S.); 2, M. D. Dawson (F.); 3, D. B. Robb (S.).  
J.A.C.

## Cricket Fixtures, 1951

Date	Club	Ground
May 5	— Morrison's Academy .....	Forgandenny
" 8	— Fettes College .....	Fettes
" 12	— Glasgow High School .....	Old Amiesland
" 16	— Glasgow Academy .....	New Amiesland
" 19	— Hillhead High School .....	Forgandenny
" 26	— Cupar C.C. ....	Cupar
" 30	— Perth Academy .....	Forgandenny
June 2	— Crustaceans .....	Forgandenny
" 6	— Crieff C.C. ....	Crieff
" 9	— George Heriot's School .....	Goldenacre
" 14	— H. B. Rowan's XI .....	Forgandenny
" 19	— Perthshire XI .....	Forgandenny
" 23	— Old Strathallians .....	Forgandenny
" 30	— Daniel Stewart's College .....	Inverleith
July 4	— R. P. Thomas's XI .....	Forgandenny
" 11	— A. Bonthron's XI .....	Forgandenny
" 14	— Glenalmond .....	Forgandenny
" 18	— Staff XI .....	Forgandenny
" 21	— Grove Academy F.P. XI .....	Dundee

## Old Boys' News

ONCE again with the publication of the magazine it is revealed to us how loath Old Strathallians are to reveal to their contemporaries what has been happening to them since they left school. No matter how the editorial committee appeal, cajole and threaten, it is nearly impossible to attract material for the magazine.

Under the aegis of the Club the usual functions and meetings have taken place. The Annual General Meeting and 17th Dinner was held in the Marlborough House, Glasgow, on the evening of Saturday, 25th November, 1950. As usual, this function was well supported, though numbers were slightly down on the previous year's Dinner at Perth, but a large number of Old Boys from all parts of the country met once again to talk of matters Strathallian. The speeches, following an excellent dinner under the chairmanship of Mr. J. A. Montgomerie, the retiring President of the Club, were of a high standard. In proposing the Toast of "The School" Mr. Roy Reid recalled the "Golden age of school under the late founder." By happy coincidence this "age" extended over the years during which Mr. Reid was himself at School, and the gathering was treated to an impressive word picture of the founder, some delightful reminiscences and many humorous anecdotes. He concluded by saying that great as those years had been, every former pupil would naturally consider his own time at school to be equally great. Similarly under the present Headmaster they might be assured that the present pupils would enjoy a happy and effective schooling at Strathallan. Mr. W. G. Leburn, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, replied and pointed out that the recent achievements of the school compared favourably with those accomplished in Mr. Riley's time. Although the school was passing through a difficult and trying time, there was, he averred, no problem for which a remedy could not be found. Mr. Leburn continued by asking for the support and trust of the Club, which he was proud to say had always been forthcoming, and he concluded by explaining to those present how the Governors interpreted "The Aims of the School" as set out in the Constitution. "The Club" was proposed by Dr. William B. McKenna, M.D., who found himself in the invidious position of proposing the Toast of "The Club" of which he himself was a member. In the course of an interesting speech Dr. McKenna made two important points. Firstly, only about one-tenth of the students of Glasgow University were actively associated with extra-curricular activities, and he expressed the wish that University students should participate more fully in University affairs. His second point was that consideration might be given to the organisation of a Strathallan rugger

tour at the close of the season. (Surely with so many Strathallians active on the rugby field we may expect something to come of this suggestion.) He was indeed happy and proud to say that he had always noted the enthusiasm with which former pupils of Strathallan devoted themselves to any task on hand, an opinion confirmed by the remarks of colleagues.

Earlier in the evening Mr. J. A. Montgomerie, the retiring President, had invested Mr. R. Dunlop Linton, the new President, in a short but moving ceremony with his Chain of Office. Now Mr. Montgomerie, free of his responsibilities, replied on behalf of the Club. He referred to the past year's activities, which he suggested showed how enthusiastically aware of its responsibilities the Club was. These responsibilities, however, went further and included the active support of the School. The progress which Strathallan had made during its relatively short history was indeed proof that this support had been freely given. Now, more than ever, assistance and support was even more vital, and former pupils had a very real role to play in making Strathallan a great Public School.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Linton, who in reply expressed his appreciation of the hard work and enthusiasm shown by Mr. Montgomerie in his year of Office and his own pride and sense of duty on being elected President, brought the proceedings to a close.

It has already been brought to the notice of members of the Club that this year's dinner will be held in Perth on Saturday, 8th December, and the Club Council are hoping that everyone who can possibly attend will do so. It is even hoped that the record number that were present at the Dinner two years ago in the same "Fair City" will be broken.

Among the other activities which have taken place was the Spring Golf Meeting at Bruntsfield on 24th April. Although it is realised that it is not easy, especially for the younger members of the Club, to take an afternoon off in the middle of the week, the golf meetings are always most enjoyable and it is hoped that numbers will increase in future. On this occasion thirteen competitors took part and by one of these strange coincidences the first prize was won by R. S. Johnston, who had taken charge of the handicapping arrangements in the absence of the Convener of the Golf Sub-Committee!!!

On Monday 12th February quite the most enjoyable and successful dance which has been held in the history of the Club took place in the Marlborough House, Glasgow. Everybody who was present was very happy to meet Mr. Hoare, who, although he must have been deeply embroiled with the cares of taking over his new position, made his first



appearance at a Club function. We were all equally sorry that Mrs. Hoare was prevented by influenza from attending. A start was made in the rebuilding of the Club funds by the holding of a raffle, and the attractive prizes which were presented showed how willingly a number of members support the Club. The Dance Committee are to be congratulated on the work they put into this most happy evening.

### MISCELLANEOUS

From the "wild west" country of Wester Ross, Kenneth M. Anderson (1939-43) writes that after graduating B.Sc. in Civil Engineering at St. Andrews last June, he took a post with the Gairloch Hydro-Electric Project.

Also engaged on Hydro work is John B. Milne (1932-39), who has recently been promoted Section Engineer on the Glen Affric Scheme, where he is employed with Sir William Halcrow and Partners. We hear from him that Trevor Morgan is at present with May and Baker Ltd., chemists, and that his address is 169 Ashburton Avenue, Ilford, Essex.

John Forster Ritchie (1932-37) is to be congratulated on his appointment as one of three navigating officers of the B.O.A.C. "Comet" Unit for the development and operation of the new De Havilland Comet jet airliner. His new address is Flat 4, 25 West Cliff Road, Bournemouth, Hants., and he would welcome contact with other Strathallians.

In January of last year, F. W. Blacklaws (1944-47) obtained the degree of Associate of Trinity College (A.T.C.L.) in Solo Singing. This January he passed the Harmony, Teaching, and Form sections of the licentiateship. Blacklaws, whose engagement is noted elsewhere, has been teaching music privately in Perth since he left school.

Herbert Walker (1932-35), whom we congratulate on his recent marriage, has been appointed Ophthalmologist for the Eastern Region of Scotland, and is resident near Dundee.

Wing-Commander John Ross (1924-30), of the R.A.F. Medical Branch, has recently been taking a post-graduate course at Edinburgh University, and in March passed the examinations for the Diploma in Tropical Medicines and Hygiene.

Studying medicine at St. Andrews is Norman Mitchell (1944-47), who in the United College rugger team has formed a half-back partnership with Scott Anderson at stand-off, he himself being at scrum-half. Scott Anderson, he writes, is sitting for Honours in Psychology and Economics in June of this year.

Alastair Montgomery (1928-32) has recently been elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He was also connected with the formation of a West of Scotland Branch of the English Speaking Union, in which he was

associated with Ian Turner, who was recently elected Branch Secretary.

Congratulations to "Hamish" Dawson on again representing Scotland during the late rugby football season against Wales, England, Ireland and France; also on his inclusion, for the second year, in the Barbarians' Easter tour against Penarth and Newport—a fitting termination to his most successful season. Hamish has left McLelland Kerr & Co., C.A., and is now on the staff of Arthur & Co. Ltd., Queen Street, Glasgow.

Marshall Kennedy (1942-47) is leaving for Abadan in June to take up an appointment with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., and wonders if there are any other Strathallians to be found in that part of the world.

We hear from D. H. G. Bonthrone (1923-27) that W. A. L. Anderson (1921-25) is now in business in Stirling.

In April of this year, Douglas M. Hastings (1943-45) took a post as House Physician to Prof. F. S. P. Davidson in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. After graduating last year he was for a period House Physician and Surgeon at the Deaconess Hospital in Edinburgh. We hear from him that James C. Paterson, who graduated at the same time, is now Orthopaedic House Surgeon at the Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

Ian Martin-Scott (1928-31), who is a Surgeon Lieut.-Commander in the R.N.V.R., is at present consultant dermatologist at the West Herts. Hospital, Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford, and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

Recently appointed Surgical Registrar to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, is Lyall S. Scott (1935-38).

David A. Gray (1946-50) has taken a post as junior clerk in the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Bishopsgate, London, and will shortly be joining the R.A.F. for national service.

Archibald Sweet (1929-31) is at present Secretary of Arnolite Ltd., manufacturers of Decorative Wallboards, and Cashier of Essence Manufacturers. These posts he took up after resigning his position with the Bank of Scotland in May, 1950.

Our belated congratulations to James Park (1925-28). It is, as we believe, some years since he was promoted Area Works Manager of Messrs. Barry, Ostlere and Shepherd Ltd.'s Pathhead group of factories in Kirkcaldy, but as this has not been previously intimated, we take this opportunity of rectifying the omission.

In connection with last issue's letter from Cambridge University, we wish to state the following in order that no misunderstanding may arise:—

- (1) Hamish Lowden took his B.A. degree in Mathematics, and not, as stated, in Law.

- (2) He was awarded a Research Studentship, and not, as reported, a Fellowship, which, he points out, would accord him a higher status than he actually holds.

We feel sure Strathallians will be interested to know that Tom Dodd is now serving as a Captain in the U.S. Infantry in Korea. Those who were at school with him will remember that his parents lived in Mobile, Alabama, U.S.A.

We hear from Colin Guthrie at Cambridge that he and his two fellow Strathallians, Hamish Lowden and Andrew Chisholm, are all progressing satisfactorily in their studies. Colin Guthrie also informs us that the Rev. M. P. Charlesworth, a Don at St. John's College who was a very good friend to many of the early Strathallians who were up before the war, unfortunately died last term. His loss will be a very severe one to the College.

### BIRTHS

- ANDERSON.—At Rossall Nursing Home, Inverness, on January 28th, 1951, to Isobel (née Hosie), wife of Frank Anderson, 34 Viewfield, Culcaboch, Inverness, a daughter.
- BOGIE.—On 28th December, 1950, to Eirene, wife of David J. Bogie, Newfield, Barnton, Midlothian, a son.
- MILNE.—To Mr. and Mrs. John B. Milne, Dunedin, Cannich, Beauly, Inverness-shire, on 3rd April, 1951, a son.
- ROSS.—On 15th February, 1951, to Mr. and Mrs. John B. Ross, 26 Dalhousie Terrace, Edinburgh, a daughter.
- WALLACE.—To Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Wallace of Kincairn, Guardbridge, Fife, on 3rd April, 1951, a daughter.
- RITCHIE.—To Noreen, wife of J. Martin Ritchie, at a nursing home, Glasgow, on 24th April, 1951, a son.
- DOW.—At 15 Greenhill Avenue, Giffnock, on 29th March, 1951, to Buntie, wife of Alastair Dow, a daughter.
- AULD.—At Kilmarnock, on 26th January, 1951, to Evelyn, wife of Dr. Robert Auld, a son.

### MARRIAGES

- WALKER—WALLACE.—On 19th August, 1950, at Hale, Cheshire, Herbert E. Walker, Brook House, Broughty Ferry, Angus, to Jean Marie Wallace.
- ROBINSON—CANN.—On 18th November, 1950, in London, David Drew Robinson, The Limes, Swainsthorpe, Norwich, to Pauline Dora Cann, of Norwich.
- LEWIS—MARSHALL.—On 27th April, 1951, at Giffnock, Douglas William Lewis, Glengower, The Loanings, Whitecraigs, to Muriel Mary Marshall.

### ENGAGEMENTS

- Mr. Fred W. Blacklaws—Miss M. I. Ferguson.—The engagement was announced on 25th October, 1950, between Frederick William, only son of Bailie F. R. Blacklaws, J.P., and Mrs. Blacklaws, 4 Pitcullen Terrace, Perth, and Margaret Irene, only daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. H. T. Ferguson, Manse of Inchtute, Perthshire.
- Mr. Sam. A. Haig Haddow—Miss A. C. Clement.—The engagement is announced between Samuel Alexander Haig, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Haig Haddow, Craighend of Capelrig, Newton Mearns, and Audrey Cowan, elder daughter of the late Mr. James Clement, C.B.E., and Mrs. Winifred Clement, Inglestone, Newton Mearns.