

THE STRATHALLIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

VOLUME TWO

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Editorial

BELATEDLY, as usual, we take this opportunity of wishing all our readers the Compliments of the Season, and express the hope that the New Year may be for all of them Happy and Prosperous!

As we write it is only Christmas that is upon us—Christmas which brings the old year to a close with a round of festivities and merry-making. It often seems to us that the psychology of the Christmas spirit is most interesting. It is a season when, with the demand for his January instalment of the Income Tax staring him in the face, Pater Familias is forced to put his hand so deep into his pocket, and so often, that his bank balance becomes negligible; when Mother's culinary powers are taxed to the utmost, and everyone's brain is being racked. Yet everyone is happy; and the secret of this lies in the fact that everyone is working hard, worrying hard and spending hard—for others. The only miserable ones are the Scrooges of this world. As the spirit of Giving moves the races of Mankind, so their spirits rise and Goodwill reigns on earth.

Nor is the benefit of this spirit merely abstract, for it stimulates trade, and does some little, temporarily at least, to banish the depression that has settled like a blight over the economic world. Thus it is by giving that we encourage ourselves to face the future and meet the New Year, if not

with delighted welcome, at least with optimism and determination that things can and shall be better than in the Old.

Doubtless, some of our readers will be wondering whether we have joined the church, or are seeking to set up as economists. We have done neither, but wish to point out that in a season of Giving, "The Strathallian" should be remembered. We still carry on a very hand-to-mouth existence, which need not nor should be. The matter is in your hands, O Strathallians! To the Old Strathallians particularly we put forward the suggestion that their recent assumption of responsibility for the Old Strathallian Club also entails responsibility for a share of the magazine, which is run solely to preserve the spirit that is "Strath." News of the activities and achievement of individuals will be as welcome as a literary contribution, for the O.S. Notes should be more extensive than they are, and in the wilds of Forgan-denny we are not in a position to acquire all the news which must be heard by various members in the daily routine.

Therefore, while the Spirit of Giving is upon us, might we suggest that "The Strathallian" should be the recipient of your contribution? Post it early to avoid the rush, as they say; the Editors have no objection to working overtime.

School Notes and Notices

THE Christmas term has pursued the even tenor of its way. Despite its length, it has passed pleasantly and quickly, for it was a busy one in every direction; and it is to be hoped that the same success has attended the efforts bestowed upon Cambridge examinations as undoubtedly crowned those on the social side.

With the weather, apart from a wet October, of an open nature, scouting and games have been indulged in to the full, and it is good to be able to report that only one Rugby game was scratched—and that on account of frost.

After Yo-Yo had had its fling in the first few days of the term (and what zeal was there among the masters to confiscate them), Ping-pong became the main attraction indoors, unless the Cinema had prior claims. The enthusiasm of Mr. McCutcheon here led to several games with the Staff, a team from which narrowly missed defeating the boys upon the last two occasions, even if overwhelmed in earlier engagements.

It is unfortunate that this term our lectures were curtailed. That of Mr. Granville Squiers, an undoubted personality, was an unqualified success, for his subject, "Secret Hiding Places," is one dear to every boy's heart. The Rev. Runnels-Moss was to have given a further Dickens recital, but owing to illness he was forced to postpone his visit till next term, when he will reveal to us, we are confident, the full humour of Pickwick. We have also engaged Mr. Hugh Cott, a lecturer at Glasgow University, for an illustrated account of his research work among the animals of the Amazon basin, which promises to be very interesting.

As for many years no term had passed without an innovation of some kind, we had begun to fear this would be an exception; but in the early days of December it was provided by the Old Boys and the way they rallied to the School on the occasion of the Old Boys' match. For the first time on record two full teams tried conclusions with the First and Second XV.'s, and still more

than half a dozen were on the touch line to spur on their contemporaries to fresh efforts. Such a turn-out is extremely gratifying from every point of view, while the football was a delight to watch, the match bringing out the best in the School side, which—dare we suggest?—was a trifle unlucky only to draw. However, it was a memorable day, and we feel fully justified in reporting the match in some detail.

The Rugger sides have been keenly watched, and places in them fiercely competed for. This has been in part due to the difficulties in filling with complete satisfaction the stand-off half and inside positions. It has witnessed the meteoric rise of R. Taylor from the Third Fifteen to the First, where he promises to fit in nicely. The changes thus necessitated by experiment, however, have not given the First team a real chance of proving their real worth, and they had to admit defeat at the hands of Glasgow High School and Dunfermline High School, the latter indeed a bitter pill. On the other hand, they played magnificently to hold an exceptionally strong Former Pupils' side, and a very fast Edinburgh 'Varsity Medical side to a draw, and to defeat the Oxford and Cambridge side, The Brutes, and a Perthshire XV., in all of which games they were opposed by very heavy forwards. The pluck of the School pack cannot be too highly praised. Aply led by K. G. McKenzie, there has never been a passenger in them, and I. McKenzie has been outstanding. Of the backs, Breckenridge has proved the most thrustful, though he still lacks experience in times of emergency. The other teams have scarcely done so well as the First XV., and it is regrettable, though one quite realises inevitable at some time, that the Third XV.'s unbeaten record was badly shattered in the opening game. As a compensation for this rather ominous order of things is the wealth of talent revealed in the under 14½ years' old side against Gordon's College juniors.

The term closed with its usual social events. The Dramatic Society, after a highly successful term, produced "Leave it to Psmith," a most ambitious comedy, on

the last Monday of the term, and if one may judge by the laughter and applause with which it was greeted, it was a huge success. It is surprising the confidence and stage sense acquired in the few years of the Society's existence, especially considering the difficulties of the facilities for rehearsals.

The School Concert, the second organised by Mr. Fletcher, given on the last night of the term, was a deserved success. The progress made since last Christmas is enormous; indeed, comparison with last year's singing and playing is impossible. The orchestra has materially increased in numbers and, consequently, in volume, though it is unfortunate that the additions are for the most part of wind instruments, notably of a saxophone and a trombone. The House Prefects can best judge of the labour entailed to bring these instruments up to concert pitch. The choir, too, sang with considerably more confidence than last year; while this is only natural, as its members gain experience, there is no doubt that Mr. Fletcher's happy choice of pieces—songs with a real swing about them—materially assisted in setting them at ease.

The Debating Society, unfortunately, cannot claim so successful a session. This was due in part to the immaturity of its members, which rendered them suspicious of any motion of really world-wide importance, and therefore unwilling to take active part in the meeting; in part to the claims of exam. classes, which robbed some seniors and some promising juniors of the opportunity of being present. Nevertheless, the average attendance was over thirty, a sure proof that the meetings were found entertaining: but next term we hope to find them instructive too.

This term we bid "Goodbye and Good Luck," among others, to W. Ritchie and W. McLachlan, whose service with the First Rugby team will be greatly missed. Even more serious is the departure of I. McKenzie, who has been throughout the season a tower of strength among the forwards. Their departure necessitates the following promotions:—

Sub-Prefects: R. Taylor, A. K. Scott and R. Macmath.

Well Done!

We congratulate our examination candidates on their splendid successes in the Cambridge School Certificate and Junior Examinations.

The School Certificate Class really formed the lower section of our main 1932 senior class which did so well last July. Whilst no one ever expected the Christmas class to gain honours or distinctions, there were many who were doubtful as to their success in the examination as a whole. But everyone passed—and some gained exemption from the University of London Matriculation Examination.

The Junior Class was expected to do well and they certainly came up to expectations. Twenty-three passed out of twenty-four, six gained honours, and there were nine distinctions.

The following were the successful candidates:

School Certificate:

W. C. Roy, T. B. Chapman, W. W. Carrie, T. M. Dishington, G. M. Little, H. B. Melville, W. Ritchie.

Junior Examination (with honours):

G. C. Turner (distinction in History),
T. I. Farquharson (distinction in History),
R. P. Campbell,
R. L. Paul (distinction in History),
R. S. Johnston (distinction in French),
V. Mackay (distinction in History).

Junior Examination (passes):

R. G. Clow (distinction in History),
W. T. Paton (distinction in History),
R. R. Grant (distinction in Experimental Science),
R. Auld (distinction in Experimental Science),
W. I. Gordon, G. R. Shanks, R. A. Wilson, H. E. Walker, J. Cooper, W. A. Snodgrass, C. L. Roy, R. C. Aitkenhead, W. A. Dunlop, R. Kirkland, T. D. Hamilton, J. G. Forrest, R. W. Dunlop.

In the School Certificate Examination the average pass for the country was just over 60%. We had 100% passes.

In the Junior Examination the average pass for the country was 62%, the percentage of honours was 9, whereas our Juniors gained 95% passes and 25% honours.

Indeed—well done!

The Annual Dinner

THE Fifth Annual Dinner of the Strathallian Club was held in the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow, on Saturday the 17th December, 1932.

Prior to the Dinner, the usual Annual General Meeting was held, with the Honorary President in the chair.

The General Secretary (Mr. A. W. James), presented the Annual Report for 1932, expressing his pleasure at the continued progress shown. The total membership had increased by 22, and now stood at 248. Again the Life Membership Roll showed a most satisfactory increase of 23, so that the number now had reached the hundred mark. (Applause).

The audited accounts revealed an improved financial position as follows:—

INCOME.

Yearly Subscriptions : 97 at 7/6	£36	7	6
Life Subscriptions : 23 at £5 ...	115	0	0
Interest credited at Bank on			
Deposit Receipt	7	11	8
	<hr/>		
	£158	19	2
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EXPENDITURE.

Copies of "The Strathallian" posted to Club Members : 666 at 1/-	£33	6	0
Handed to Dinner Committee for printing and small expenses of 1931 Dinner ...	2	6	6
Excess of Income over Expenditure	123	6	8
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	£158	19	2
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With £451 2/- brought forward from the preceding year, the Club had therefore a cash balance of £574 8/8, of which £570 had been placed on deposit receipt at the Union Bank of Scotland.

Mr. James recalled to members the fact that his appointment as Secretary of the Club was a purely temporary one, designed to continue until such time as a permanent appointment could be made from amongst the Club members themselves. He understood that it was felt that that time had now arrived, and therefore tendered his resignation with thanks for the help he had received

from all quarters, and an assurance of his continued interest in the progress of the Club.

It was then resolved :

1. That the minutes of the last meeting be taken as read.
2. That the Club accounts, as passed by the auditors, be adopted.
3. That the list of new members laid before the meeting be approved.
4. That the list of new life members laid before the meeting be approved.
5. That a President of the Club be elected annually.
6. That Mr. D. O. Melrose be elected the first President of the Club.
7. That Mr. Stephen Brand, C.A., be appointed interim Secretary of the Club.
8. That the Dinner Committee be thanked for their services in respect of this and past functions.
9. That a new Dinner Committee be appointed, the members being Messrs. J. T. Johnston, E. B. Mackay and W. A. C. Lambie.
10. That the 1933 Dinner be held in the Grosvenor Restaurant.
11. That the School's Rugby Captain for the previous year be appointed automatically a member of the current year's Club's Sports Committee, to hold office for one year and then give place to the next year's captain.
12. That the School's Cricket Captain be appointed a member of the Club's Sports Committee in similar fashion.
13. That Mr. Callum McGeachy be appointed auditor, vice Mr. S. Brand.
14. That Mr. Guthrie Reid be appointed an additional member of the Sports Committee.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. James for his services as secretary.

The Dinner.

Those who had attended previous dinners and had come to expect the Grosvenor management to have everything *comme il faut*, must have approved wholeheartedly of the arrangements made for their enjoyment. The room decorations lent exactly the right atmosphere of seasonal festivity, and the fare

provided was of an excellence only partially anticipated from a perusal of the menu French. Selections by the orchestra were warmly appreciated, but, in many cases, served as a convenient background for selections of school reminiscences!

Following the Loyal Toast, Mr. W. A. C. Lambie gave "The School." He emphasised the great success which Strathallan School had achieved during its comparatively short existence. Pupils of the School were amongst the best of the many candidates at examinations taken by the foremost public schools in Britain, while on the playing fields Strathallan played its part in developing those qualities so often found in the public school man.

In the glamour of leaving school, they were apt to overlook the fact that they were leaving behind one of the happiest periods of their life, but memories of those days afterwards became one of their most treasured possessions.

Whilst at Strathallan they were taught two great things which were of great value in after life, namely, to wear the same smile in defeat as in victory and to value the policy of honesty and straightforwardness.

The Headmaster (H. Riley, Esq.), in reply, referred to the continued success of the School during 1932, both in the academic sphere and on the games field. Employers were realising more and more that a Strathallan training fitted a boy to face his life's responsibilities in a worthy manner. The present was a testing-time for all, but, in his opinion, the stage was set for a great revival, and those who had spent the days of the lean years in preparation would find their reward.

The Guest of Honour (Sir Robert Bruce, D.L., LL.D., J.P.), proposed "The Club." He confessed, like Barrie, to the possession of an alter ego—a McConnachie—whose advice was often asked, but only judiciously followed. The recital of three stories from his repertoire left no doubt as to McConnachie's abilities as a raconteur, and many present must have experienced a desire for further acquaintance with that gentleman in a moment of uncensored loquacity!

In more serious vein, Sir Robert referred to the many academic, professional and commercial successes which, despite their comparative youth, had already been won by

Old Strathallians. These indicated to him, an outsider, the prestige which the School had achieved. Strathallan, he said, was sending boys to all parts of the world in the true Scottish spirit. He deplored the modern tendency to keep boys at home, and emphasised the need for increasing numbers of young, well-trained lads to come forward.

Old Strathallians were present that evening to recall those happy days when all were for the School, and it was not regarded as "the thing" to play a lone hand. Many of those who had recently left school were finding conditions unkind in the outside world. No one realised their difficulties better than he did, and he appealed to those who had made good to use their influence on behalf of those who were with them at Strathallan but had not met with such good fortune in later days.

"Keep alive the team spirit created on the playing field and in the class-room," he said. "That team spirit is part of the soul of Strathallan."

Mr. S. Dow, in replying to Sir Robert, said:—"It has been our privilege this evening to hear the toast of our Club proposed by one of our most eminent fellow-citizens. We realise that the calls made on Sir Robert's time, not only in his official capacity, but in his private time, are particularly numerous, and we must feel exceedingly fortunate that he has accepted our invitation to be present here this evening. During this time of dull trade and depression, the burden upon the shoulders of our leaders in every sphere of commercial life is very great. Since Sir Robert assumed editorship, in 1917, business life has passed through a series of trials such as have never before been experienced, and in guiding *The Herald* through these trying times, Sir Robert has earned for himself a reputation second to none, for honesty, courage and reliability.

With reference to the Club, we have taken a great step forward in electing from our own members a President, in Mr. Melrose, and a Secretary, in Mr. Brand. I think it is a particularly good omen that our first life member should be appointed Secretary.

The future prospects of the Club appear very rosy. There has been a big increase in membership, and we were able to put two teams against the School in December, a

thing we have never done before. The School gave us a very good game, and although we did not win, this year we cannot, as formerly, blame the referee! Indeed, we must compliment him.

In conclusion, to-day the most successful firms in industry are those where there is a board of directors working together in harmony for a common purpose, and we should all work together for the good of the Club, and keep it worthy of the name of Strathallan."

Giving the toast of "Absent Strathallians," Mr. G. D. Muir stated:—"It is indeed a great honour for me this evening to address such a noteworthy company. The number of members present to-night is a great encouragement to the Club, and it is all the more commendable when we consider the present financial condition of the country. But it is not my purpose to remind you of the present state of world finance, for I believe that the majority of us have already been almost overwhelmed by a tide of lamentations and warnings. Rather, I would remind you that, great though this gathering is, we are only a fraction of that large army of Strathallians advancing across the world. I have no doubt that those members who are absent are yearning, and would give a great deal to be with us to-night, but, unfortunately, it is impossible for them to be here.

We may regret, yet at the same time we must feel glad, Gentlemen, that our absent friends have perhaps an even better opportunity than we have for rendering back some service to the School. For they are the pioneers who are penetrating to the remotest corners of the earth, where Strathallan, and indeed many other important schools, have probably never been heard of; and they are making themselves, and, through themselves, the School, both respected and admired, and even perhaps famous. They are doing that through the very force of their characters and personalities, or, I should say, by the force of *our* character and *our* personality, for it is indeed one thing that spirit which is fostered in us at Strathallan. I know of no other school or institution where more care and energy is devoted to the formation of character. Wherever they go, our absent friends command respect, and inspire all those with whom they come in contact by the

very spirit of their manliness, that spirit which I shall call the spirit of the Strathallian, or better still, the spirit of Strathallan. This spirit has made them enter into this new enterprise, this new ideal of which we have heard so much recently, the new ideal of World Unity and Brotherhood."

Mr. A. J. Barr, proposing "Our Guest," declared it his pleasant duty to express on behalf of the Strathallian Club its gratitude to Sir Robert Bruce for his presence there that night as their guest.

Sir Robert Bruce was the man responsible for the production of the *Glasgow Herald*, one of the most highly respected and widely read newspapers in the United Kingdom. He thought it said a great deal for their guest and his colleagues that the *Herald* had not pandered to the present day fashion for sensational journalism. After all, the functions of a daily newspaper were to furnish the public with facts—as the *Herald* did—not facts perverted to suit the political and social ideas of its editor or proprietor, as was so often the case nowadays.

Personally, he was ashamed to admit that the sections of the *Herald* which interested him chiefly were the Sports page on Monday morning, and the daily crossword puzzle—long might it continue!—but that was purely due to his unintellectual tastes!

It was usual to describe the Editor of a great newspaper as having his fingers on the pulse of the universe. This was a somewhat hackneyed phrase, but nevertheless a very true one. In view of this he thought their guest's words should carry all the more weight with them, and as he had given them some reason for optimism, they might look forward to the future with renewed hope.

He was sure that he expressed the feelings of all present when he said he congratulated those responsible for the presence there of so eminent a man as Sir Robert Bruce.

Their Club was only in its infancy, and it was the advice and support of men like their guest that they most earnestly desired.

Mr. D. O. Melrose, referring to the change in the secretaryship of the Club, expressed the thanks of the Club for the many services rendered to it by Mr. James during his period of office, and asked him to accept a concrete token of that appreciation in the form of a silver cigarette case, suitably inscribed.

Mr. James acknowledged his pleasure at Mr. Melrose's remarks. He said how glad he was to have been associated so intimately with the Club from its earliest days, and to have watched it grow so satisfactorily in numbers and influence. For all the help he had received from Old Strathallians, and also for the presentation so kindly made by them, he expressed his sincere thanks.

The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" once again terminated the formal proceedings.

CHAPEL NOTES

On November 11th the usual Armistice Service was held and a very brief address was given by Mr. Riley on the necessity of working for peace. The Two Minutes' Silence was then observed and classes were resumed for the last period of the morning.

Towards the middle of the term we had our annual visit from Mr. James Duncan of The Scripture Union, and he gave us a very interesting address dealing with its activities in many parts of the world. He told us of the many public school camps held during the holidays, both at home and abroad, under the auspices of The Scripture Union, where excellent work was being done amongst the boys.

On the last Sunday of the term, the Chapel was most beautifully decorated and we had a Carol Service. The choir, under Mr. Fletcher, has improved considerably, and the singing attained quite a high standard.

Captain Baker, of Thimble Row Mission, made an appeal on its behalf and, as a result, it was agreed that the School should provide a Christmas Treat for about two hundred children and aged poor of Perth. The School's contribution came to £18 and a further £10 was placed at the disposal of the Perth Cathedral authorities to help the "down-and-outs," and the writer has had the privilege of seeing some of the work, which is entirely undenominational.

The Chapel Funds this term have been under the control of a committee consisting of the Headmaster, the School Captain and the Vice-Captain, and it has been decided to publish the balance sheet annually, instead of each term as was previously done.

THE ALPINE GLOW

(On watching the reflection of the sunset on a snowcapped mountain from a chalet veranda.)

The sun shines bright on the three tall peaks,
The deep black scars show plain and clear;
A streamlet through the white snow creeps
Down to the wooded valley here.

A dazzling radiance strikes the eye;
The snowy sheet reflects the sun,
Whilst far above the mountains high
The fleecy clouds like couriers run.

A gentle breeze whisps through the wood,
The flowers shyly nod and sway
As if they are in pensive mood,
Thinking o'er their lonesome day.

The chill white snow, so far away,
From white to pink is seen to change;
Oh, what a colourful display
Now bathes the slopes of all the range!

But now a deeper hue spreads o'er
The rugged snowcapped peaks ahead;
The valley, bright and fresh no more,
Is streaked with shadows deep instead.

The flaming sun sinks lower down
Into the azure blue abyss;
The brilliance from the snowy crown
Is growing less and less.

The air is soft, no sound is heard
Save for the rustling of the leaves,
Though now and then a little bird
Titters from the wooden eaves.

And now the tall peaks fade in gloom—
Dark crimson makes them like a blur;
And like three towers now they loom,
Or like three sentries, ne'er a stir.

The sun at last bids all "adieu"
And with one last remaining spark
The mountains disappear from view
And only leave behind — the dark.

The Dramatic Society Social

ON Monday, December 12th, the Dramatic Society presented "Leave it to Psmith," a comedy by Ian Hay and P. G. Wodehouse. The play is opulent, expansive, luxuriant, and the production was nothing if not ambitious. That it attained its ambition nobody is likely to deny who sat among the quivering ribs which crowded the auditorium; that its success was well deserved was evident from the care and thought which the players as a whole, and conspicuously some individuals, had put into their impersonations.

Of Mr. Norton himself one hardly need speak. His Psmith was a bravura performance such as only his very considerable acting experience and consummate stage sense could render possible: one felt, in fact, that his real difficulty must be to avoid playing the rest of the cast off the stage. That he did not do so is a tribute both to his own admirable restraint and to the very solid and promising merits of R. L. Paul, who, though totally inexperienced, faced him single-handed in more than one exacting tête-à-tête. Hardly less admirable were K. G. McKenzie and A. Mackay as the scholarly dodderer, Lord Middlewick, and his over-astute secretary. McKenzie was virtually the protagonist of the opening scene, and thereafter bore the brunt of the play whenever the egregious Psmith was off the stage. As the suspicious Baxter, the School captain was a very decided success: the pituitary symptoms in particular were excellently done.

W. C. Roy, as the insouciant Freddie Bosham, gave his lines well, and secured nearly a hundred per cent. of possible laughs, but the part, with its verbal rather than dramatic humour, not all of a very high quality, is more difficult than it appears to be. Harrington made a glibly Transatlantic crook, Watt a gracefully deferential butler, and J. W. Drummond was faithful to type as a cockney lift man. The other minor parts were adequately played, a special word of praise being due to John Drummond for his appearance at short notice in the part of Ralston McTodd.

On the female side, the cast was numerous, and included some very creditable performances. S. K. White made an awkward and inaudible start, but soon warmed up to the part of the pseudo-poetical Aileen Peavey. We have already mentioned Paul, who, though handicapped by diffidence, was a very charming and convincing Eve Halliday. Paterson was rather too spinelessly lethargic to be the object of Freddie's consuming fires, while in smaller parts Dobbie, J. A. Smith, R. Taylor and Aitkenhead all gave adequate performances. Only J. Dunlop as the Earl's lady seemed hopelessly miscast; he was also alone in an otherwise well dressed company in appearing in a costume impossible even for an elderly and eccentric peeress.

Make-up was uniformly excellent, and grouping, except for one or two almost unavoidably congested passages, very good indeed. In fact, the reader will have gathered by now that the general level of the production was consistently high, and in seeking to discharge the rôle of Momus we can find only one serious fault.

Elocution appears to be little cultivated in the Society. Its members are far too easily satisfied with a slovenly ventriloquial drawl which is unintelligible beyond the first row or two of the audience. For our own poor part, although blessed with ears much above the average in keenness and accustomed during term time to hear a good deal more than is intended for us, we were reduced for a large part of the evening to angling for the odd phrases which the players had inadvertently allowed to escape from their waistcoats. The Common Room is small enough to be filled by the voice quite easily, and the Society should be content with nothing less than 100% audibility.

Having made bold to diagnose the malady, we may perhaps be allowed to prescribe for it. We believe that the Society's standards have been insidiously corrupted by too long a course of anaemic conversational "realism." Let the Society drop for a term or so the polite drawing room, cigarettes-by-Abdullah, diamonds-by-Woolworth type of

play, which particularly invites slipshod diction (and frequently gets it even on the professional stage), and attempt something more virile and full blooded, with well marked climaxes in the dialogue and phrases that demand clear and strenuous articulation. Let it reduce if necessary the number of its acting members, excluding those who cannot or will not speak well and distinctly, and show that it values quality above quantity. Above all, let it shut its ears to the talkies, if it can, and give the tired New World a rest. Only so can it develop the strong, virile declamation which it is the right of the audience to expect and the privilege of the actors to supply.

E. J. F.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY NOTES

As usual at the beginning of the Xmas term it was necessary to elect an almost new committee, and the first meeting was devoted to this purpose, when the following office-bearers were appointed:—

Chairman : W. C. Roy.

Vice-Chairman : A. Fleming.

Secretary : A. Mackay.

Treasurer : G. M. Dobson.

Committee : I. Lawson, A. Harrington, W. Watt, E. Sinclair, S. K. White and K. G. McKenzie (who also filled the rôle of Advertising Manager).

Trial and rehearsed readings followed at subsequent meetings, and left the Society in little doubt as to the future, for talent was discovered among the newcomers. Such old favourites as "The Master of the House," "The Old Bull," "The Tender Passion," "The Monkey's Paw" and "Master Mariners" were revived, and Temple Thurston's "Snobs" was presented at Strath. for the first time.

One meeting of the term was occupied with Mr. Granville Squiers' lecture on "Secret Hiding Places"; while the last meeting of the term was devoted to the Presidential Address, "Both Sides of the Footlights." Based upon Mr. Norton's personal experience at and knowledge of The Birmingham Repertory Theatre, it was

highly successful in giving the large attendance an insight into the life of an actor and was much appreciated.

The end of term play was a comedy by Ian Hay and P. G. Wodehouse, entitled "Leave it to Psmith," a criticism of which will be found elsewhere. We take this opportunity, however, of thanking everyone for their generous contribution of £3 7/6 towards stage equipment, which is a record.

A. MACKAY,

Hon. Secy.

PAIN

The sculptor chisels with his patient steel
Living line for living line, hair for hair.
Stone turns to flesh with every chipping
stroke,
And from eye-stinging chest appears a face.

Pain comes at night or on a Summer's eve,
Stalking between the flowers, and hides its
face

In the darkness or petals of our hope.
Pain chisels with an ever groping hand,
Stretching the nerve and gnawing at the
bone,

And pinching at the brain within its shell—
Living line for living line, hair for hair.
Flesh stays as flesh with every cruel caress,
And from the living flesh appears a face.

I have seen faces Pain has sculptured well;
The fragile beauty of the Pale Disease—
Golden hair, and cheeks fair blood-stained
lilies:

Gaunt, fever eyed, proud faces of the men
That have been crunched within the crab-
like claw—

They all died sneering. Death had smashed
Pain's clay.

Pain works with Love and ushers in the
child—

New flesh, new clay to work a grimace on,
Flesh to be fashioned well within the years,
Sometimes as gently as a mother's slap,
Perhaps as harshly as a bully's twist.
Living line for living line, hair for hair.
Flesh changed to flesh with ever startled
eyes,

And round the fearful eyes appears a face.

I. C.

The Christmas Concert

THE last night of the term, Thursday, December 15th, saw—and heard—Mr. Fletcher's second Xmas Concert. It was generally voted an enjoyable and satisfying entertainment, and this impression, due in no small measure to the variety and contrast in the programme and the smooth, showmanlike way in which the concert was run, seemed somehow to transcend the pleasure given by any particular item. It would be idle to pretend that the School is rich in musical talent. The choir, for instance, whose efforts were hearty, if somewhat pedestrian, confined itself mainly to unison singing, with occasional cautious excursions into two- and three-part harmony. "Fairings," the well known song by Easthope Martin, arranged by Mr. Fletcher, and the chorus "With Catlike Tread" from "H.M.S. Pinafore," went best.

The band has improved in both numbers and quality since last year. Although it might be invidious to specify names, one may say that the wind section, all self taught, was particularly good. The strings, however, are so deficient in numbers as gravely to hinder the further progress of the band; and in this connection we should like to appeal to any boys in the junior school who are musically inclined and do not at present play an instrument to consider the claims of the violin very seriously. It is true, of course, that stringed instruments are in general more difficult to learn and less impressive to look at than those with spectacular keys, slides and pistons, but they give far more pleasure to the amateur in after life and are the backbone of an orchestra. There are vacancies in the school band for at least three or four first violins, two or three seconds, a viola or two and a 'cello. Any boy who qualifies himself to fill one of these places will be both helping the School and laying up an endless store of satisfaction for his adult years.

The orchestral items consisted chiefly of marches, including "Over the Bridge," a new and vigorous specimen from Mr. Fletcher's own pen, which was rendered with gusto and received with enthusiasm.

There was also a more ambitious item in Mozart's overture to "Il Seraglio," an admirable attempt at a three-cornered introduction between band, audience and a work of first-rate music. It speaks volumes for Mr. Fletcher's skill and tact that he can blend the aerial delicacy of Mozart and the unbridled excesses of jazz in the same programme and without any sense of incongruity.

Of the solos Mr. Shaw, with his customary voracity, usurped the lion's share. He gave us Schubert's "Cronos the Charioteer," a magnificent song worthily rendered (the middle section revealed qualities of tone and expression in his singing which appear all too rarely); "The Lute Player," a rather tawdry nineteenth century ballad redeemed by its dramatic delivery; and at the other end of the scale the patter song "When I was a lad," from "H.M.S. Pinafore." This last was given with choral refrain in the first half of the programme and amplified in the second half by the addition of several irreverently satirical verses.

Allen played to John Drummond's piano-forte accompaniment a brilliant Czardas by Monti, and later a Moto Perpetuo by Bohm, with Mr. Frank at the piano, both with good style and technique; while Mr. Fletcher and K. G. McKenzie joined forces in two Edward German dances arranged as duets on one and two pianos respectively. They made a sound and musicianly combination: McKenzie is a very real asset to Strathallan music-making.

A further outstanding item was a piano-forte duet by Mr. Frank and Mr. Fletcher, Edward German's Morris Dance No. 2, which was deservedly enthusiastically applauded.

It remains to mention the popular dance numbers which were played by the band, with Gilmour and McKenzie as soloists and vocalised with great heartiness by the rest of the school. They were probably the most appreciated musical items of the evening, at any rate in the judgment of one former resident in Shanghai. All of which goes to prove, if proof were needed, that in music as elsewhere it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive.

To turn to the non-musical items, G. Balfour and S. K. White gave two displays of legerdemain during the evening. These included some good and effective tricks, especially the miraculous passage of string through a human body, but others were unsuitable for the occasion (and tricks are effective only before an audience of drawing-room size), and White as spokesman for the pair was not nearly voluble enough.

Two one act plays completed the programme. "Birds of a Feather," a comedy by J. O. Francis, was presented by four of the Staff. The play takes place out of doors and concerns a couple of poachers whose escape from justice is aided with more charity than probability by a *deus ex machina* in episcopal garb. Mr. McCutcheon, as Daft Dicky, the younger poacher, gave a finely imaginative rendering of a difficult part, while Mr. Cole was natural and unforced as his accomplice. Mr. G. H. Ward made an urbane and sympathetic bishop, though quite honestly we think that the soliloquy which portrays his struggle with conscience might have been improved by more warmth and emphasis. Mr. Norton, who produced the play, had left himself little scope in the part of Jenkins, the keeper; still his fight with the bishop was one of the big hits of the evening, and his "noises off" were all but perfect. The one factor which seriously militated against the success of the play was the absence—inevitable in the circumstances—of any appeal to the eye in the *mise en scène*. To imagine that a plain blue-draped stage was a moonlit wood, with glimpses of a river showing between the trees was too difficult a task for the less imaginative part of the audience.

The other play was "The Invisible Duke," by F. Sladen Smith, an ambitious production in the hands of Mr. Frank who was also responsible for the principal part. Costume in a play is at once an aid and a difficulty: overcome the difficulty and it is an invaluable asset; and this is what Mr. Frank had made it. As the Fifteenth Century Astrologer, Mr. Frank was admirable, his high-pitched falsetto voice being wonderfully sustained, and his acting ran the whole gamut of emotions. J. Wilson was the outstanding figure among the rest

of the cast, for from the moment of his entrance his acting was assured and forceful, affording splendid contrast with Mr. Frank's timid astrologer. I. Grant and A. Gray were admirable as the astrologer's apprentices and helped to make a complete success of the difficult opening scene. Less successful, due in part to the unsympathetic rôles they were portraying and in part to their self-consciousness as a pair of lovers, were I. Galbraith as Emilia, the lady in the case, and B. Smith as Francesco, the Duke's successful rival for her hand. Galbraith lacked the fire and passion of the warm South, and Smith was so self-effacing that one marvelled with the Duke how the lady could transfer her affections. It was indeed a case of "Look here upon this picture and on this!" Out of the lady's presence Smith was better, and his reunion with his cousin was very effective. Not a little of the general success of the play was due to the effective staging, complete with skull, which did so much to create the right atmosphere.

E. J. F. (and M. N.)

DISASTER

The danger was imminent but unknown. Rushing through the night, with smoke belching from her funnel, and a fiery glow issuing from the engine cabin, where the stoker toiled unremittingly, the train raced along towards the bridge, once safe, but now . . . ?

Not far away, while the passengers reclined comfortably in the Pullmans in blissful ignorance of impending disaster, the evil-doers lay chuckling foully into their matted beards. They had blown up the centre span of the bridge, and were now planning how to make a quick getaway with their prize, the gold.

Nearer and nearer to the danger drew the train. Now it was on the approach to the bridge tearing towards the gap. Too late the engine driver saw the danger and applied his brakes. There was a searing flash, rending the Stygian blackness, followed by a whirring and tearing of wheels and a muffled curse. The Ciné had broken down during the first really good film for months.

The Cox—His Delights and Delusions!

“As a stimulant to Classics or Medical Lore
Is the swing and the gleam of the rythmical oar.”

TO the onlooker, the function of the cox would appear to be vastly inferior to that of the oarsmen. To the layman on the tow-path, his diminutive size (of necessity) appears to be altogether outshone by the magnificent physique essential to those who wield the blade. Far from being a sinecure office it is one which demands very high skill, quick decision and infinite patience. It can be compared without either vanity or invidious distinction to the tiny cell of grey matter which controls the beef and brawn.

Particularly to one who has lived in the heart of the country far away from navigable rivers, it is with more than timidity that a fresher accepts the first invitation not only to steer a sixty foot craft, but also to control the enormous force which represents the sum of eight muscular lads in the pink of condition; to inspire by encouragement (and a simple direct word of command) that automatic and precise collective stroke without which no race can hope to be won.

To this end the little man cramped in the stern, often half awash with scudding spray, transfers his burning enthusiasm into the long sweep, produced as one man, that sends the long ship forging ahead, cleaving the water like a swallow's wing.

On such a river as the Cam, narrow and winding, it calls for an even higher judgment than necessary on a wide river like the Thames.

* * * *

One's first efforts soon discover the many difficulties that beset the way of the prospective cox, and the fresher soon realises there is not only a lot to learn, but that he must develop and maintain that good temper which has to meet alike the piquant sallies of the crew and the scornful and sometimes lurid language of the coach.

I well remember the first venture—when a cross wind, like a front wheel skid on a car, apparently put the steering of the boat quite out of control! The technique, however, that in all other arts, where fast

movement is involved, had to be learned in the hard school of experience.

* * * *

Come with me to the Cam, where we have already given many hours to hard and strenuous training to win coveted honours for our College and maybe to win a treasured seat in the 'Varsity Boat itself.

The first week of Michaelmas Term is spent in giving a practical course on the principles of rowing to freshmen—this calls for perseverance and patience on the part of the coach. Crews are now chosen and the “eights” set afloat. It must not be forgotten that the boats are so light that the greatest care must be taken to avoid an upset. In turn the prospective cox, having learned a few orthodox commands, together with some useful tips from an old stager, orders his crew to bring the boat out.

His first responsibility is to ensure that the rudder is not smashed, due to lack of skill in placing the boat on the water.

Now all is set; after a preliminary warning “Ready!”, the cox follows this with “Come forward!”
“Are you ready?”
“Paddle!”

Forward is the starting position with oar handles well out from the chest, and blades resting at a slight angle to the water. At the command “paddle!”, strokes about twenty-six to the minute are set by the stroke, and when the boat is steady and well under way, at the command “Row!” the speed is in a few strokes increased to thirty-six.

All this sounds easy, but it requires a good deal of practice on the part of the cox, before even a reasonably straight course can be ensured. He not only has to correct inaccurate time, but also to counteract unbalanced pull and the effect of wind. Due to the cox's position, his difficulty of direct vision ahead is a handicap, at first, to good steering. Had my readers seen the zig-zagging path that the boat

took at my first attempt they could better appreciate these several difficulties and the responsibility of the man with the rudder lines.

During practice frequent delays occur if the "rules of the river" are not strictly observed. Just as on Continental roads, so on the river the right side *is* the right side. Of necessity, politeness is one of the traditions of rowing—though at times pertinent views are exchanged between rival coxes.

By degrees, experience and practice overcome most difficulties; particularly in steering, the effort with long practice becomes almost automatic. At first, I found corners my "bête noir," and I early realised it does *not* pay to cut a corner. Such a course usually results in the oars hitting the bank, which invites caustic comments from crew and coach. The smooth movement of the rudder is essential to keep the boat level as well as gaining advantage by shortening the course.

The commands of the cox must be short and precise, and it is essential to raise one's voice to ensure that the distant bow oarsmen can hear. Fulsome orders are entirely unnecessary and are greatly resented by the crew.

Some three weeks before the races, the crews are sent into strict training, and bursts of really hard rowing are the order of the day. These "bursts" are usually given for ten strokes, the cox counting aloud to keep the men in perfect time. When at last the crew rows a full course, particularly over the water selected for the ultimate race, a great deal depends on the cox. He must use all his ingenuity—know when to steady the crew and when to call for extra hard bursts. Variety of expression and inflection in the cox's orders adds greatly to the psychological factors which govern the response of the men. His one aim must be to develop and keep the team spirit, as well as create that cheerful and optimistic feeling which inspires men to do their utmost.

Lastly, a word about the bumping races. To secure a "bump" the cox has to touch the rudder of the boat ahead with his bow. This calls for skill and quick judgment. I have seen many bumps missed by inches as

the result of indecision or delay. The "eights" start three lengths apart. That distance is fixed by the cox holding a block of wood or bung attached by a chain to the bank. At the starting point, the bung is normally dropped in the water. I know of one unfortunate cox, who, having got the chain of the bung entangled with his rudder lines, was pulled back into the water, and the boat crashed into the bank. His reward for this was another ducking on his return to the boathouse!

To return to the races, the coach on the tow-path informs the cox by means of revolver shots when the opposing boat is within one or two lengths. When only a quarter of a length off the boat in front three shots are fired. It is now or never—the men go "flat out"—and it is up to the cox if he is overlapping to make a bump. The two boats concerned then draw into the bank and in the next day's race reverse positions. The secret of the bumping races is to steer one's own course.

If one is fortunate to win College colours from third boat to first, there is the never-waning ambition to gain the honour of a Blue by coxing the 'Varsity crew against Oxford. Such a success, as in every walk of life, is determined by the treasured ability to deal with man's varied temperament—and while training counts for much, leaders are *born*.

There is no doubt of the delights and experience afforded by this ever living art. The thoroughness, hard work and good team spirit among the men make the early practices enjoyable, and an able crew puts the final touch to the keen competition and thrills experienced in the actual race.

* * * *

The very "joie de vivre" which enters so much into the fascination of skating and skiing—the bracing tonic of a north-easter in January—is equally found when sitting behind a well trained eight as when Queens I. shoots the water like a bob-sleigh and, with a "Well done!" shouted down a megaphone from our coach, we rest on our oars as she glides to the bank.

With oars stowed away and boat upturned and stored—then a glorious dash for the "Dorothy" and Tea!

Secret Hiding Places

ON Tuesday, Nov. 8th, Mr. Granville Squiers gave a highly interesting and novel lecture on "Secret Hiding Places," which was enthusiastically received. To a Scottish audience, unfamiliar with the beauty of Tudor architecture, the excellent slides of various timbered and half timbered mansions in the Midlands and the South of England must have been a revelation, and for this reason, if for no other, the lecture was well worth while.

The lecturer began by destroying some of our most deep-rooted beliefs—those in long secret underground passages, which for the most part never existed; while those that did, he rather shocked us by explaining as ancient sewers, possibly cleaned out as a means of escape in time of emergency.

He then shattered another illusion by stating that very few secret hiding places are to be found in cellars: on the contrary, the attics are far more likely places, since they were in less danger of surprise discovery. Further, the sliding panel, much used by all sensational novelists since Scott, also was non-existent, a pivoting section being the usual type.

Most of these hiding places, he pointed out, dated back to the Catholic persecutions, and were constructed in the houses of the great Catholic nobles to give refuge to itinerant Jesuit priests, who pursued their calling with a price on their head. They were made almost entirely by one man, at least those were which are recorded in the biography of one Father Gerard, whose adventures in England were of a distinctly hazardous nature, and whose story had put the lecturer upon the track of many hitherto undiscovered priest-holes. Harvington Hall was a case in point where a complicated series of hiding places had been discovered, leading one from the other, which enabled the fugitive, if hard pressed, to escape from the house altogether. Haddington Court, associated with the Gunpowder Plot, was revealed as a veritable rabbit warren; and finally, one of Father Gerard's narrowest escapes was given in full by means of a series of slides relative to "Broad Oaks." During the masterly unfolding of this fascinating

story we were permitted to watch the construction by Long John of a hiding place beneath a fire grate, wherein Father Gerard spent four days without food, whilst the house was in the hands of the priest hunters and soldiers.

The hiding places of the Cavaliers after Worcester were, the lecturer said, for the most part those constructed earlier by the Jesuits, notably those at Boscabel associated with King Charles himself. Of later day hiding places the lecturer could say little, since in all his researches he had found but one that might justly claim to date from smuggling days, and he concluded with an appeal for any information upon secret hiding places in Scotland, information and knowledge of which was difficult to attain.

M. N.

THALATTA

Late in the closing evening
 The homing rooks call out,
 The meadow sheep go bleating,
 And the brown owl starts to hoot;
 High on the misty moorland
 The curlew calls to me,
 While in the throes of dreamland
 I hear the calling sea.
 I have heard it calling faintly
 From far away within,
 I have heard it swelling gently
 Above the noisesome din;
 Above the din of the city
 And the roar of mighty works,
 As a voice that cries for pity
 Yet in the shadows lurks.
 It has grown in volumes louder
 Than the siren's piercing scream,
 And it urges onward stronger
 Than many a raging stream;
 The sea is calling, calling,
 I must not stay too long,
 For the evening tide is falling,
 And my heart is young and strong.
 So farewell to the uplands,
 My friends beloved all,
 For within my soul is surging
 The glorious wild sea's call.

G. D. M.

In Search of the Sun

AFTER running for several hours through the sweltering heat of a really hot August afternoon, the White Star Special drew noisily and jerkily into Southampton Station. Just across the platform lay the 790 feet long dark blue side of the *Homeric*. Three hours later the tugs got under way and slowly pulled the bow of the great ship round to face the open sea. The voyage had started. After dinner, everyone was on deck to take a last view of the English coast, and of the squat, rather ugly Nab. Then the fog closed in, and the ship proceeded at half speed and with frequent roars from her siren and whistle.

Next morning off the French coast all traces of the fog had disappeared, though the air was still distinctly chilly. The two swimming pools, fore and aft, were deserted until we neared Lisbon, when the full effects of the Mediterranean sun began to be felt.

A drive round the city of Lisbon leaves one with an entirely favourable impression of the country and its inhabitants. There are some wonderful rock gardens at one end of the city, entirely sheltered from the full force of the sun by means of overhead shutters. However interesting Algiers and Tangiers may be to the foreigner, they differ from Spain and Portugal in that the inhabitants are not so friendly or good natured as a rule.

Chief among these good natured ones are the guides. One is apt to think of a guide as one reduced to this method of making a livelihood. Here a guide may have three or four magnificently furnished houses and as many wives, neither of which are cheap.

The centre of attraction, both in Africa and here, is the Suk, or Market, where all sorts of strange things and people are to be seen. Of the latter is the doctor of the poor, who sits cross-legged before a great array of charmed skins of birds, and animals, and mixed herbs for the prevention and cure of all the diseases under the sun. At the other end of the Grand Suk sits the storyteller, a blind man, who is the centre of an audience, seated on the ground in concentric circles round him, and numbering anything from fifty to two hundred. He deals in romances,

though not of the type to which we English are accustomed. An attraction at Algiers is the Zoo, where, for the equivalent of one shilling and eightpence, birds and animals are to be seen walking under the shades of pines, free of all restraint but for fencings, animals such as could never live in colder climes without cages which could be artificially heated.

In Majorca, the population is mostly French and Spanish, with a fair number of English, who for reasons of health have settled in the Mediterranean lands. It is, as all the neighbouring country, extremely hilly and, in summer at all events, free from rain. The thirty-odd mile road from Palma to Camp-de-Mer is nothing but a series of bends, as it winds back and forth in an endeavour to climb over the hills. The Spanish drivers reckon to complete the journey in something under an hour and a half, over a road where a misjudgment on one of the bends would mean an overturned car at least, and possibly worse, for the walls built on the bends are too short and low to afford much protection from going over the side of the road and being precipitated down the steep hillside.

After a short stay at Barcelona, and later at Malaga, during which the *Homeric* was refilled with oil and water, we left for her last port of call, Gibraltar. Here everything resembles a British town, except for the clothes and the bazaars. Gibraltar is the place also at which everyone spends his or her last penny in securing bargains in leather pouffés, cigarette lighters and various spirits, attempts later to smuggle which invariably result disastrously.

The ship only stays here for six or seven hours, and then sails for Southampton and home. The finals of the games championships are in progress all the way home, and on the last night prizes are distributed after the farewell ball. The next morning as she moved slowly towards the dock she passed the *Mauretania*, developing a considerable list to starboard as everyone rushed to see her, to the deep annoyance of the pilot.

D. P. (Form S3).

Sports Notes

RUGBY

THE season so far has been fairly successful, as was to be expected with five outsiders and four forwards from last year's team. Of the eleven games played, six have been won, two drawn and three lost.

The difficulty of team building round the nucleus has been by no means easy, for last season's 2nd XV. consisted of older boys, who left School at the end of the year. Particular difficulty was found in filling the outside positions. There seems to be an abundance of promising forwards all through the School, while in the Middle School there is a dearth of outsiders.

The forwards have been the strongest part of the School team, and have nearly always held their own. Occasionally they lacked dash and determination, notably against Dunfermline High School and Edinburgh Institution, but they have always played well as a whole. They have improved considerably since the beginning of term, and there is now much more individual skill. The two McKenzies have held the pack together well and have both played magnificently in every game. I. McKenzie has improved enormously and is at last learning how to use his weight and strength. The wing forwards know their job, and, though breaking quickly, do their share of pushing. Most of the forwards were tried at hooking, but Dishington earned his place in the side by virtue of his ability in that position, and has since improved, and besides showing pluck, is now pulling his weight. The fault of the scrum is apparent staleness at times, they lack the fire which is necessary for a successful pack, and they might push lower and harder in the set scrummages.

The outsiders have a scrum half with brains, elusive and strong-running wings, and an excess of capable full backs from which to choose. With a fly-half with initiative we should have scored many more tries. Marr, who has played in that position half the term, is sound but slow; Harrington gains confidence in every match, but still drops his passes. Both are excellent links, but the team needs a man to make openings. The centres have been disappointing. Mac-lachlan should have been outstanding here

this season, but has failed to find his form, and at the end of the term was playing a steady game at full back. For this change, Macmath, an excellent full back, was brought up to centre three, where his strong cut through has been responsible for a number of tries.

Roy has been an efficient captain, and under him the team has cheerfully turned out to the numerous scrummage and three-quarter practices and the gym. class.

We are sorry to lose W. Ritchie this term. He is a good all-round forward, while his goal kicking has been magnificent. An even greater loss to the team will be that of I. McKenzie. He has been outstanding in every match this season. A robust and complete forward, we shall look to see him doing well in first-class football. With these goes W. McLachlan, who has played for two seasons in the School side, and though he has never fulfilled his early promise, he has been a very useful member throughout.

The Second Fifteen did not start the season too well, but latterly have put up some excellent performances. A draw with Glasgow High School 2nd XV. and a win over Dollar 2nd shows excellent progress. The whole team, unlike last year, is young, and the forwards, composed of junior boys, are a workmanlike pack. The three-quarters are good, but here again we have natural full backs who are forced to play in the centre.

The Second XV. will lose Forbes this term. He is in his second season of Rugby and is rapidly becoming a clever forward, with plenty of grit.

The Third Fifteen has, unfortunately, lost its long standing record of being unbeaten. The material is there, but in their matches they have failed to show the necessary team spirit, and once behind on points, failed to recover.

One of the most promising features of the School Rugby is the play in the Junior School. Here they are very keen, know how to score tries, and in the sides are some first-class three-quarters in the making.

The following were awarded their Second XV. caps at Christmas:—M. Robertson, W. Ritchie, A. Mackay, T. Dishington, W. Watt, A. Harrington, J. Marr and R. Taylor. R. A.

Strathallan v. Aberdeen Grammar School, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, October 1st.

This game opened at a tremendous pace, and Strath. hemmed their opponents in their own "twenty-five." The forwards were carrying the majority of the scrums, and within ten minutes Roy opened the scoring as a result of a good blind side movement, but the kick failed. The Grammar School replied with a fine rush, but Macmath relieved pressure with a fine kick to touch. Good kicking by Dobson and Harrington carried play into the visitors' half, where Dobson sold the dummy to send in Breckenridge to score after a delightful swerve round the full back. The long kick again failed. Immediately from the restart McLachlan and Macmath were instrumental in the latter touching down near the posts, but the kick was badly missed. The visitors now were getting a share of the ball from the scrum, and their backs proved a dangerous combination, and were unlucky not to score. When Dobson's defensive kicking had again put Strath. on the attack, McLachlan broke away from a line-out near the half-way line and grounded half-way between the posts and the corner, but again the kick was unsuccessful.

On the resumption, the Grammar School forwards almost monopolised the scrums and line-outs, and the full back joined the threes in repeated attacks. They opened the scoring, however, with a splendid penalty goal from a difficult position. At this point, Strath. seemed to crack completely and were penned in their own "twenty-five," and it was not surprising that their line was twice crossed, one of the tries being converted. The last five minutes was a terrific struggle to retain the slender lead, but though the visitors had all the play, the winning points eluded them.

Result: Strathallan, 12 pts.; Aberdeen Grammar School, 11 pts.

Strathallan v. R. Gordon's College, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, October 15th.

The game opened with a fine rush by the home forwards, I. McKenzie being particularly prominent; but Gordon's replied strongly, and won most of the scrums. At the same time it was their line which had the

first escape, Cooper dropping his pass after Roy had broken through. After twenty minutes Dobson opened the score by dummying his way over close in, McLachlan converting. Good work by Harrington almost brought a further try, but this time Roy was at fault. Play continued to run evenly, Gordon's superiority forward nullifying the advantage the School possessed behind.

After the breather, the home forwards improved and the backs were given more opportunities. After ten minutes Roy broke through in his own half to touch down between the posts, but McLachlan missed an easy kick. Thereafter, Strath. practically monopolised the game, and though McLachlan and Breckenridge came close, the only other scoring came ten minutes from the end, when Roy and Cooper made ground with a good passing movement, for the former to go over.

Result: Strathallan, 11 pts.; R. Gordon's College, nil.

Strathallan v. Glasgow High School, played at Glasgow on Saturday, October 22nd.

The game was played under miserable conditions on a saturated pitch, and from the kick-off the High School applied pressure, driving Strath. into their own "twenty-five." The forwards were just holding their own, but poor handling among the backs spoilt their good work. The High School adopted the kick-ahead method, and found Dawson very unreliable. Constant pressure yielded a score after twenty minutes, weak tackling enabling the High School stand-off to go through for a try which was converted. Five minutes later a forward scrambled over for a second try far out, and the kick failed. Strath. were playing poorly, though Dobson made amends for some wild passing with good defensive kicking.

After the interval, Strath. improved, and by a series of forward rushes, in which I. McKenzie and Robertson were always to the fore, took play into the home half. Only selfishness prevented a score when, with three men up and only the full back to beat, McLachlan held on. He made amends when he cleared a dangerous forward movement by a long raking touch kick. Before long the High School were back on the School

line, and the scrum half dived over for an unconverted try. Strath. fought back, and a score seemed possible when Dawson misfielded a long kick; one of the home threes, following up, kicked over the line, but was obstructed, and a penalty try was given.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Glasgow High School, 14 pts.

Strathallan v. Dunfermline High School, played at Dunfermline on Saturday, October 29th.

It was raining when the home side kicked off, and the ground was very slippery. Dunfermline attacked first with strong forward rushes, and only a fine tackle by Macmath prevented a score. Play went to the other end and was of a scrappy nature. After a quarter of an hour quick heeling by the home forwards, who were having the better of the exchanges, enabled the stand-off half to score an unconverted try near the posts. Strath. replied with some fine forward play, Robertson, Chapman and I. McKenzie being held up near the line: and the home side was kept on the defensive till half time, for which Marr's touch kicking was mainly responsible.

In the second half an early attack by Strath. was beaten off by long touch kicking. The home backs handled well but their passing was weak and spoilt many good movements. They went further ahead through a forward rush, but again the kick failed. After twenty minutes' play Marr cleverly picked up a bad pass from Dobson and passed to Roy, who handed off the full back and just managed to get over at the corner. A difficult kick was missed. Dunfermline now pressed strongly and five minutes later went further ahead with a try by their scrum half. They deserved their victory, for they were better served forward. Marr was the outstanding success of the School side.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Dunfermline High School, 9 pts.

Strathallan v. Edinburgh 'Varsity Medicals, played at Forgardenny on Tuesday, November 1st.

A fast open game was witnessed despite the wet pitch. The visitors, fast behind the scrum, made ground at first, but later the School forwards settled down, and by giving

their threes a greater share of the ball, enabled them to retaliate. Roy broke through brilliantly, only for McLachlan to spoil a promising movement. At the other end, the visitors narrowly missed a magnificent penalty goal; and a good three movement saw their right centre almost through, but McLachlan made a fine tackle on the line. The visitors continued to press, in part due to the failure of the School backs to find touch, and an intercepted pass on the half-way line enabled them to open the score under the posts. The kick was successful. The School replied strongly, and a scrum in the enemy's "twenty-five" enabled Robertson to steal over between the posts for McLachlan to convert.

The better training of the boys began to assert itself in the second half, and after some ten minutes they firmly established themselves in their opponents' half. The forwards were playing magnificently, McKenna, Mackay and the two McKenzies being especially prominent; the backs, too, kept up the offensive with good touch kicking, Macmath particularly distinguishing himself. I. McKenzie came close with a determined rush, and later Robertson was unfortunate to put a foot in touch when clear of the defence. Dobson missed a glorious chance of a drop goal, but made amends by a splendid break through, which, with the threes handling well, saw Cooper all but over. Later I. McKenzie was held up on the line, and one could not help feeling that the School were unlucky not to finish the victors.

Result: Strathallan, 5 pts.; Edinburgh 'Varsity Medicals, 5 pts.

Strathallan v. Perthshire, played at Forgardenny on Saturday, November 5th.

Perthshire fielded thirteen men, but nevertheless their six forwards all but held the School pack in the set scrums. This was particularly noticeable in the closing stages of the game. On the other hand, their outsides were poor, and the School, playing with plenty of fire, soon took the play into the visitors' "twenty-five." Here were witnessed some fine passing movements among the School threes. Roy sent in Cooper for a try which Ritchie improved on with a grand kick from far out. Rousing

play by the forwards kept the visitors on the defensive, and but a few minutes had elapsed when Roy, dashing up cleverly, picked up from a knock on and ran over under the posts, easily outdistancing his opponents. Ritchie again converted. Shortly afterwards Breckenridge showed up the visitors' weak defence by running through the whole side to score a try for Ritchie again to convert.

In the second half, Strath. kept up a continuous pressure, and only allowed the visitors out of their own half on one occasion, and then a penalty kick for offside enabled them to open their account. The School returned to hammer away and ultimately Robertson crossed near the flag from a line-out, for an unconverted try.

Result: Strathallan, 18 pts.; Perthshire, 3 pts.

Strathallan v. Glasgow Academy, played at Forgardenny on Saturday, November 12th.

Strath. were handicapped by the absence of Roy with a knee injury, Harrington taking his place. With the pitch in a muddy condition and a slight drizzle falling, the School elected to keep the game among the forwards, where it seemed they might have some advantage. At first the visitors pressed, their backs handling well, and made ground with judicious punts ahead and fast following up, and in the opening stages appeared the better side. When the School forwards were warmed up, however, they began to assert pressure in turn. The out-sides played on to the touch line, Marr and Macmath being most reliable in thus saving their forwards for the hard spoiling game adopted, which seemed to throw the visiting backs out of gear. If allowed any scope, however, they were always dangerous. Half-time came with the forwards still fighting for the upper hand.

The forward tussle was resumed in the second half, but with Strath. in the ascendant, for they established themselves in the visiting half and were frequently pressing on the line itself, where, however, the Academy defence was exceptionally safe. Harrington made a good burst on the right, but, generally speaking, the backs had little to do, the ball remaining with the forwards. By adopting the Strath. game, the Academy

fought a losing game; and had they been able to get the ball out to the threes, the tide of battle must have veered round, for despite the muddy ball, the backs handled beautifully and were vastly superior to the home out-sides. As it was, the School pack, with the two McKenzies, Robertson and McKenna outstanding, never gave them a chance to develop an attack. In the last seconds of the game, McLachlan made a long kick ahead, and the Academy full back, with Harrington and McLachlan bearing down on him, made his first mistake of the game, fumbled the ball, and allowed Harrington to touch the ball down for an unconverted try. It was not a pretty game to watch, but rather a triumph of tactics and for a magnificent set of forwards.

Result: Strathallan, 3 pts.; Glasgow Academy, nil.

Strathallan v. G. Smith's Dundee XV, played at Forgardenny on Wednesday, November 16th.

The visitors pressed strongly at the start, but Marr brought relief with fine kicking. It was not long, however, before the Dundee visitors took the lead, a clever cross kick enabling their wing man to score. After this reverse the School fell to pieces and gave their worst display of the term. Beaten in the scrum despite hard work, they were particularly at fault in defence, the tackling of the backs, as much as their positioning leaving much to be desired. It was no surprise, therefore, when the visitors went further ahead with a converted try from a forward rush. The School rallied for a moment, Marr's kicking calling for especial mention; but the swift moving backs, with G. Smith pre-eminent, soon took play to the other end, and a break through in the centre led to an unconverted try.

From the restart, a good forward rush took play into the visitors' "twenty-five," but poor tackling nullified the forwards' efforts, and when Dundee took up the attack, their stand-off half dropped a fine goal from the "twenty-five." Almost immediately after a fine run down the wing put them still further ahead, and Strath. were lucky that their line was not crossed more than once again. Macmath played a brilliant game at full back, and time after

time he saved the line by magnificent tackling or a good pick up and kick. Among the forwards the two McKenzies and Robertson were best.

Result: Strathallan, nil; Dundee XV, 18 pts.

Strathallan v. Edinburgh Institution, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, November 19th.

A notable absentee from the forwards was I. McKenzie, W. Watt acting as substitute; while Strath. made an experiment in the three line, Taylor coming into the centre and McLachlan moving on to the wing. The change was hardly an unqualified success, for while Taylor showed promise before he was injured, McLachlan failed to mark his opponent satisfactorily, and this was certainly responsible for one of the visitors' tries. The Institution proved a lively lot forward, and speedy behind the scrum. Play was of a very give and take character in mid-field. K. G. McKenzie was prominent with two "marks" which brought relief when the visitors pressed. Play veered to the other end, where Strath. gaining possession from a scrum in front of the posts went ahead with a clever drop goal by Marr. The School threes were not moving smoothly, faulty handling spoiling movement after movement. Just before half-time McLachlan gathered the ball in his own "twenty-five" and was through his opponents and going hard for the line. Unfortunately he was overhauled and hurled into touch near the flag.

The first incident after the resumption was a good run by Breckenridge, but he was brought down by the full back, and no one was up to support him. Then came a magnificent penalty goal by Ritchie from the "twenty-five." Thereafter, however, the visitors took control of the game, their forwards repeatedly gaining possession from scrums and line-outs to give their backs ample opportunities to make ground by clever handling. Ultimately bad tackling enabled the stand-off half to go through, Macmath getting across too late to save the score. The kick failed. Spurred on by this success, the visitors pressed continuously, Macmath and Marr being prominent with defensive touch kicking. An exceptionally long kick by

Macmath three minutes from the end was cleverly fielded by the left wing high over his head. He was unmarked and ran strongly along the touch for a second unconverted try. In the remaining minutes the visitors strove hard to snatch the victory, and when "no side" was called one felt Strath. were lucky winners.

Result: Strathallan, 7 pts.; Edinburgh Institution, 6 pts.

Strathallan v. Old Strathallians, played at Forgandenny on Saturday, December 3rd.

A strong F.P. side seemed to dwarf the School and from the start exerted pressure. Dunn quickly caught the eye with a clever run, but the School came back gamely, and Breckenridge ruined a likely scoring chance by hesitating with only G. Reid to beat. Play was of an end to end nature, and after Dunn had missed with a penalty kick, Frew essayed a drop at goal when he had drawn the whole of the Strath. defence and had three men outside him. Rather against the run of the play the Old Boys opened the scoring with a rather scrambling try by R. Fraser, which Dunn failed to convert. Breckenridge again made a glorious run down the touchline, but held on too long when a try seemed certain. A fine passing movement by the visiting backs threatened danger, but McLachlan, who was playing well at full back, saved cleverly. The Old Boys continued to press, but K. G. McKenzie and Mackay led the forwards in a ground-gaining rush, and when the F.P.'s returned to the attack Dobson and Harrington relieved with good touch kicks. It was again against the run of the play, however, when Breckenridge intercepted a pass, and running from his own "twenty-five," just scrambled over after being hand-tripped near the line. Ritchie failed with the kick. The Old Boys soon went ahead again, for W. Buchanan made good progress on the right, and, held on the line, passed back for G. Reid, who had followed up well, to score near the flag. Frew failed with the kick.

The School opened the second half strongly, and quickly got on terms. Dunn missed his pass, and, like lightning, Roy had nipped in to gather the ball on the

“twenty-five” and race over at the corner, Ritchie failing with a difficult kick. There followed an anxious five minutes during which the F.P.’s, with wonderfully clean passing movements kept the play in the School “twenty-five” and fully tested the defence. At length Breckenridge made another spectacular burst which carried play to the other end, and from this point the School gained the upper hand. The heavier F.P. forwards strove vainly to rush matters, but the School pack were like terriers, and their tackling relentless. I. McKenzie played the game of his life and was perhaps the best forward on the field. Dobson, Harrington and Breckenridge were always putting their side on the attack. Moreover the forwards were by this time more than holding their own in the set scrums, and play continued to run in favour of the School, but no further score resulted.

Result: Strathallan, 6 pts.; Old Strathallians, 6 pts.

Strathallan v. Hillhead High School, at Forgardenny on December 10th.
Abandoned owing to frost.

Strathallan v. Oxford and Cambridge “Brutes”, played at Forgardenny on Monday, December 12th.

Cooper was on the wing for Roy. Early play favoured the visitors, whose heavy forwards carried most of the early scrums, and for a time the School were kept in their own half, in part due to the poor touch kicking of the backs. At the same time, the School threes were more impressive as a line than their opponents, where Mr. Atkin alone was prominent. The continued pressure had its reward when from a five yard scrum the visiting eight took the ball over the line for a back row forward to touch down near the flag. The try was converted with a splendid kick. Strath. rallied and quickly got on terms, a fine run by Macmath through the centre enabling Ritchie to goal a good try, though he had earlier missed a penalty in an easy position. Midfield play followed, with the home forwards slowly asserting themselves, but no further scoring took place.

On the recommencement the home threes made ground, but their touch kicking was

still at fault; while the visiting forwards were prominent with fast rushes. A good three movement saw the ball go out to Breckenridge who, tackled near the corner, passed inside to McKenna who dropped over about three yards from the flag. Ritchie added full points with a splendid kick. The visitors rallied, and finding a gap in the centre, the threes were through. A pass on the “twenty-five” to the left wing saw him race round a spread-eagled back division to score under the posts, but the kick just missed. The School threes replied, Harrington breaking through cleverly along the right, and this time Ritchie was up to receive the pass and score near the flag. Again he was successful with the kick. The remaining minutes saw desperate forward rushes by the visitors, who, however, rallied too late to pierce the School’s defence.

Result: Strathallan, 15 pts.; “The Brutes,” 8 pts.

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The Second XV have won but two of their six matches and drawn one, the point-less draw against Glasgow High School 2nd being their outstanding performance. They failed to find the right team spirit in the early games and the opening game, against Aberdeen Grammar School, saw them beaten 17-nil. Against Gordons they played better, and undoubtedly were a better side than their much bigger opponents, but lost by six points to nine. Then came their draw which was improved upon in the next game, Dollar Academy 2nd being defeated by a late rally by 9 pts. to 5. Morgan’s Academy 1st XV provided them with their second victory, and the 13-6 win was well earned against such big and clever forwards. The Second F.P. side registered eleven points against them, but the margin was flattering, for the School enjoyed a fair share of the play, the advantage lying with the Old Boys’ forwards.

* * *

The Third XV also failed to find their true form in the early games and all too easily lost heart. Thus they were overwhelmed by Aberdeen G.S. and outplayed by Dollar Academy. Later they did well to draw against Morgan’s Academy 2nd XV and to defeat Gordon’s 3rd team.

Scout Notes

AT the beginning of the term the 73rd Perthshire found some measure of difficulty in settling down under the strange ways of a new Scoutmaster, so that for a time it appeared that the strength of the Troop might suffer. The keener members of the Troop, however, led the way in pointing out previous methods, and after certain adjustments, the Troop has been able to accomplish a fair measure of solid work.

On Saturday, Dec. 3rd, the Troop was inspected by Capt. McIntyre, of Edinburgh H.Q., introduced to us by the Assistant District Commissioner, C. Campbell Penny, of Glenfarg. He inspected the Troop, drawn up in patrol formation, encouraging those who are still on the way to their first-class badge. After a yarn designed to show the brotherhood of Scouts, he watched the Troop at work, and left us with words of favour. It was on December 3rd that the Troop strove to dig a trench for the electric light cable to the Hut. We are very grateful for this very helpful addition to the Troop H.Q. It was a most unfortunate chance that led, during the trench digging, to the accident of Scout R Gillanders of the Seal Patrol.

We congratulate 2nd W. I. Gordon, of the Hawk Patrol, on being awarded his All-Round Cords.

There have necessarily been many promotions during the term. We congratulate H. Allen (P.L.), W. I. Gordon (2nd) of the Hawks, W. M. Edward (P.L.) of the Seals, J. M. Wilson (P.L.) of the Swifts, A. Dow (2nd) of the Owls, J. W. Drummond (P.L.), W. Smith (2nd) of the Otters, J. Paterson (P.L.) and L. Paul (2nd) of the Lions, on their promotion. There have been eight recruits invested as Scouts this term:—C. M. Scroggie (Eagle), W. W. Anderson, H. A. Hood (Hawk), J. Cooper, J. Milne (Seal), O.

T. Brown, W. Taylor (Rattlesnake), and D. Molinson (Otter).

Patrol Corners were inspected on December 16th by Messrs. Ward and Norton. After serious deliberation, the Cup for the Corner was awarded to the Hawks, the Wolves being placed second, and the Rattlesnakes third. The Cup for the best individual exhibit was awarded to J. W. Drummond, P.L. of the Otters.

The final placing of the patrols for the Trophy was:—

1. Wolves.
2. Hawks.
3. Rattlesnakes.
4. Eagles and Otters.
6. Seals.
7. Owls.
8. Swifts.
9. Lions.

The Lions have suffered very considerably throughout the term from illness.

SWIMMING NOTES

As usual, the pond proved to be very popular, but owing to colds and other threats of infection, it was closed for a great part of the term.

This was particularly regrettable since it ruled out all polo. It was hoped that as there is much unexploited talent among the juniors, that a serviceable team might have been built up, but so far such hopes have necessarily remained unfulfilled.

The Swimming Badges were competed for as usual, and four boys, R. Auld, R. Johnston, D. Watt, and G. Sharp were successful in winning them.

I. K. L.

“O.S.” Notes

MOST Old Strathallians are rugby enthusiasts and I think the letter quoted below should prove of more than passing interest. During one of the school games, a case arose of a breach of rules occurring over the try line and the referee held that a player could do anything he liked once he had crossed this line. In the same match our opponents were awarded a penalty near the touch line. The ground was very wet and the ball in play was very heavy. In order to save time a second ball had been used once and was in a much lighter condition and the kicker got possession of this ball and used it for the penalty kick, which, had it succeeded, would have altered the result of the match. An argument ensued and it was agreed to refer both matters to Mr. Jordan, the “Daily Mail” rugby critic. He himself was not quite sure on the points raised and referred the matter to Admiral Royds, who was one of the committee which revised the Rugby Union rules. Below is the Admiral’s ruling:—

11/12/32.

Dear Jordan,

Re your enquiries—

1 (a). “Can a player commit an infringement, e.g., knock on, in his opponent in goal?”

There are many mistaken ideas about the in-goal space. There seems a mistaken idea that directly the ball or a player crosses the goal line, there is a total relaxation of all laws, and that the penalties for the infringement of the laws do not hold good—which is, of course, absurd.

The definition for knock-on is “after striking the hand or arm of a player, travels in the direction of the **opponents’ deadball line**”; so it is a knock-on by either team in either in-goal if the ball from the hand or arm of a player travels in the direction of the opponents’ deadball line. Penalty against a defending team—5 yards scrum, unless intentional, then penalty; penalty against attacking team—drop out 25 yards.

Law 19, charging obstruction, and Law 34, foul play or misconduct, are not limited to the field of play, so they apply to in-goal also and a penalty kick can be given against a defending player or, in the case of attacking player, drop

out 25 yards. Here, of course, if a referee was of the opinion that a try would undoubtedly have been scored but for this foul play or obstruction, he would award a penalty try. “Throwing forward” is governed in the same way as “knocking on.”

You can be penalised for being offside in your opponents’ in-goal (penalty—drop out 25 yards) but not in your own, except where you are in front of the ball where a free kick is being taken, when the penalty is 5 yards scrum.

Granted there *are* certain things one can do in goal which are not permissible in the field of play.

(b) While in goal you can throw or knock into touch in goal, provided the ball is not knocked on or thrown forward.

2. You cannot be tackled in in-goal, but the ball can be “held in-goal” instead—not “held up” which it is often erroneously called.

3. If the ball in a scrum is pushed over the goal line either team may handle the ball.

4. “If two balls are in use during a game and a penalty or free kick is given, can the kicking team use either of the balls, or must they use the ball that was in play at the time of the incident?”

The object of having two balls in use is to save time when one ball is kicked some distance away. Changing the ball for a free or penalty kick would entail a wastage of time which is not permitted, and the kick should be taken with the ball that was in play at the time of the incident. The ball can be changed when the one in play is not forthcoming, or when the game is being restarted after any incident, provided no wastage of time is caused.

5. “Can a player snatch the ball from the hands of an opponent?”

Yes, provided the player originally holding the ball is not also held by one or more players. The definition of a tackle is “where the player (not the ball) is held by one or more opponents so that, while he is so held, there is a moment when he cannot pass or play the ball. This refers to the player—not the ball, so the ball can be snatched from the hands of an opponent as the player is not held but, if one player has hold of the man with the ball and another player tears the ball out of the latter player’s hands, then the player with the ball is held so that he cannot pass or play the ball and tearing the ball out of his hands would entail a penalty kick for not allowing the man with the ball to release it so that it falls to the ground between himself and his opponents’ goal line.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) PERCY ROYDS.

We had a very interesting letter and enclosure from Mr. Willie Thomson, of Colombo, giving us an account of the All-India Rugby Tournament, held at Madras, where the Ceylon team beat the Calcutta team in the final, by 13 points to 11. In this tournament two or three Strathallians took part and we have a photograph by us of Mr. Dan. Smith, who skippered the Calcutta team. The newspaper report was very enthusiastic about Dan's captaincy and prowess as a goal kicker. Those who knew him at school will have many memories of brilliant goals kicked from all sorts of difficult positions.

We thank an unknown reader for sending us a newspaper containing interesting information with regard to the activities of an Old Strathallian, Mr. J. H. Forrest, who is with the Bell Telephone Company, of Montreal. He has been taking part in experimental work, using the short wave Marconi directional system, which is now in daily use connecting the British and Canadian telephone systems. He had a thirty-minute chat with his father in Scotland and we hope that he was not called upon to foot the bill—calculated in £s per minute!

Mr. Alfred Reid of the Orkney Islands, paid us a visit during the term and gave us a great deal of interesting information about his life in charge of one of the outposts of the Hudson Bay Company. Evidently a great deal of skill and will power is required to negotiate successfully with the Eskimos. We are hoping to persuade him to provide an article for the magazine on this subject; otherwise, we might be tempted to re-tell one or two of the very good stories which he related. At the present moment, he is at Braebuster, Kirkwall, managing the family farm.

We had lost trace of Mr. J. S. Cruickshank ("Tiger") until, a short time ago, he had a chance meeting with Mr. Morris, the old history master, whom he never knew at school. They met at the house of a common friend somewhere in Wales, and eventually "Strath" was mentioned—then the real conversation began, with Mr. Morris in the role of raconteur.

Both Mr. Morris and Mr. Crawford paid visits at school during the last term and we are happy to say that they seem to be flourishing. The former is in the North of Ireland, and the latter on the borders of Wales.

We have news of an informal gathering of Old Strathallians which took place in London a week or so ago at the home of Mr. C. L. Rich, in Kensington. "Old times" were gone over again and thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. W. Wills, of Montgomery Terrace, Ayr, has been invited by the German Rugby authorities to try and arrange a tour about Easter time, embracing clubs in the Leipsig district. He will be pleased to hear from any Strathallian interested. The return fare from London is roughly £11.

Our congratulations to Mr. A. C. MacEwen who has graduated as a doctor at Edinburgh University.

Will Old Strathallians who desire to take part in the contests with the School on Commemoration Day kindly send their names to Mr. N. G. Reid (Lochside, Bearsden)? The committee hope to meet and pick the various teams in time for insertion in the next magazine published in May. It is only in this way that really representative sides can be selected.

We hear that Mr. Willie Frew is to represent his firm (Messrs. Jas. Finlay & Co.) in cottons in the Midlands of England. There are several O.S.'s. in this district, including Mr. W. Macmillan, who is with the Riley Motors, in Coventry. There may be one or two chance meetings on rugger fields.

Old Strathallians should note that the Club accounts have now been handed over to the new Secretary (S. Brand, Esq., C.A., Woodlee, Bridge of Allan) and that all further subscriptions should be remitted direct to him. We hope in the next issue to print a short "life" of Mr. Brand for the benefit of those O.S. who did not know him at School.