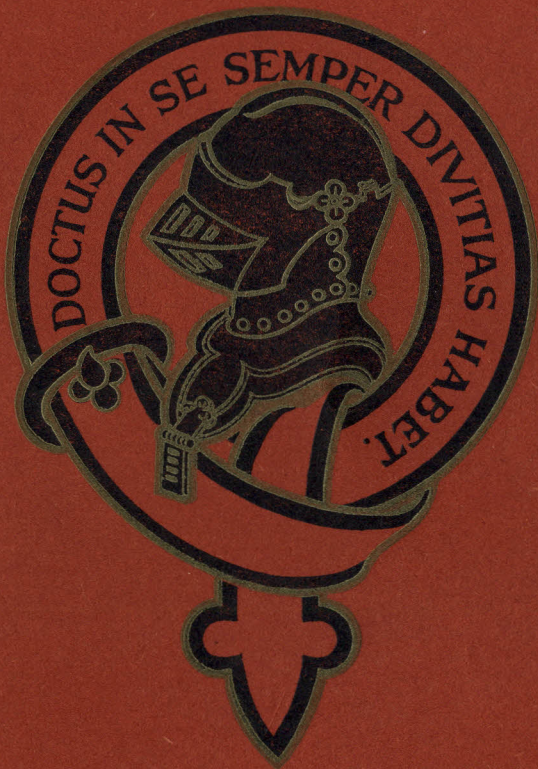


"THE VISOR"



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

CHRISTMAS, 1929.



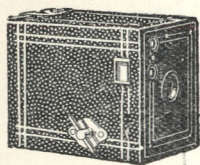
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THE ORGAN OF THE BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE.

VOL. III., No. 1.

CHRISTMAS, 1929.

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EDITORIAL.

In the retirement of Mr. J. Smallpage, our Headmaster, and of Mr. H. Bennett, our Senior French Master, the school has suffered a great loss. All who have been at the school for any length of time feel the absence of these familiar figures. Since they had spent more than a quarter of a century at the school, it was inevitable that their departure should leave a certain gap.

Mr. Smallpage was appointed Headmaster of the Birkenhead Institute in 1903, and when the school was changed from a private foundation to a public secondary school, he was retained in that position. That this choice was justified by results has been attested by both Old Boys and friends of the school. Under Mr. Smallpage the Institute has increased in numbers, and examination results prove that great progress has been made in school-work. All who passed through the school during his tenure of office will agree that the outstanding characteristic of his work was the strong personal interest which he took in each boy in the school. At the end of his last term at the school he was presented with a silver cigarette box and a cheque from boys of the Institute past and present, as a mark of the esteem in which he was held. Mr. Smallpage has very kindly consented to send us a message, and a letter from him will be found on another page.

Mr. Bennett was a master at the Birkenhead Institute from 1899 to 1929. All who have known him will be sorry to hear of his departure. It is a great pity that his last few months at the school should have been marred by ill-health, which enforced his absence for some weeks during the last school year.

We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. E. Wynne-Hughes, our new Headmaster, and Mr. Deakin, who succeeds Mr. Bennett. As Mr. Hughes had already been made known to us by the Press notices, and the photograph which we published in our July issue, he was not an absolute stranger to us at the beginning of the term, and the school settled down quickly under the new régime. We trust that Mr. Wynne-Hughes has received a good impression of both the school and the town.

In conclusion, we may say with confidence that such changes as have been made have all merged into the general routine of the school, and that the school will take a fresh lease of life under the new order of things. Already we have had one highly successful term and are looking forward to many more in the future.

Mr. SMALLPAGE'S LETTER.

DEAR BOYS,

I have no doubt you are all working hard, and if you think of me at all, you suppose that I am now one of the idlers.

I assure you that I do not enjoy idleness and that I try to find occupation in one way or another. I paid a visit recently to the Headmaster of my old school where I was a boy over 50 years ago. He is well and vigorous and remembered many incidents and persons of my school days which I had forgotten.

Some of you scouts will be interested to know that the Commissioner of the Jamaican Scouts at the Jamboree this year is one of my old boys and that I had a warm invitation from other old boys of the same school to spend the winter in that sunny island. I have been delighted to see old boys this year from places as far apart as Roumania, East Africa, Singapore and Seattle—all of whom worked at the Institute and have prospered since. They think gratefully of B. I.

If you work hard you will fit yourselves for any opening which may occur later on, probably in some direction of which you never even dream. So take advantage of every opportunity which your school offers and remember that you can learn much from your masters and much from your school societies.

I send you this greeting: "May the school be as a field which the Lord hath blessed."

J. SMALLPAGE.

WELSH REMINISCENCES.

From out Mold town so busy with the fair,
I chanced to wander west,—I know not why,
Except that I was curious to see
The rivers, or perchance, even the sea.

The roads were dusty, white, and hot the while,
As hour by hour passed by. But waiting not
I walked on cheerily, until (oh wondrous view!)
The hilltop reached, I'd triumphed o'er the brew.

The breezes blew the heather here and there,
The sun, 'Old Sol,' (for some have called him that)
In fitful patches shone thro' mountain air,
Tinting spots green, some black, now here, now there.

It seemed as if some mighty giant's hand
Would show me where the fields were hedged in black,
By guiding me with wandering rays of light
O'er hill or vale, by searchlight as at night.

And then the mighty colour scheme, though changed,
Was brightened up by wondrous mellow rays
As if to say, "Have you not noticed me
So coyly hiding, veiled by hedge or tree?"

The shadows lengthened, twilight spread its gloom,
The birds ceased singing, silence reigned supreme,
My reverie had ceased; I rose to go.
Back home I went with weary steps and slow.

A. WANDERER.

SIR ROGER VISITS THE CINEMA.

Last Tuesday evening, on hearing a knock on the door, I hastened to open it, and I experienced the delight of seeing my old friend Sir Roger de Coverley standing on the step. After embracing me he said that he had come to ask me to accompany him to a Cinema, as he had travelled to London, specially to hear the new "talking film" at the Capitol, and that he had not been to a cinema since the early days of cinema filming. As I love the old man, I immediately complied with his wish, and, accordingly, we boarded a bus, and ascended the steps which led to the upper deck. During our journey Sir Roger remarked about the coolness of the driver in negotiating the packed street, and said that he had read an article about it in the "Daily M—," of which he is a great reader, and believer. We arrived at the cinema, well before the performance commenced and my old friend attracted the gaze of the audience owing to his venerable and majestic figure.

During the "Pathé Gazette" Sir Roger commented upon aeroplanes (an air picture was being shown). "A very wonderful invention" he said aloud, "I have read about it in my Encyclopædia Britannica." This comment caused many people to laugh, who did not know his eccentricities as I did. Sir Roger, on hearing the laugh, said that he saw no cause for laughter when an airman was doing dangerous "stunts." A little later on, when a man was about to shoot himself, having been crossed in love, Sir Roger said aloud, nodding his head the while, "Ah, young man, you do not know what

it is to be crossed in love." Upon which the audience again burst out laughing. I think that Sir Roger perceived that he was the object of the laughter, for he did not comment upon it. I only hope it did not offend the old man and that he took it in good part.

During the last item on the programme, which was a story of the West of that great continent that lies on the west side of the Atlantic Ocean, Sir Roger expressed great excitement and said that he "wondered there was no mention of how the men sat on their rather fresh steeds, in the Encyclopædia Britannica, and that no mention was made of it in the "Daily M——." A short time after, the performance finished with the playing of the National Anthem, and Sir Roger stood up very straight, while the orchestra played it, and he made quite an impressive figure.

Sir Roger enjoyed himself heartily, and said that his parishioners should have a cinema as soon as possible for "not only does it promote enjoyment, but it educates."

A. BRECKNELL, Form VIa.

A REMINISCENCE.

I gripped the great, wooden operating table, covered with bloodstains, and great cuts; and adorned with numerous saws, daggers, scimitars, and all other imaginable forms of torture and torment. Around the walls of the great, forbidding death-chamber, were hunched, on gigantic hooks, the stiff and ghastly forms of former victims. I gripped the bench more tightly, and clenched my teeth. I had stood there for half an hour, awaiting my fate, and my brain was nearly burst by the thoughts that entered it. I would not stand it any longer. With all my remaining courage, I began to walk to the door, but, try as I might, my feet remained immovable. I tried to cry, but my tongue clung to the roof of my mouth. I gasped for breath, for a sharp current of obnoxious gas from the decaying bodies smote my nostrils, and sent a cold shiver through my frame, freezing the very marrow in it.

Suddenly, a great black door, covered with bloodstained rags, creaked on its heavy hinges. Then, grinning maliciously at me, with a great scarred face, there appeared in the aperture, the gigantic form of my terrible executioner, draped in long white robes, bespattered with blood, and carrying, in one hand, a huge, shining broad-sword, and in the other, a long tapering dagger.

Great beads of perspiration broke forth on my brow, and trickled down into my boots. I clung to the table, my lips parched, my face pale, and my knees trembling beneath me. My assassin towering above me advanced a pace, then turned. He opened his great jaws and spoke. His voice re-echoed through the huge death-chamber, causing the very corpses on the walls to tremble with apprehension.

"Hey, Bill!" he cried, "we're sold out of pork chops aren't we?" I thereupon evaporated through the cracks in the door of the butcher's shop.

R. S., Lower Via.

A IIIrd FORMER'S IMPRESSIONS OF A PREFECT.

(With apologies to William Blake).

Prefect, prefect, smug and smart,
With piercing look and steadfast heart,
What breed art thou? Where dost thou dwell?
What mighty force doth thee impel?

What made thy Sphinx-like look so stern?
What made thy fiery eyes to burn?
What have I done that thou should'st lower,
And make my feeble frame to cower?

Why dost thou strut, like peacock proud?
How dost thou quell the jostling crowd?
Why strive they to avoid thy glance,
Who all before did play and prance?

I see thou art a hungry beast
In whom the fire of Love hath ceased,
Implacable, with look of steel,
Thou grindest all, beneath thy heel.

Abroad thou seek'st, with silent tread,
To snatch the prey, and strike it dead.
Thy mighty blow of impositions,
Grants it no time for swift contritions.

Prefect, prefect, ruling all,
Thy majesty doth thee instal,
In thrones and balconies on high.
Shall I, one day, aspire thereby?

BOOTLESS TASK.

Having, like Rossetti, "sat and thought for thoughts," I reached the melancholy conclusion that there were no thoughts—or very few thoughts—to think; but I was sent so polite a message, and a previous issue of the "Visor" made such heart-rending appeals for MSS., that, thoughts or no thoughts, I feel that I must rally round the old flag, and produce, from the aching void of my mentality, some—but despair seizes me.

I must pull myself together. This is no way to write an article. Allow me a moment to consider. The ideal article for the "Visor" should be, as Macaulay says, "the delight both of schoolboys and of critics," and yet the only subject that occurs to me, on this desolate and blighted occasion, is "Boots," a subject which would most certainly appeal neither to schoolboys nor to critics: and that is where the shoe pinches.

What annoys me more than anything is the undoubted fact that, having spent the half hour's acute concentration which produced this meagre idea; having spent another half hour in pondering this same idea; and having laboured, with beaded brow and gasping breath, to present this idea to the critical public in some original and pleasing manner; what exasperates me is the fact that nobody can possibly be the least interested in boots; that, on the contrary, the boot is on the other foot, and that people hate boots, loathe and detest boots. Altogether, the Boot Problem assumes a magnitude greater than that of the Housing Problem; and I am no Wheatley.

I am spent. The spectre hovers. I sink into abysses more profound than any De Quincey knew: into abysses of hopelessness, into chasms of despair, where my one ray of comfort, like the dim daylight, seen fading far above, is that these words may serve to fill some page, some bare, unvisor'd space, which were else a shameful blank.

ONE YEAR OLD BOY.

NOTE:—

The original manuscript of the above is to be auctioned at some future date, unless previously sold by private treaty.

"THE SMALL BOY'S COMPLAINT."

I hate those pants that mother makes,
And "leaves me room to grow,"
That's why they drag around my legs,
That's why they wobble so;
That's why the pockets at the side
Are way down by the feet;
And the way I know the front from back
Is the patch that's on the seat.
That's why they look so kind of queer;
I'm going to tell her so;
I hate those pants that mother makes
With "lots of room to grow."

ANON., Lower VIa.

OVERCOME BY GAS.

I wanted to get from one door to the other. I slowly opened the door in front of me and entered. I tried to look about me, but could see nothing,—so thick did the atmosphere appear. Hoping all was safe, I groped on in the darkness, carefully feeling my way with my hands. I heard someone cough quite near me, and someone else gasped, in the distance. Suddenly, it dawned on me, that this fog was not natural, that it had been made artificially. The odour resembled that of Nitrogen Peroxide, which I had once prepared, myself, in the same laboratory. Yes, it must be Nitrogen Peroxide; but Nitrogen Peroxide is said to cause pneumonia. Then I must have pneumonia. The thought struck me, as some solid object might have done. Yes, I had pneumonia,—septically; I could feel it coming on. My eyes smarted, my nose hurt, and my throat burnt like fire.

I ran on towards the other door, only to collide with something soft and warm. I felt a voice come towards me, in the darkness,—“You can't go through the lab., boy!” I recognised a very familiar voice and turned at once and fled, but I could find neither door nor window by which I could get out. The pneumonia overcame me—I was dying—I could feel it. I sank down, down, down, down — — — — —

I was feeling cold. I turned, and felt about me. All the bedclothes had disappeared. My head ached; my brow felt cold and clammy with perspiration. It was then that I remembered my experience and realised what an escape I had had.

NO₂

VERY TRAGICAL MIRTH.

Across the moon the cumbrous clouds
In heavy masses drifted, blown
By soft winds from the west,
The gentle breathing of the night,
The even breath of rest.

Deep in a forest glade, where grew
A grassy round, were figures three:
Two men there were who stood;
Each unaware, that with them strode
A spectre through the wood.

The moon shone out among the clouds,
The little wind stayed hushed and still,
To see the swords they drew;
And watching them, the spectre smiled
To see them stab and hew.

With cut, and thrust, and rapier twist,
With skilful parry, and turn of wrist,
The duellists engaged;
And in the pearly, moonlit mist,
Their struggle of hatred waged.

Their figures swayed across the glade,
And moonlight played along the blade
Of each, as grew the strife;
And each one desperately essayed
To take the other's life.

A stab, a cry, a shuddering sigh;
Unseen, the spectre glided by,
And stood above the dead;
And with a dreadful smile, he spoke:
"The first is mine!" he said.

It was at this point that the Muse, terrified at the awful tragedy, fled; staying only for a moment, to tell me that the victorious duellist had lost his path in the wood on his way home, and had fallen down a well.

The spectre, following him, had said, "The second is mine!" and had seemed very pleased about that, too

A.S.S.

THE SINNER.

It is a frosty morning, and the master's corn stingeth cruelly, and he groaneth, and he becometh exceeding crabby. And a pupil speaketh freely, and the master, being ratty, giveth him an impot, and commandeth him to show it unto him before he goeth home that night.

That evening, the pupil remaineth in the classroom, and he groaneth, and remembereth his tea. And he saith unpleasant things about the master. Yea, verily, he taketh his name in vain. And while he broodeth, the master poketh his head round the door, and ordereth him to get going. And the pupil taketh his pen, and scribbleth like billio. And the master threateneth, and grunteth, then hoppeth it to a warmer part of the school, for it verily freezeth. And the scholar droppeth his pen, and shivereth, and riseth from his seat. And he crosseth to the radiator, but someone hath fiddled with the doings, and it also freezeth. And he leapeth, and pranceth to warm himself. And he becometh thirsty, and goeth to get a drink. But he meeteth the master. And the master saith, "What doest thou here?" and he stutthereth, and saith, "Verily, master, I go for a gargle." And the master stareth, and roareth, and asketh, "What meaneth that?" And he moaneth, "It meaneth a drink." And he falleth on his knees before the master, and picketh up the pin which he hath dropped. And the master saith, "Get thee hence unto thy classroom, and remain there, even unto such time as thou hast finished thine impot." And the pupil returneth, and shivereth, and finally finisheth his impot. And he giveth it to the master, who destroyeth it, and goeth miserably home to tea in solitude.

PIMPLE.

ONE MINUTE JUST TOO LATE.

'Twas the pale wan light of morn
And Jannie had tolled the bell;
When a trembling school-boy, with doubting torn,
Dashed into school pell-mell.

"A minute just too late"
He muttered and bitterly cursed;
"Two detentions will be my fate!
Well, let them do their worst."

One minute sooner, just one part
 Or particle of day,
 And he would have been spared this unpleasantness.
 Oh! Why was this delay?

Schoolboy, will you think of this?
 Will this, too, be *your* fate?
 Get up earlier lest you be
 A minute just too late.

LIGNUM VITAE, Lower Vib.

A PROJECT.

This school possesses a secret, an unplumbed secret. Far, indeed, from plumbation—plumbification—no, plumbing (though I fear that the word refers solely to the anciently stately craft) well, then, far indeed from scientifically conducted analysis, the news has reached me of no attempt at the exploration of this corner of Darkest Institute—of no single endeavour towards the commendable solution. What a miserably unenterprising crew of lethargic sluggards we are! Let it not be so! Let these sentiments, this horrifying indictment bring to the reader's comely visage a fair flush of manly, chivalrous shame.

For, though the untutored, illiterate, and unnoticed fourth former hath peeped astonished through the portal over his goblet of egg-shell china or purest crystal in which one Janitor, is wont to convey his bounty to those who, fatigued with continued intellectual effort, and bordering on nervous breakdown, come to this be-whiskered Hygeia for draughts of his refreshing springs of oxo, lemonade, and cordial black-currant—he, I say aloud, has viewed amazed the gloomily majestic shades Avernian of that temple, dim-lighted from the lofty roof, betwixt and between plaster columns and iron pipes, where the high priest janitorial of the fane worships and offers coal. Thereupon, profound though be the knowledge of the establishment, yet as to the purpose, contents, history, topography, fauna, flora, etc., of the cupboard under the wooden staircase, knowledge is virtually absent. Yea, in the land of the great, the great, great—great, the very great, in the very abode of Prefects, the inmost sanctuary, within even the portals of the Library, ignorance confronts the seeker after knowledge, ignorance abysmal, ignorance rife.

It is therefore proposed to found a Society, a Society for the investigation of the staircase-cupboard. What there may repose, conjecture I cannot. We have, I think, one clue in the theoretical deduction of the object of the cupboard in the observedly enormous consumption of flasks and Kipp's apparatuses, or, perhaps, it is the secret place of interment of small and impudent children slain by certain hugely ireful of the Library.

Anyhow, we shall see, we shall see. Application with subscription for membership of the above society invited. And one night, when itinerant cumuli hide the moon's argent ray, and Sirius winketh not; when the Third Form sleeps, tucked up in its little cot by Mummy, sweetly smiling in its innocent dreams: when the sinuous Cubby Hole darkly disports itself in gambling dens and gin palaces, bringing to its still youthfully fresh cheek the hectic flush of dissipation: then, and then only, shall our Society fulfil its purpose and the cupboard reveal its gruesome secret.

THE JANITOR'S SONG AT TWILIGHT.

The school bell tolls the knell of parting day,
The dashing schoolboy hurries home to tea,
The master homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

Now fades the glimmering building to the eye,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the mighty prefect hurries by,
And drear detention still its own enfolds:

Save that from yonder basement bathed in gloom
The janitor does to the world complain,
"Now I've to go through every room,
And work, till night, with all my might and main.

For me no more the blazing hearth doth burn,
I spend my evening racked by toil and care,
My supper standing cold waits my return,
And there's no rest poor janitors can share."

J. E. H. (with apologies to Gray).

BRUCE AND THE SPIDER (Revised Version).

History is so annoying—it is truly dogmatic. The humblest historian states with urbane self-assurance that such a general uttered a famous epigram at the close of a battle, or a famous statesman showed a preference for blue ties, or a lady of great repute had a passion for stamp collecting. In short, we are overwhelmed with a multitude of amazing statements, which, owing to the privilege of the writer, must not be questioned. (*Frottez-vous-y*).

Let us throw off this yoke of a time-honoured illusion and make the tyrants prove their outrageous assertions. For instance, consider the poor spider in the story of Robert Bruce. Tradition, (I should like to meet this person who seems to know most things), relates that while hiding from his enemies, probably his landlady and tailor, Bruce lay in a cave watching a solitary spider, which unconscious of the said honour was industriously attempting to reach the ceiling. The 'poor wee beastie,' quite fatigued, was unable to attain his object until the ninth performance. Bruce, inspired by the noble example of the humble spider, went forth, conquered his enemies, and became king of Scotland. Well, quite a pretty moral, but what were the facts of the case?

The spider was probably doing his daily dozen, trying to ascend and descend before being overcome by vertigo, or Robert may have been an amateur naturalist investigating the eccentric habits of the insect, beg pardon, creature, since I have been told that a spider is not an insect.

When caught by one of his friends he probably invented the fiction to conceal his pet weakness, or was one of those people who love aphorisms.

In any case, how does the historian know such details except by reference to contemporary documents, which may have been written by someone who loved to caricature, and how far may anyone allow for the lapse of time, when we are not sure what Gladstone said in '72 or '76?

Well, "*De mortuis nil nisi bonum*," so that possibly accounts for it, though one must admit that many heroes have been sadly maligned. If however, you are at any time uncertain of the answer to some historical poser, remain philosophical if you cannot be correct, and say to yourself, "He may be wrong."

G.W.D.W.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor of the 'Visor,'

LOWER VIb.,

October, 1929.

Dear Sir,

I feel constrained to emphasise, through the medium of your pages, one or two points which appear to me important concerning the Inter-School sports. This may hardly be a seasonable time of the year to mention this topic, but there has not been an issue of the 'Visor' since the event took place.

It seems a very strange thing that the school should show such a small amount of interest in an event which so deeply concerns it. It is to be doubted whether more than sixty-five per cent. of the scholars knew that there were any sports.

Out of a total of over fifteen masters and four hundred boys, only one master and two boys went in support of those representing the school, who needed so badly a little encouragement. Why should comparatively new schools like Park High School and Rock Ferry High School be represented by about twenty—thirty spectators, when the B.I. shows no interest? Why should the school's name be besmirched because no one is loyal enough to give up an afternoon for the good of the School?

I sincerely hope that these few lines will serve as a preliminary to better times in the future, and that next year the 'B. I.' will be well represented by both runners and spectators alike.

I am,

Yours faithfully,
'ACORN.'

To the Editor of the 'Visor,'

Dear Sir,

Having been at this school for several years, I have noticed that there is neither a Running Club nor a Cycling Club. There are many enthusiasts who would be willing to take part in the activities of these clubs, if they were formed. There are well over a hundred cyclists in this school, many of whom possess very good machines, so the formation of a club is practicable. With regard to a Running Club, there are many keen runners in the Upper and Lower Sixth Forms. Now then, you keen athletes, what about the formation of these Clubs?

Yours sincerely,

D. RIGBY
(Upper VIc).

VARIA.

We must thank all those who helped to give such a good response to our appeal for contributions. To those whose articles were not accepted, we can only say "If at first you don't succeed —."

The Chess Club is to be congratulated on preserving an unbeaten record in the matches for the Wright Challenge Shield. We hope that this form will be continued, and that our team will bring the trophy back again.

In connection with Armistice Day, the collection for a wreath for the school memorial plaque amounted to £2 7s. The surplus, after the purchase of the wreath, is to be used to buy flowers for the pavilion—our School War Memorial. The sale of Flanders poppies in the school realised £4 10s. and this sum was sent to the British Legion.

During the week immediately preceding the half-term holiday, the stalls in the gymnasium were moved into a new position against the wall underneath the gallery, opposite which a small platform has been erected. The results of these alterations are that the gymnasium is enlarged, and that, since the whole school now faces this platform at prayers, the singing is greatly improved.

On November 7th we received a visit from Alderman Solly, Mayor of Birkenhead and Chairman of the Governors. He cautioned his listeners against overworking and declared that he would always be a firm friend to the School.

In the examinations held in July the school obtained three Higher School Certificates and sixty-four School Certificates, twenty-seven of which reached matriculation standard. A complete list of these successes will be found on another page.

We must congratulate the Junior School Wolf Cub Pack on their successful display. Alderman Solly, Chairman of the school governors and Alderman McLellan, Mayor of Birkenhead, spoke after the performance. Of the proceeds of the display one guinea was sent to the T. H. Wolf Cub Pack, one guinea to the 21st Birkenhead Wolf Cub Pack, and £1 6s. 6d. to the Children's Hospital.

In connection with the new system of fortnightly marks, every House has so far gained the top position except Atkin. It is hoped that Atkin will level things up next term. This term, although Westminster has come out on top most often, the struggle has been very even.

Mr. Deakin has formed a "Cercle Francais" amongst Lower Sixth-formers. We understand that some members of this society can converse in real French for almost thirty seconds at a time.

The prefects are now more conspicuous, as they all wear badges. There is no truth in the statement that a noted malefactor said that these should be luminous to give warning at night as well.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following magazines:—Trumpeter, Cowleian, Nautilus, Birkenhead High School Magazine, Park High School Magazine, Walsleyan, Holt School Magazine, Oultonion, Esmeduna.

THE FESTIVE SEASON.

My friends, I wish you one and all,
A happy Christmas and New Year;
Surrounded by the things you love,
For this is the season of good cheer.

We know not what this coming year
May have for us in store;
We may be caned, we may be flogged,
Or ne'er see Christmas any more.

But we must always wear a smile,
Though deep, at times, in trouble.
We must remember that misfortune
Will burst just like a bubble.

And now my friends, again I wish
With heart true and sincere,
With feasts, and fun, and merriment
A Happy Christmas and New Year.

L. WARD, Form IIIc.

ATKIN HOUSE NOTES.

House Master—Mr. BLOOR.

House Captain—G. V. OVENS.

The House cannot be said to have distinguished itself this term either in school or at the playing field. In school, we have done badly, for we have not yet risen above third place in the fortnightly results, the cause being the large number of detentions which the House has received.

At Football we have done reasonably well in all departments except in the Senior, where we are weak, as most of last year's team has left and our Senior Boys are few in number, but as we have strong Intermediate, Sixth and Fifth form teams we are confident that we shall recover our traditionally good form.

At the Swimming Gala, although individual members of the house swam well, our representatives in the House-Squadron Race were unsuccessful, and we must compliment Tate on their victory.

Football.

Seniors. The results of the two matches we have played this term are disappointing, for we have lost both.

Intermediate. This branch of House Football has been quite successful, for we have played two matches, won one and drawn the other.

Juniors. We have played three matches, won one and lost two. This is a poor result and we hope that the remaining matches will be more keenly fought.

Sixth Form. Two matches have been played, one being won and the other drawn. Atkin is strong in this department as also in the

Fifth Form, the one match we have played resulting in a decisive victory over Stitt (9—0).

Fourth Form. One game only has been played and this has been lost.

Third Form. The one game we have played has been won against Stitt (6—5).

Atkin Representatives in School Elevens:

Ovens, Croft, Wharton, Johnson.

Chess. Atkin has only one member of the School Chess Team, namely Ovens, who plays first board.

STITT HOUSE NOTES.

House Master—Mr. W. H. WATTS.

House Captain—G. N. RICHARDS.

House Committee—Mr. Watts, Mr. Hall, Mr. Allison, Mr. A. O. Jones, Richards, Currie, McBride, W. S. Jones.

In Football, we are hoping to maintain the high position of former years. For the last two years we have won the Football Cup, and at present we are only two points behind the leaders, Westminster.

In the "fortnightly mark lists," we have been handicapped by the large number of detentions, which we promise ourselves are a rapidly diminishing quantity. The House Committee are watching this matter and are prepared to deal with certain boys who by frequent detentions are letting their House down. We are glad to report that we topped the list of marks for the last fortnight.

A particularly pleasing feature this year has been the enthusiasm of the members, particularly of the younger boys, who are doing all in their power to uphold the traditions of the House.

Football.

Senior. In the senior section we have obtained 3 points out of 4; we defeated Atkin by 2 goals to 1 and drew with Westminster 1—1.

Intermediate. In this section we have only gained one point, having lost to Atkin 2—0 and drawn with Westminster 1 all.

Juniors. In the Juniors we have defeated Tate 9—7 and Atkin 4—1, but lost to Westminster 4—1.

Form Matches.

VI. Form. We defeated Westminster by 12 goals to 0, but lost to Atkin 5—3.

V. Form. We lost to Atkin 9—0.

IV. Form. We defeated Atkin 8—1.

III. Form. We lost to Atkin 6—5.

1st XI. Representatives. Richards, McBride, Currie, Smith, G. W., Harrison.

2nd XI. Anderson, S., Jones, W. S., Glaister, Carter.

Swimming. We did no better in this year's Gala than we have done for the last two or three years, and we finished last, more than a length behind Tate. Our team was:—Ambler, Campbell, Carter, Barker.

Chess. We have two representatives in the School Chess team, Wood (3rd board) and Greaves (6th board).

TATE HOUSE NOTES.

House Master—Mr. HARRIS.

House Captain—A. W. BURNET.

The House still keeps up its high standard in the sporting activities of the School. We have carried off the School Swimming House Championship for the third year in succession, while we also finished up as the Champion House in last season's Cricket competition. The Football Season being only about half over, we are unable to make any definite statements, but we have done quite well so far, and entertain good hopes for the final result. We would call upon the younger members of the House to give greater support, and would remind them that they can contribute very much to the success of the House.

We must congratulate our House Captain on his able management of the affairs of the House and J. C. Mason on being made Captain of the First Team this season, and Watkins on winning the School Swimming Championship.

The House has also had quite good results in the new fortnightly mark sheets, being first in the first sheet, but it cannot hope for success again unless the number of detentions is greatly reduced.

The House held its first meeting this term on Thursday, November 28th, when various points were discussed.

Football.

Seniors. In the Senior House matches, we have lost to Westminster 3—2, and won against Atkin 11—3, when Mason scored 8 goals.

Intermediates. The Intermediate teams have so far won against Westminster 5—1, and drawn with Atkin six all.

Juniors. The results of the Junior House matches have been bad, the House losing to Westminster 6—1, and to Atkin 3—0.

Sixth Form. Tate have drawn the two games played, the results being Westminster four all and Atkin five all.

Fifth Form. The one match played resulted in a victory for Tate over Westminster by 6 goals to 1.

Fourth Form. Only one game has been played in this section, when we lost to Westminster 2—0.

Third Form. In this department we have lost to Westminster 6—1.

School Representatives. The House is extremely well represented in the School Teams.

1st XI.—Mason, Peel, Watkins, Minns, Burnet.

2nd XI.—Laird, Barton, Andrews, Allsop, Thomas.

Swimming. We must heartily congratulate our team on again winning the House Squadron Race. Tate led from the start, but we must give credit to Westminster for being a very close second.

The team was :—Woods, Symons, Hartley, Watkins.

Chess. We are well represented in the school team by McNeill, 2nd board; Green, 4th board; Wright, 5th board; Pritchard, 7th board, and Halliday, reserve. We are also very hopeful of success in the inter-house matches, which have not yet been played.

WESTMINSTER HOUSE NOTES.

House Master—Mr. F. W. JONES.

House Captain—T. J. ANDREWS.

The House extends a hearty welcome to Mr. Deakin, who came at the beginning of the term.

A House meeting was held early in the term, at which T. J. Andrews and A. V. Humphreys were elected Captain and Vice-Captain respectively.

We have been very successful this term in both sport and work. With reference to the latter, we have twice been top in the fortnightly marks lists, and we have also gained first place in total points for the term.

We intend holding cross country runs in the Spring, in which the whole house will take part.

Football.

Senior. The Seniors have won against Tate 3—2, and have drawn with Stitt in an equally matched game, one all.

Intermediate. The inters' teams have not done so well, having lost to Tate 2—5, and drawn with Stitt, one all.

Junior. Our Junior teams have done extremely well, having won all their matches, v. Tate 5—1, v. Stitt 4—1, and v. Atkin 6—3.

Sixth Form. One match has been drawn with Tate, 4 all, and one lost to Stitt 12—0, this being due to a depleted team.

Fifth Form. In the only game played so far, we have lost to Tate 6—1, but we hope for a double success against Atkin and Stitt.

Fourth Form. Only one match has been played, in which we beat Tate 2—0.

Third Form. The third form team has also played but one game, in which we beat Tate by 6 goals to 1.

School Representatives:

1st XI.—T. J. Andrews, Lea.

2nd XI.—Roberts.

Swimming. We were very unfortunate in the House Squadron Race, losing by a touch. We must congratulate Tate House on their victory.

Our team was:—Morris, Horne, Dubois, Kirkland.

Chess. Jellicoe is our sole representative in the first division. Marsh bids fair to be top in the second division.

BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT.

1st XI.

Despite losing the first three matches of the season, the 1st XI. are playing very well at present.

After a great deal of experimenting, it seems that we have at last got a team that can score goals and win its matches.

It is significant that most of our wins have been gained by a good margin, viz., 6—2, 8—1, 7—0, whilst many of our defeats have been sustained merely by one or two goals.

The team must be congratulated on doing so well against our old rivals, Liverpool Collegiate, a team against which we rarely escape defeat during any season.

In conclusion, let us wish the team every success in the future, and a good passage in the Senior Shield next Spring.

September 25th, v. Alsop High School (Away).

The first half was very even, and both sets of forwards missed opportunities. B. I. had most of the game in the second half, and went very near to scoring. The home centre-forward scored twice from breakaways. Towards the end, B. I. were awarded a penalty, which was missed. The school lost 2—0.

October 2nd, v. Bootle Secondary School (Home).

Bootle had the advantage of a strong wind and scored three goals, all due to defensive mistakes, before half-time.

Straight from the kick-off, Bootle augmented their score, and being content with this lead, they found touch on every possible occasion. Despite these crude tactics, B. I. scored twice through Mason. Bootle won 4—2.

October 9th, v. Wallasey Grammar School (Away).

B. I. fielded a weakened side, as Mason, Andrews, and Peel were unable to play. From the start it was plain that Wallasey were a vastly superior team, and before half-time, they had registered five goals.

After the interval they scored four more, and the school forwards never looked like scoring. B. I. lost 9—0.

October 16th, v. Quarry Bank School (Home).

The first half was very even, and produced only one goal, by Ovens for B. I.

B. I. completely dominated the second half, Ovens, who was in splendid form, scoring four times, and Andrews, McBride, and Burnet (penalty) once. Smith, who was only beaten once, made a splendid début. The result was 8—1 in our favour.

October 23rd, v. Liverpool Collegiate (Away).

The School forwards were in a very lively vein, and scored five goals before half-time; Ovens and Mason both scored twice from solo runs, whilst Mason added a fifth from a screw shot.

On resuming Mason scored a sixth from a long shot, and Collegiate replied twice. B. I. defence was very sound. B. I. won 6—2.

October 30th, v. Liscard High School (Away).

This was a very even game, with both teams inclined to be lackadaisical. Liscard scored before half-time, and Ovens equalised midway through the second half. A few minutes later, the Liscard out-side left scored from a blatantly offside position. The School forwards missed many easy chances. Liscard won 2—1.

November 6th, v. Liverpool Collegiate (Home).

The Collegiate, who fielded a stronger team than before, scored first, through their inside-left, but Andrews equalised, following a corner from the left. Before half-time Collegiate went ahead. In the second half Ovens put the School on level terms. Collegiate strove hard for the winning goal, but a stout defence repelled them. Score 2—2.

November 13th, v. St. Edward's College (Away).

St. Edward's were soon on the offensive and scored three goals, two of which Laird should have saved.

The B. I. forwards could not get going, owing to faulty passing by the half-backs and inside forwards. St Edward's scored a fourth from a runaway. Currie and Burnet played splendidly throughout. The School lost 4—0.

November 20th, v. Oulton Secondary School (Home).

B. I. lead at the interval by goals scored by Mason, McBride, and Ovens. Ovens, Minns, Mason, and McBride augmented the score, whilst Andrews hit the cross-bar.

Watkins, Peel, and Richards made an excellent half-back line, whilst Burnet, Currie, and Smith performed very creditably. Score 7—0.

First Team Appearances.

Burnet	9	Harrison	5
McBride	9	Lea	4
Ovens	9	Croft	3
Richards	9	Smith, G. W.	2
Currie	8	Barton	1
Mason	8	Baxter	1
Peel	8	Morris	1
Andrews	7	Thomas	1
Laird	7	Watkins	1
Minns	6		

Goal Scorers.

Ovens	11
Mason	8
McBride	3
Andrews	2
Burnet	1
Minns	1

2nd XI.

Owing to our endeavours to obtain a strong and experienced Junior Shield Team, our 2nd XI. has often included several juniors, who have usually acquitted themselves well.

Morris successfully captained the side during the early part of the season, and since his leaving school, Boggie and then Lea have held the honour.

Results.

Sept. 25—v. Alsop High School (home)	Lost 3—0
Oct. 2—v. Bootle Secondary School (away)	Lost 5—3
*9—v. Quarry Bank School (home)	Won 9—0
16—v. Quarry Bank School (away)	Won 7—4
23—v. Liverpool Collegiate (home)	Lost 4—1
30—v. Liscard High School (home)	Won 3—2
Nov. 6—v. Liverpool Collegiate (away)	Lost 5—0
13—v. St. Edward's College (home)	Lost 3—0
20—v. Oulton Secondary School (away)	Won 5—1

*Full Junior Shield Team.

2nd XI. Appearances.

Anderson	8	Watkins	5	Robinson	2
Baxter	7	Lea	4	Wharton	2
Barton	7	Boggie	4	Croft	1
Roberts	7	Andrews	4	Glaister	1
Allsopp	5	Carter	3	Johnson	1
Morris	5	Smith, G. W. ..	3	Jones, W. S. ...	1
Rice	5	Harrison	3	Thomas	1
Smith, J. A.	5	Barker, H. ...	2	Seville	1

Goal Scorers.

Andrews	3
Baxter	3
Croft	3
Boggie	2
Glaister	2
Smith, G. W.	2
Carter	1
Harrison	1
Smith, A.	1
Roberts	1

"CUBBY HOLE" NOTES.

Again, on the "Cubby Hole" parish register, there is a new batch of humanity, but, unfortunately, the former convalescent home for retired veteran scholars has been changed to an intensive study circle.

The health of the oppressed inmates has been quite good, for we have breathed enormous volumes of "country" air from the bush veldt with all its bushes (both of them) via the constantly open window. However, we have one exception, for last week one of our members stood at death's door with bronchitis, but the mysterious medicine of his doctor fortunately "pulled him through."

Having been barely induced to accept the marginal dose of two free periods per week, conspirators are planning to abolish these. Although we wish to work, at least another four free periods are needed (cf. Library).

Hats must be raised to the swimming champion, a senior scout and the captain of the 1st XI., who are amongst our treasured possessions.

The Badminton Club of the glorious 14 has fared well, there being only a few slight injuries in the skirmishes for the shuttlecock.

"With eager hearts," the glorious veterans anticipate the Cubby Hole feast, when the inmates will spend a night in riotous living.

The Thursday afternoon "Debating Society" is the cause of much argument, especially on betting, while "Theatre v. Cinema" excited the picturegoers.

From our new knowledge of Literary Criticism, we have discovered (even in the "huge" number of free periods) that Edgar Wallace does not use alliteration or the Pre-Raphaelite style; so interested are we in this work(?)

Reference must be made to the seat on the master's desk, which for some time past has agreed that masters should not have such an easy life, and so refuses to be sat on. Naturally we regret that our masters should "suffer" so.

Since last economics period, many of us are anticipating a situation in the pea-nut trade, while one of our members has suggested that there are many prospects in the cockle-hingeing trade.

Although we shall be somewhat diminished after this term, we still hope to remain "The Cubby Hole."

R. D. T. (Upper VIc).

THE NEWS AND INTELLIGENCE FROM THE LOWER SIXTH FORMS.

The Lower Sixth Forms continue to maintain their reputation as the back-bone of the school. VIa., in the sanctity of the one-time Geography room, increasingly formulates school history. The behaviour here is of course excellent; only 50 of the coveted detentions having been allotted.

It may be truly said that the Lower Sixes have a finger in every school activity. In the Chess Club, Green of Lower VIa., is to be found regularly every Tuesday and Thursday, checkmating all and sundry, whilst Braid upholds the honour of VIb. in this sphere, and VIc. sends two budding Capablanco's to represent them.

In football, however, we of the Lower Sixths, shine, excel and surpass. "Bunny" Jones, Petit Minns from VIa. Schmidt, MacBride, Long Curry, Lea, Baxter, Andrews, Wharton, from VIb. and Andrews, Harrison, Croft, Johnstone, VIc. are in either the 1st or the 2nd elevens. "I' faith a motley crush," as dear William would say.

"Bunny," W. J. Jones, Pugh and Andrews are great "pluggers" at the Rifle Club, whilst Williams and Pierce shoot arguments in the Debating Society.

The Lower Sixth French Society is another great feature of our life, but of that anon. Lower VIb. feel their position next to the master's room, very keenly indeed; so much so that it is rumoured that a petition is afoot for the removal of their form-room to the kitchen!

What with prefects one side and masters the other, the Lower VIb. genius is somewhat restrained.

By the way, both "Bunny" and Andrews have been made Prefects. Congratulations.

Both VIc. and VIb. are jealous of VIa. water and gas supply. It is felt that one or more gas taps in Lower VIc. would be highly acceptable. Moreover, by their aid, it would be quite possible to decrease the staff quietly, but—vain hopes!

VIa. are situated in between the two labs. and at the top of a staircase. What an 'ole!

FORM NOTES.**Va.**

When the form assembled on September 13th, it consisted of 23 of last year's 4th and 9 of last year's 5th.

Clarkson and Walker romped home in their elections for their respective positions. Kirkland was elected vice-captain of football.

R. H. and S. W. Jones were made librarians.

Football. At the beginning of the season we had not many bright prospects. No matches have been played but two practice games took place at Prenton and I am pleased to say that the majority of players showed great promise.

School Representatives:

Junior Eleven:—Seville, Walker.

Chess. 9 members of the form are in the Chess Club. 2 are second division players.

School Scouts. There are 9 members of the school troop in the form. Ashton did very well in the Scout Swimming Gala by gaining 6 points for the troop.

F. N. BIRD.

Vb.

Football. This game is treated seriously and the form is strongly represented throughout the School Teams. Although there is no one, as yet, in the First Eleven, K. Rice and J. A. Smith stand for the Form in the Second Eleven. H. Barker, K. Rice and J. A. Smith are prominent players in the Junior Eleven. In the course of the term the Form has upheld the standard of the previous "Five Bs." by winning the match against a combination of 5a and 5c by 9 goals to 2. There was also another triumph when the Form won the match against 4b by 7 goals to 0.

Chess. Notwithstanding the fact that this is not looked upon as being as important as football there are no less than six boys who take an active part in the School Club. K. Rice and H. Barker are both in the 2nd Division; Jackson and Green are in the 3rd Division while J. A. Smith and L. Cross are in the fourth.

J. NIBLOCK.

IVa.

Our Form is well represented in singing. On November 18th we had to assemble in the Gym, and while we were singing Mr. Griffiths came round and tapped certain boys on the chest. These boys could sing, and they were asked to join the school choir. One or two of them are going to sing solos.

Our half term holiday was occupied in surveying for Mr. Allison. Each set of about two or three boys had several fields of part of Wirral, their researches guided by the Map that we have this year of part of Wirral.

Evans is congratulated by us all on being top of the form every fortnight up to now. He also has had the most stars in the form.

We have played two football matches near the beginning of the term, against Vb. and IVb. Vb. beat us 6—0, and we drew with IVb. 3—3.

Detentions are not very frequent.

Stamp collecting is very popular in our form. One boy, as soon as he sees you, runs up to you, shakes your arm, and says, "Got any stamps for swops?" This gets very annoying after about a week. I think the craze for stamp collecting must have acted strangely on his brain.

C. MARTIN.

IVb.

Many of the boys in the School take an interest in collecting foreign stamps. Hewson of this form is one of these enthusiasts. There are not many wireless 'fans' in the School, but L. Meakin takes a keen interest in this hobby; recently he assisted his brother in making a 3-valve set, which, we hear, is giving good results; evidently a budding Marconi. Harrahill is form captain for football, and so far he has proved worthy of the position.

This form has done fairly well in football, having beaten IVc. and drawn with IVa. Unluckily, IVc. were not at full strength, for if they had been, I am sure there would have been a different tale to tell. Against IVa. it was a very hard match, ending in a draw, a result which satisfied both forms.

G. MOUGHTIN.

IVc.

In our form we have a famous violinist, who answers to the name of Snelson. He does not wear a collar, as might be imagined from the way in which I have expressed myself. Then there is Griffiths, yea, verily, a fine singer, and a good friend (when he's flush).

We are the only form in the Fourths who can boast of having our form captain, Roberts, playing for the School second team.

I am pleased to say that Ames, our all-round sportsman, is still going strong. We have also in our form a young hippo who can clean boards. His name will not be given—he might get rather angry with me.

We have played only one football match; it was at the beginning of the term, and IVb. beat us 3—1. Two of our best men were not playing, however.

D. WYLIE.

IIIa.

As most of our boys come from the Junior School they are all at home in the Senior School. Lunn has been at the top of the form right from the beginning. Congratulations, Mr. Lunn. Bozier and Barker and one or two others have been striving hard to pull Mr. Lunn down, but he seems to have been glued there.

Most of our form may be absent for a while, soon, because I think that they will be travelling to Daltona or Brooklands with their racers. We have about 50 models of Seagrave's "Golden Arrow." A few of them are made of lead and a few of wood. Messrs. Pipon and Sons test the engines every day. The noise is heard all over the room. Anyone who wants a good model racer had better apply to Messrs. Pipon and Sons for I hear they have some very good models for sale. Buyers had better be quick because Messrs. Pipon and Sons are closing down to swot.

A very big match was played between our form and IIIb. on November 27th. I can congratulate our form on the small victory of 9 goals to 2. I congratulate Mr. Eldin, who made top score, of 3 goals. IIIb. were beaten hopelessly. We hope that we can beat IIIc. as well.

Mr. Leigh has a pair of boxing gloves for sale. Good condition and good price.

DUBOIS.

IIIb.

One blissful member of the front row of the above form, after being told that Captain Cook made three voyages to Australia, in one of which he was killed, was asked the question "In which voyage was he killed?" Percival's calm reply was "The first, sir."

Situated on the front row, yea, even next door, on the left hand side of his brainy comrade in the year 1929 A.D., there was once a human being who was asked why he did not hear another boy's reply. After looking rather embarrassed for a short time, he decided on the only possible escape—"I get a bit deaf at times, sir."

IIIb. has always been cock-form of the thirds, and it has got to live up to its reputation this year in everything. As form representative, I should like to voice the opinions of others, and say that if some chaps do not buck up and "Play the game," we will have to inquire into the matter.

C. ALLDIS.

IIIc.

This form is, as a rule, well-behaved. Certain promising youths, seemingly, have never heard of a detention. Since the beginning of term there have been two new entries into the form, namely McAlpine and Pringle, the latter has become well-known to the detention room, as he pays it a friendly visit every night. Here are a few celebrities:—

Torbett:—Form Captain, Fine centre-forward; Pringle:—Gets as many marks in gym as he gets detentions; Williams:—Crack goalie of the thirds; Shannon:—The budding scientist with the golden tongue; Parry:—a fine outside-left—also a crack bat.

During the scripture lesson an answer was given, "The people of Ur are called Eurasians." During science when asked "Who was Pascal?" one worthy answered: "Pascal was a chocolate maker."

So far the football results are not satisfactory, but the the form is rapidly picking up.

We are confident that IIIc. will hold its own with the other forms in the thirds.

L.W.

LIBRARY NOTES.

It is with feelings of deep regret that we have to announce the enforced retirement, through old age, of a dear and faithful friend of the Library. I refer to our dear old friend, the Alarm Clock. Former inhabitants of the Library will remember how, on that memorable day, a year ago, each one of us put forth all our worldly wealth, to purchase this "good and faithful servant;" and with what feelings of mixed joy and pride, did we maul its shining frame, and cast longing glances at its "inners!" How its majestic peal first rolled out from the throne on the mantelpiece—the amazement of the Staff, the setting of the alarm for the end of each period (a childish amusement!) its ultimate downfall, the shattering of its glass, the loss of its minute-hand, the ceremony of examining its intestines, the engraving on its face, of many names, its auction, and its final laying-to-rest, on the Latin dictionary—all these, and many other memorable landmarks in its history, will recall themselves to the memory.

And now, alas! a youthful upstart has usurped the throne. A "stream-lined," wooden edifice, with an impassive face, sits coldly on the slab, with a perpetual scowl on its face. It certainly is more stylish and tasteful than our stumpy friend: but that is all——. We are now awaiting the presentation, by some kind member, of a pair of oak candlesticks, to complete the "ideal home" effect.

An ingenious inhabitant of this cosy nest (?), has recently suggested that the Library shelves, with a little wire-netting stretched over them, would make ideal roosts for poultry, white mice, or rabbits (if mice and rabbits *do* roost). The suggestion is receiving our serious consideration.

Our notorious chair-breaker has re-commenced his dastardly work. His record for last week was:—amputation of four chair-legs, and resultant disablement of two backs; perilous condition of two forms.

We notice that G—ves still continues to labour under the delusion that a collar is an ear-comforter.

The idea of an annual re-union of prefects, past and present has at last substantiated, and a meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, December 18th.

V.

THE CHESS CLUB.

The Chess Club has enjoyed a highly successful term. We have now fifty-seven members on our books, and at the present time four tournaments are being fought out. Great enthusiasm for the game is being shown even by the newest members, and we look forward to an unusually successful season.

The team must be congratulated on winning four matches and drawing one in the Wright Challenge Shield Tournament. The only game we failed to win was that against Liverpool Collegiate, where a hard-fought match ended in a draw. Owens is the only player in the team with an unbeaten record, having won four games and drawn one. The results are as follows:—

Birkenhead Institute	...	4	Oulton	3
Birkenhead Institute	...	6	Holt Secondary School	...	2
Birkenhead Institute	...	5	Liverpool Institute	2
Birkenhead Institute	...	4	Wallasey Grammar Sch'l		3
Birkenhead Institute	...	3½	Liverpool Collegiate	3½

A friendly match was played with the Old Boys, when the School were beaten by eleven games to four. We must congratulate the newly formed Old Boys' Chess Club on this initial victory.

In the first division tournament there are eight players. Green is leading at present, having won five games out of six, while McNeill has won four out of five.

Marsh is already assured of first place in the Second division, having won six games out of six. He will probably be a useful member of the team next year. Sarginson is at present second with only two losses.

The third division, a "knock-out" tournament with sixteen players, has so far only reached the second round. The fourth division is a new departure and consists of a tournament for beginners. There are 24 entrants and this competition is also on the "knock-out" system.

In conclusion, it is only necessary to say that all the success of the club is due to the efforts of Mr. Moat, who has guided the club since its inception, and whose coaching has been of great value to us all.

"RUY LOPEZ."

SCOUT NOTES.

All the Scouts in the 23rd (Birkenhead Institute) Troop are looking forward to an even more successful year than the previous one. The numbers of the troop have increased this year to thirty-five members, but the attendance at meetings is not altogether satisfactory. Many boys find difficulty in returning to school on Friday evenings for the troop meetings, so it has been decided to hold meetings every Tuesday and Friday at the end of the afternoon school and an evening meeting once monthly.

During August two very successful camps were held. In addition to sending representatives to Arrowe Park for the Jamboree, we were able to send twelve boys to the auxiliary camp at Overchurch. In spite of the very inclement weather these boys enjoyed themselves to no little extent. Later in the month twenty-five boys journeyed to Ross-on-Wye for a fortnight's camp there. It did not take long for the boys, many of whom are experienced campers, to settle down, and the camp was soon in full swing. One of our 'old boys,' Mr. McCoy, came with us and soon proved himself a general favourite. His "Arise and Shine" in the mornings will be long remembered by those who heard it!

This year has had a very auspicious beginning. At the Inter-Group Swimming Gala held in October we were the winners of the Shield awarded to the group with the highest aggregate of points. All the boys who swam for the school acquitted themselves exceedingly well, and Wylie's diving was of a very high order.

We have to congratulate Wetherell and Coughtrie on winning their King's Scout Badges. Their success has increased considerably the enthusiasm for badge-work among the other boys. The majority of the boys are at present learning Home-nursing, Public Health, and Ambulance-work, all of which they will find extremely useful.

There is plenty of room in the troop for new members, and we extend a very hearty welcome to all boys to join us and learn for themselves what great fun Scouting it.

"SCOUTER."

RIFLE CLUB.

The Rifle Club, as usual, has its full complement of members. Two veterans of last year are left, and if the recruits show more zeal than markmanship that is only what is to be expected during their first term. For the present, therefore, the weekly meetings are confined solely to "grouping" practice.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

The Society this term, under the able guidance of Mr. Allison, is enjoying what is perhaps one of the most successful sessions in its history. The average attendance at the meetings has been singularly high, and we are pleased to note the increasing number of boys, both from the lower part of the School and from the Sixths, who have made a point of speaking at all the meetings.

A general meeting of the Society was held on June 25th, at which A. V. Humphreys was elected Secretary, in succession to W. Hastings, the retiring secretary, who had so ably conducted the affairs of the Society up to that time; a representative committee was also drawn up.

The first debate this term was held on October 7th, the proposition being that Britain has done more for civilisation than any other country. Dubois, supported by Halliday, put forth convincing arguments as to the truth of this statement; but the members were not to be convinced, and Pierce and McNeill, opposing the motion, easily won the day.

The second Debate, held on October 21st, centered around the highly absorbing topic "That it is to be regretted that Columbus ever discovered America." There were 59 present. Pierce and McNeill strongly repudiated the existence of our "American Cousins;" and even though Jellicoe and Bird were opposing the motion, it was carried by 30 votes to 23.

The motion for the third debate, held on November 11th, was "That Democracy is a delusion and a snare." Pritchard, seconded by Piggott, asserted that Democracy was merely an ideal, and not a practical proposition; Humphreys and McNeill, opposing, put forth many strong arguments, but the motion was carried easily.

By far the most interesting Debate of the session was held on December 2nd, when members of the Debating Society of Wallasey Grammar School, returned the visit which we paid to their Society, in November of last year. That visit was a

memorable one in the history of our Society, and we still retain happy memories of it. It is our earnest hope, moreover, that this annual meeting has now become a permanent and established "date" on our programme; and that it will continue indefinitely to help to strengthen the link between the two schools.

The motion was "That Human Progress is a Fallacy," and members of our Society respectively, led the motion, and seconded the opposition. The Modern Age was condemned and eulogised in turn, and the meeting was marked by a pervading atmosphere of bantering wit, and good humour. On a vote being taken, the motion was carried by a fairly large majority.

Next term promises a very attractive series of discussions, and we feel sure that the interest of supporters will be maintained and even increased as the term progresses.

In conclusion, we would like to thank E. J. Matthews for so kindly designing and executing the posters, which have in no small measure contributed towards the success of the Debate.

NATIONAL SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

The Savings Association, started in January, 1924, with about sixty members, has now a membership of two hundred and two, and is one of the largest and most flourishing of the local associations. Since its inception the members have saved £2,226 2s. od. This term's contributions amount to £127 14s. od. New members are cordially welcome, and there are no formalities; join the School Savings Association and start to save now!

JUNIOR SCHOOL NOTES.

This term most of the Junior School activities have been in connection with 'cubs.' The pack gave a successful display on Tuesday, November 12th, which was attended by the Mayor of Birkenhead and by the chairman of the governors.

The programme included a performance of "The Pied Piper," and we ourselves managed to produce quite a creditable 'mayor' for the occasion! Other interesting items were sword and country dances, housecraft, and rollicking sea-chanties.

Early in the term we spent an interesting afternoon at Port Sunlight and last week some of us were lucky enough to see the exciting film "Simba."

The older boys were giving the opportunity of attending a special performance of the Opera "The Barber of Seville," and, from all accounts, they enjoyed it exceedingly.

There are victories on the playing-field to record. A Junior School Team has this term played Forms IIb. and IIc., and in each case has won easily. Two house matches have been played, Westminster beating Tate (2—nil) and Atkin scoring above Stitt (12—2). When IIb. and IIa. played, neither side scored, but we hope to play a more decisive game before the term ends.

This year for the first time the Juniors were present at the Armistice day ceremony in the Senior School.

The Junior School Prize-giving is to be held in Beechcroft on Tuesday, December 17th. All our spare time is occupied with rehearsals of "The Christmas Carol" and the other items which are to be presented then.

At present we are wrapped in the hush of end-of-term tests—but Christmas holidays are in sight!

A HORRIBLE DEED.

He sits alone, in a darkened room—alone in the fading light,
Why is his brow so heavy with gloom, and his cheeks so deadly
white?

But though his heart is sick with care, his courage never
blenches,

His eyes are fixed in a glassy stare,—what is it his firm hand
clenches?

"A little courage," he murmurs, "Yes! a little, and all is
won,"

A choking gurgle, more or less,—a gasp, and the deed is
done.

Without a shudder, or eyelid blink,—ah, it makes the heart
recoil,

That he so truly, calmly drank a dose of castor oil.

W. S. JONES, Lower VIa.

SWIMMING GALA.

Water and excitement ran high at Livingstone Street Baths, on Friday, 25th October, when we held our annual Swimming Gala, with customary "splash." The general impression, upon entering the Baths (not literally, of course!) was that there were at least a thousand people present; and the numerous events, especially the mop fight and the balloon race, were enjoyed to the full, by both spectators and competitors.

H.J. Watkins is to be congratulated on winning the School Championship Medal, and also upon his numerous other successes. The House Squadron Race was the event of the evening, and when, at length, the swimmers lined up for the plunge, excitement had reached fever pitch. It was an extremely exciting contest, Tate winning by a yard from Westminster, who are to be congratulated on their plucky display.

The balloon race was the source of much amusement, and the stubbornness of some of the offending articles to yield to the frantic puffs of the earnest competitor, raised many a laugh.

In conclusion we should like to thank Mr. Clague, and the many members of the staff who assisted him, for the great amount of time and trouble which they expended in organising the Gala, which was a complete success, and went off without a hitch.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. J. R. Paterson, one of our Governors, for so kindly consenting to distribute the medals.

LE CERCLE FRANCAIS.

The Lower Sixth's "Cercle Français," under the presidency of Mr. Deakin, has experienced a most successful season, so far. This society, which meets once a fortnight in the library, has had some most enjoyable meetings, which will culminate in their social to be held at the end of this term. The members hope to produce, next term, if possible, a French Play, which will, ye gods! actually be in French.

THE OPERA.

On Tuesday the 19th November, a party of thirty boys, from our school, went to see the opera, "The Barber of Seville," which, we all enjoyed very much.

The first scene depicts a market square in Seville, where Count Almaviva, and Figaro, the barber, serenade Rosina, the closely guarded ward of Dr. Bartolo, who wishes to marry her.

The second scene shows a room in Dr. Bartolo's house, where Rosina writes a letter, and sends it to Count Almaviva (her lover). Dr. Bartolo discovers this, and tries to spread a bad report of the Count. Disguised as a drunken soldier, Almaviva enters the house, saying that he was billeted there. A quarrel ensued and the Civil Guards were called, but Almaviva whispers his name to the officer, and so escapes.

In the third scene which is laid in the same place, Al-maviva enters the house in the guise of a singing master, and there follows a music lesson. At night Rosina and the Count were married, and even Bartolo was gratified, by having the dowry handed over to him.

J. COLLINSON, Form IVa.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

When you leave school and go to the University, you naturally expect to find something different—something which lies quite outside the usual run of events in an ordinary school. For instance, at school it is not usual to drag an ex-Premier of Great Britain about the streets of Liverpool in an open landau, wearing a green top hat yourself. Neither is it usual to attend a function and be forced to come home with your shoes tied with string. Such experiences, however, you enjoy at the 'Varsity.

When first we arrived, we were pleased to find a number of Old Boys of the School, all of whom were only too glad to show us round, and help us to wear off that 'Fresher' appearance. In a very short time, with a little tuition on the part of these obliging friends, we knew quite enough about the place to find our way round, like third year students.

Very soon, we found many other freshers, who, like ourselves, were trying to find out something about the more subtle mysteries of the building, and with whom, therefore, we had common sympathies. Amongst these were men from not only all parts of this district, or even of the country, but also from all parts of the world, there being Chinese, Japanese, Indians, Egyptians, and members of several other nations, all of whom, irrespective of nationality, creed, sect or anything else, mingle freely, one with another, with a freedom and a comradeship, encountered in, perhaps, no other place in the world.

The University is something unique, something without compare, a place where, in all branches, opposites meet and are made to blend; in fact, it is the most catholic institution in all the world.

W.H.

EXAMINATION RESULTS, 1929.

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

Alldis, J. H., Hastings, W., Latto, I. R. M.

SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

LOWER VIA.

m Abbott, J., Acton, E. G., Bridge, W. (C), Chisholm, J. W., Connor, A. J., m Coughtrie, W. D. (C), m Garrigan, J., Glaister, G., m Greaves, C. D. (C), Green, T. H., m Hallett, G. E. M. (C), m Halliday, J. A. (C), Hosker, N. E., m Hutchinson, J. W. (C), m Jellicoe, G., m Kirkland, G., m Lockey, R. B., m Magee, D., m Mason, J. L., m Mason, J. C., m Perry, G. A., Phillips, A. M., m Philpott, G., m Pritchard, J. (F.C.), Pugh, R. D., m Reece, W. J., m Richardson, G., m Rigby, D. (C), m Thomas, R. D. (G.C.), m Thomson, T. M., m Thornton, J. D. B., Townson, F. B., m Wetherell, J. H. D., m Williams, A.

LOWER VIB.

Allan, A., Bibby, E. G., Burnet, A. W., m Cockbain, B. H., Coffey, C. M., Douglas, A., m Dubois, R. J., Dutton, T. S., Eames, P. A., Edwards, A. E., Grundy, W. G., Hardie, J. P., Horne, A. C., Hughes, L., Jones, W. J., Jones, W. O., m Matthews, E. J., Peel, W., Wallace, A. R., Ward, T. K., Williams, R. E., Wilson, H. E., Woods, A.

LOWER VIC.

Baxter, J., Blair, D., Carter, T. C., Galt, A., Lamb, J. E., Lea, B. W., Roberts, J. B.

Matriculation—m**Distinction**—F.—French, G.—Geography, C.—Chemistry.

SALVETE.

Lower Vlb.—Atkin:—Todd, E.**IVb.**—Tate:—Ramsay, B. T.

IIIa.—Atkin:—Barker, C. R. (J.), Eldin, R. B., Ellis, W. K. (J.), Jones, J. O. (J.), Hall, W. O. (J.), Moffatt, J. S. (J.), O'Leary, K., Smith, R.; **Stitt**:—Bolton, W. H., Holland, F. R. E. (J.), Holmes, F. W., Hunt, F. W. (J.), Jones, T. G. (J.), Lusty, K. C. (J.), Milne, L. A. (J.), **Tate**:—Edwards, H., Lunn, C. H. (J.), Mason, A. S., Pipon, E. G. (J.), Riding, W. B. (J.), Thomas, K. B. (J.); **Westminister**:—Barnett, J. W. (J.), Bozier, H. J. (J.), Dubois, J. H., Leigh, J. S.

IIIb.—Atkin:—Alldis, O. A. (J.), Andrews, P. H., Aslett, W. W. (J.), Bennett, E. G. (J.), Boyce, A. T. (J.), Davies, C. E. (J.), Hughes, G. E. (J.), Hulton, T. A., Lacon, M. G. (J.), Price, G. E.; **Stitt:**—Armstrong, N., Boggie, D. (J.), Iveson, E., Rowson, C. A. (J.); **Tate:**—Nicholas, J. R., Pealin, G. E. (J.), Povall, H. (J.), Rise, E. (J.), Shone, R. F., Turner, J. E.; **Westminster:**—Grimmett, J. C. (J.), Lowry, D. W., Medcalf, C. J. G., Milburn, J. M. (J.);

IIIc.—Atkin:—Dewhirst, R. E., Gould, H. B., Matthews, H. E., Moss, G. H., Parry, R. W., Todd, C. G., Williams, H.; **Stitt:**—Cumming, D. A. (J.), Hughes, S., Simms, R. (J.), Trigg, F.; **Tate:**—Cavanagh, S. R., Chapman, D. C. (J.), Davies, R. L. (J.), Pringle, J. R. (J.), Shannon, G.; **Westminster:**—Davies, G. (J.); Edelston, W. K. (J.), Marsh, F., Peckham, D. (J.), Taylor, E., Ward, H. L., Torbett, J. M. (J.)

VALETE.

Upper VIa.—Atkin:—Alldis, Latto; **Stitt:**—Blackwood, Clark, McIver; **Tate:**—Baker, Hastings.

Upper VIb.—Stitt:—Johnston, Robinson; **Westminster:**—Maxwell.

Upper VIc.—Atkin:—Taylor; **Stitt:**—Anderson, Drover, Hughes, Jones, Thomas; **Tate:**—Coughtrie, Craig, Grierson, Maddocks, Smith, Wadlow; **Westminster:**—Clarke, Gridge-man, Murphy, Pinch, Smith, G. E., Theaker.

Lower VIa.—Atkin:—Hosker, Philips, Thornton; **Stitt:**—Perry; **Tate:**—Mason, Philpott; **Westminster:**—Hallett, Thomson, Acton, E. G.

Lower VIb.—Atkin:—Allan, Gibson, Rushton, Seed, Taylor; **Stitt:**—Boswell, Wilson, W. J.; **Tate:**—Allsopp, Cockbain, Pears, Woods; **Westminster:**—Coffey, Douglas, Jones, W. O., Miller, Williams, R. E., Wilson, W. J.

Lower VIc.—Atkin:—Allan, C. W., Jones, A. S., Jones, L. O., White; **Stitt:**—Hinde, Parker, Rowson, Wild; **Tate:**—Edwards, Galt, Hartley, Jackson, Nolan, Smith; **Westminster:**—Griffiths, Quaile, Torbett, Roberts.

Va.—Atkin:—Cartwright; **Stitt:**—Chantler; **Westminster:**—Banks.

Vb.—Stitt:—Barritt.

Vc.—Atkin:—Edwards; **Stitt:**—McCormick; **Tate:**—Pringle; **Westminster:**—Litherland.

IVa.—Windle.

IVc.—Atkin :—Ainley, Matthews.

IIIa.—Atkin :—Smith.

IIIb.—Stitt :—Martin ; **Westminster :—**Pugh.

IIIc.—Stitt :—Perry ; **Tate :—**Nelson.

IIa.—Atkin :—Bowers.

I.—Stitt :—Paterson.

Upper Prep.—Tate :—Hodgson.

Lower Prep.—Stitt :—Middleton ; **Tate :—**Martin.

THE OLD BOYS' SOCIETY.

President—E. WYNNE-HUGHES, Esq.

The Winter Session of the Society has now commenced and it has been decided to hold one meeting per month, excluding two Dances, which will be held one in December and one in February.

The Committee, with the kind consent of the President, has decided to hold a Games Night on a Monday evening, when the School will be open to all Old Boys for the purpose of Games, etc.

On November 14th, Mr. Watts kindly gave a most interesting and instructive Paper entitled "Sun and Moon," which was illustrated by lantern slides. Interest was greatly enhanced by two unrehearsed "total eclipses."

This gathering was not very well attended, unfortunately, and it is to be hoped that future meetings will have a greater number of supporters.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, a Smoking Concert was held, at which Mr. Smallpage was presented with a handsome portable wireless set as a token of the esteem in which he is held by Old Boys.

All boys leaving school are eligible for membership of the Society on payment of the sum of 1/-, subscription for the first year, and those who left in July, or after, can still take advantage of this reduction.

THE OLD BOYS' A.F.C.

The first three months of the current season have produced results on the playing fields which, if maintained, will rank the present year as one of the most, if not the most, successful in the history of our Club. We have complete lists of fixtures for four elevens, which is a distinct change from 1923 when it was difficult to field one team with regularity.

The first team is playing exceptionally well and at the time of going to press stands second in the Third Division of the I. Zingari League with the following results :—

GOALS.

P.	W.	L.	D.	FOR	AGST.
11	8	2	1	54	24

Our Second and Third elevens continue to make their presence felt in the First and Second Divisions of the Liverpool Secondary Schools Old Boys' League. The Third team at present head their division with Collegiate Old Boys running them very close.

Results are as follows:—

GOALS.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	FOR	AGST.
2nd Team ...	11	7	3	1	49	15
3rd Team ...	10	9	1	0	58	15

The fourth eleven's record is not quite so imposing in comparison, but considering that they are on most occasions meeting heavier and older teams they surely are worthy of congratulation on the following figures:—

GOALS.

P.	W.	L.	D.	FOR	AGST.
9	6	3	0	37	34

The aggregate results to date of all four elevens are as follows:—

GOALS.

P.	W.	L.	D.	FOR	AGST.
41	30	9	2	198	88

Our committee are pleased to welcome as members this season several old boys who have left school quite recently. Space prevents more than passing comment, but if we may individualize we should like to mention K. Maxwell and J. B. Lowsby. Both these players are now playing regularly in our Third eleven, Maxwell being a tower of strength at centre-half, and Lowsby heads the third team's goal scorers, having found the net on no fewer than twenty occasions.

The Old Boys' Football Club has, after many years of hardships, taken its rightful place as one of the leading amateur soccer clubs in the district, and it is undoubtedly an organisation which is worthy of the school and of which every school boy should be proud. Membership is open to old boys only and consequently its success in the future is entirely dependent on the support afforded by boys on leaving the school.

We extend a very hearty welcome to all boys on leaving school to come along and join us. The future of the club rests with the school boys of to-day. Their enthusiasm and ability are necessary if the club of which we are so proud is to continue to be worthy of our school and its great traditions.

C. D. GRACEY, Hon. Secretary.

THE OLD BOYS' CHESS CLUB.

For several years there has been in existence an informal Old Boys' Chess Club, meeting twice annually to play the School. From such an unpretentious beginning has this year evolved an official club, numbering among its members the best and most enthusiastic players of recent years.

As all readers are doubtless aware, there has been long established in the School a large and growing Chess Club, which was called into being mainly by the enthusiastic efforts of Mr. Moat, and it is probably no exaggeration to state that the Club now possesses the strongest school-boy Chess team in the district.

Year by year, players of ability have left the Club on attaining leaving-school age, and the vast majority have, of necessity, lost touch in some degree with the game. In many cases, the only games ever played by the Old Boys were enjoyed during the highly appreciated matches with the School Club, and it was at such a gathering that the idea of an orthodox club was first mooted.

In September of this year, the Birkenhead Institute Old Boys' Chess Club was formed, and now has in its ranks, such stalwarts as Mr. C. Moat, who, by the way, is the Vice-President of the new Club, Mr. N. W. Jones, a member of the Championship Division of the Liverpool Chess Club, and many ex-champions of the School.

With such an impressive personnel a successful future is assured, and there can be no possible doubt that when the Club participates next session in the "Silver Rook" Competition for Merseyside and District Clubs, it will do full justice to the School Club which fostered it and the Old Boys' Association to which it is affiliated.

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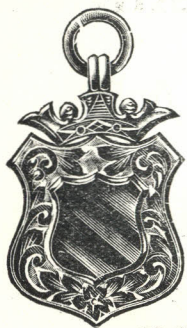
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