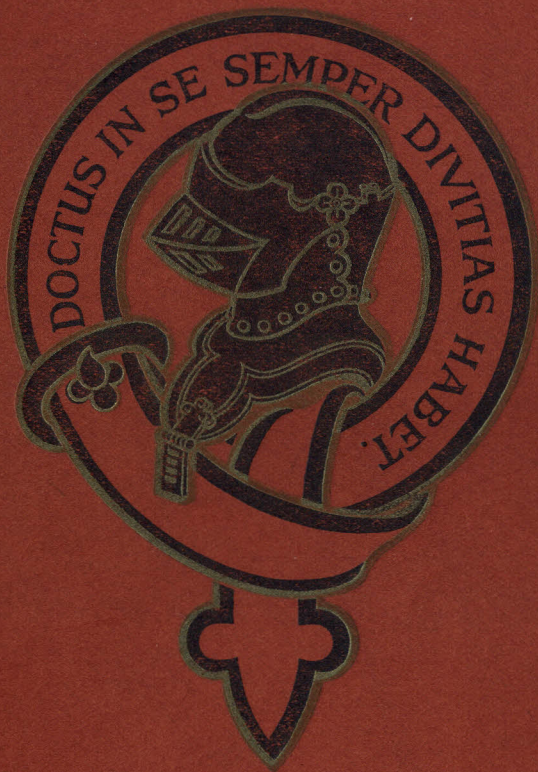


"THE VISOR"



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

EASTER, 1930.



FOR SCHOOL WEAR

*For well-made clothes—clothes
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yet keep their fresh appearance
and clean-cut style for many
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Consulting Optician,

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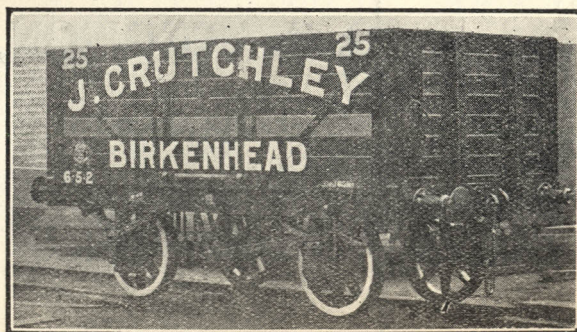
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**9 Whetstone Lane,
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Best Lancashire,
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 Anthracite, Coke,
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 Always in stock.

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 Price List on Application.

All kinds of Gravel for Garden Paths.
 Sand suitable for Gardens, supplied and delivered in Bags
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THE BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE.

Photo by Clarkson, Birkenhead

"THE VISOR."

THE ORGAN OF THE BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE.

VOL. III., No 2.

EASTER, 1930.

EDITORIAL.

In this issue of the "Visor," we must thank the School for the support they gave to our last number. The last issue of the magazine was the most successful we have yet published. The School helped us greatly both by supplying contributions and by buying the magazine when it was brought out. We hope that such support will always be forthcoming, and that we shall be able to make future numbers even better than the last.

The most important event of the present term was our Speech Day, which was held on the 24th of March, when Mrs. Ball distributed prizes and certificates and the address was given by the Rev. A. Ball. As usual the event was a great success, a large number of parents and friends being present. A full account of the proceedings will be found in this issue.

We learn that certain additions to the School building are proposed. These will probably consist of a new Assembly Hall and a number of extra class-rooms. Additional class-rooms are certainly necessary, and an Assembly Hall will not only make everyone more comfortable at morning prayers and other ceremonies, but will give scope for more meetings of School Clubs and Societies than have hitherto been possible. We might, in fact, be able to form a Dramatic Society and a Choral Society when this extra accommodation is available. We hope therefore, that this plan will quickly materialise, and that the School will soon be enjoying the advantages which will accrue from it.

The School has taken part this term in three Shield Competitions. Our football teams reached the semi-final round in both the Senior and Junior Shield Competitions—the best result for some years. The Junior eleven were heavily defeated, but the Seniors might well have reached the final round with a little more finish to their play. The Chess team are to be heartily congratulated on winning the Wright Challenge Shield for the third time in five years. The team did not lose

a single match, and Ovens, the top board, did not lose a single game—a very fine record which will be difficult to beat.

Three new societies have been formed in the School during this term; the Harriers Club, the Badminton Club and the Scientific Society. The Harriers Club has added to the achievements of the School in Chess and Football by drawing its first match with Liverpool Institute. We hope that they will do equally well in the future and thus make the School successful in an altogether new department of Sport.

SPEECH DAY.

The School Speech Day was held in the Town Hall, on March 24th. The Hall as usual was crowded with parents and Old Boys, and the usual friendly atmosphere prevailed.

The Mayor, Alderman T. McLellan gave a most interesting address. He congratulated the prize winners and went on to say that the way to "make good" on leaving School and entering a workshop or office was to try to work—and not to grumble. A great service was rendered by any school in giving its pupils the feeling of good fellowship and in wiping out class distinction.

The Headmaster then gave the Report on the work of the year, 1928-1929. The School had done extremely well in examinations and school-work generally—a result which was a tribute to the good work of the Staff. In connection with Sport, he congratulated the Football, Cricket and Chess teams on their results and mentioned that more use might be made of our grounds in the near future. At the same time he stated that a new Assembly Hall had been promised to the School, as well as a number of new class-rooms. The Headmaster mentioned a number of Old Boys' successes and paid a tribute to the help which Mr. Smallpage had given him when he first came to the School.

Alderman Solly, Chairman of the Governors, pointed out that this was a most important meeting, for we were in touch with both the old and the new Headmasters. He spoke also of the importance of truth in word and action.

The prizes were now distributed by Mrs. Ball. The usual imposing array of School Certificates was to be seen, and the usual enthusiasm was evinced when the House trophies were presented.

The Rev. A. Ball then addressed the meeting. He said that Education should include the study of Nature in all its phases, of the past through history, and of science. He emphasised that there is a higher spiritual side to Education as well. In the course of his address, Mr. Ball stated that the boys would soon "be growing up into men and women." Needless to say this unintentional "bull" caused loud laughter. In finishing his speech Mr. Ball asked if the School might be given a holiday. This was granted amidst loud applause.

Alderman Naylor proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. and Mrs. Ball and to the Mayor and Mayoress, giving a most interesting and humorous speech. Mr. Wm. Jackson seconded the motion in like vein and it was carried with applause. During the evening the School gave several songs. The choir are to be congratulated on their fine rendering of two of these.

PROGRAMME.

Incidental Music:

J. G. KEATES and T. H. H. GREEN.

THE SCHOOL ... "The Heavens Declare the Creator's Glory"
Beethoven.

ADDRESS BY THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Alderman T. McLELLAN, J.P.)

LOWER SCHOOL. "The Yeomen of England". *Edward German.*

REPORT ON WORK OF THE YEAR, 1928-29.

THE HEADMASTER: E. WYNNE HUGHES, M.A. (Cantab.), M.Sc.
(Wales).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS: Alderman G.A. SOLLY, J.P.

CHOIR..... (a) "Fall on me like a silent dew"
Coleridge-Taylor.
..... (b) "Clouds o'er the summer sky" ... *Holst.*

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES AND ADDRESS

by

Rev. A. BALL, M.A.

LOWER SCHOOL "Silent Heroes" *Planquette.*

VOTE OF THANKS.

THE SCHOOL "The Admiral's Broom" *Bevan.*

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

SALVETE.

IIIa.—Westminster :—Hobbins, Wanstall.

IIIc.—Westminster :—McAlpine, S. V.

VALETE.

Upper VIb.—Stitt :—Boggie.

Upper VIc.—Stitt :—Carter, Tate :—Watkins, H. J., Williams, A. ; **Westminster :—**Abbott, Dubois, Blair, Kirkland, Morris, L.

Lower VIc.—Atkin :—Baker, Houghton ; **Westminster :—**Anderson, Porter.

Vb.—Stitt :—Stone ; **Tate :—**Cooper.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES.**Boys neither Absent nor Late for One Year.**

J. W. Allan, L. T. F. Andrews, S. C. Andrews, T. J. Andrews, B. W. Benson, F. N. Bird, S. Campbell, R. Colenso, J. A. Coughtrie, D. W. Cutbill, R. T. Davies, L. Evans, A. C. Horne, N. E. Hosker, T. Jackson, G. R. Jones, W. S. Jones, D. Lacey, H. N. Laver, A. J. Lewis, C. W. Morris, J. Niblock, A. S. Parry, F. R. Pott, M. L. Quaile, J. N. Robinson, R. R. Sarginson, F. B. Shipley, R. Symons, G. C. Venables, R. E. Williams, H. E. Wilson, W. J. Wilson, G. W. D. Wright.

Boys neither Absent nor Late for Two Years.

W. D. Christian, W. L. Cockbain, L. Cogan, E. S. Craig, F. A. Francis, E. A. Fryer, I. R. M. Latto, F. F. Lythgoe, D. I. McKenzie, J. C. Mason, J. Pritchard, F. E. Tomlinson, T. K. Ward, A. H. Williams.

Boys neither Absent nor Late for Three Years.

E. S. Anderson, L. Anderson, C. W. Benson, W. A. Evans, A. Galt, G. Jellicoe, J. Pemberton, A. Woods.

Boys neither Absent nor Late for Four Years.

J. H. Alldis, W. Bridge, J. P. Hardie, M. A. Minns.

Boy neither Absent nor Late for Five Years.

E. J. Mathews.

Boy neither Absent nor Late for Six Years.

G. Clark.

PRIZE LIST.

IIIa.—1st, B. W. Benson; 2nd, J. K. Barker, 3rd, H. G. McLeod.

IIIb.—1st, G. H. Weston; 2nd, H. N. Laver, 3rd, J. Condon.

IIIc.—1st, L. Evans; 2nd, A. Cathcart; 3rd, T. W. Goodwin.

IVa.—1st, L. S. Clarkson; 2nd, P. S. Wharton, 3rd, J. L. Cullen.

IVb.—1st, T. Jackson; 2nd, W. J. Hayes, 3rd, J. A. A. Smith.

IVc.—1st, E. Collister; 2nd, W. Hailey; 3rd, C. E. Walker.

Va.—1st, C. W. Benson; 2nd, M. A. Minns; 3rd, R. Sarginson.

Vb.—1st, A. P. McFarlane; 2nd, W. H. Manley; 3rd, J. Wood.

Vc.—1st, B. C. Braide; 2nd, K. W. Porter; 3rd, A. Tweedie.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

For High Standard in Matriculation—W. D. Coughtrie, C. D. Greaves, G. E. M. Hallett, J. A. Halliday, J. W. Hutchinson, G. Jellicoe, R. B. Lockey, J. C. Mason, J. Pritchard, D. Rigby, R. D. Thomas, J. H. D. Wetherell.

The George Holt Prizes—Mathematics, W. Hastings; Chemistry, G. Clark; Physics, G. V. Ovens; Local Nature Study, A. Hyatt Williams.

Solly History Prize—J. Abbott.

Connacher Memorial Prize for English—W. Hastings.

Miss Dodge Memorial Prize for History Essay (presented by Rev. C. Dodge)—G. Jellicoe.

Prizes for Drawing—E. J. Matthews, H. Roberts.

Prizes for Writing—C. Martin, D. R. Wylie.

Silver Cup for Games—Senior, G. V. Ovens; Junior, W. N. Roberts.

SCHOLARSHIPS TENABLE AT THE SCHOOL FOR ONE YEAR.

Henry Tate (£10)—D. K. Ashton, C. W. Benson, J. C. Mason, R. R. Sarginson, P. B. Wharton.

Duke of Westminster (£5)—T. J. Andrews, A. W. Burnet, W. Peel, T. N. McBride, G. W. Shaw.

Atkin (£5)—T. S. Dutton, G. W. D. Wright.

HOUSE TROPHIES.

Champion Houses—Athletics, Westminster; Football, Stitt; Cricket, Tate.

Medals for Drill and Gymnastics—**Champion Four**, J. A. Coughtrie, J. Gibson, J. R. Hartley, A. Wood; **Free Exercise Medals**, J. A. Coughtrie, J. R. Hartley.

OLD BOYS' SUCCESSES, 1928-29.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

School of Medicine—Degree of M.B. (Part III.) ; Clare College, Cambridge, Exhibition £40; J. R. Dickinson.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

Faculty of Medicine—Degree of M.D., J. F. Galloway; Degree of M.B.Ch.B. with Honours, Class I. with Distinction in Medicine and Surgery, H. J. Partington; Ordinary Degree of M.B.Ch.B. Second Examination, H. L. Davies, J. R. Eatough, M. A. Papperovitch.

Faculty of Arts—Degree of M.A. School of Modern History, P. Smallpage; Degree of B.A. with Honours, School of French Class I., H. R. Gaughan; Degree of B.A., E. Roberts.

Faculty of Science—Degree of B.Sc. with Honours School of Chemistry, Class I., J. H. Reade; Class II., R. Kerr; Degree of B.Sc., Second Year, Class I., R. E. Wood.

Faculty of Engineering—Degree of B.Eng. with Honours School of Electrical Engineering, Class I., C. D. Hall.

Faculty of Law—Intermediate L.L.B., Class I., G. E. Malley.

Faculty of Education—Certificate in Education, G. Colquhoun.

Inter B. (Com.)—W. J. Appleton.

Institute of Chartered Accountants (Inter. Exam.)—H. A. Bridge.

Final M.P.S. Examination—T. L. Jones, W. Woulffe.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

Government Research Scholarship in Physics and Chemistry to Value of £1000—A. Moelwyn Hughes.

Liverpool University Scholarship—G. E. Malley.

Liverpool University Graduate Scholarship—C. D. Hall.

David Rew Memorial Scholarship—C. D. Hall.

Liverpool University Research Scholarship—J. H. Reade.

Sir Edward Stern Scholarship in Commerce (£100)—W. J. Appleton.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'Visor,'

Dear Sir,

Having now experienced a season at Club Rugby, I see how much many fellows have benefitted by securing their place in their school XV. Whilst playing against the majority of the local Clubs, I have noticed that a large number of players have learned the game at the 'B.I.'

Only a few seasons ago I hear we had a club in the School, and possibly it fell through because of the lack of interest taken in it.

I agree that the Association Football is a very fine game, but it does not appeal to all of us, and it should be possible to form a Club out of the Rugger enthusiasts now attending the School. I hope that by next season the 'B.I.' will be placing a fifteen in the field against the rival schools and that in future years we shall play not one game, but both.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W.G.V. LVIc.

(Bidston R.F.C.)

To the Editor of the 'Visor,'

Dear Sir,

As everyone knows, the greatest event of Sports Day is the Mile, which, incidentally, is also the longest event. It is this latter fact which rouses some dissatisfaction among those who are fond of middle-distance running and are not sprinters. Almost anyone can run a mile, but not many can stand five. I maintain that one mile is not enough, there should also be at least a three mile race. A five miles, to be run off before the actual day of the Sports, would be ideal.

The event should be mentioned in the programme and the prizes awarded on Sports Day.

A five mile race is a good test of one's stamina and endurance so I hope that my suggestion will be well supported.

Yours sincerely,

T. K. W.

(Lower VIb.)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT.

The true spirit of Christmastide was captured on the last day of the Christmas Term, when the whole School assembled for a most enjoyable breaking-up concert. "Good King Wenceslas," "The First Nowell" and "O come all ye Faithful" were sung as community carols, Mr. Harris singing the solo parts, and in the intervals, a carolling party, conducted by Mr. F.W. Jones delighted the audience by their excellent rendering of a group of quaint, old English carols. These included "Rejoice and be merry," an old Dorset gallery carol; a setting of the medieval "Christo farenus confica"; the now well-known "Lullay, my Liking"; the solos in which were taken by Craig of IVa. and Griffiths of IVc. and "The Birds," a translation of a recently discovered English folk carol. Our most hearty thanks are due to Mr. F. W. Jones, and to the members of his party, who spared no time and trouble to give us this most excellent entertainment.

A.V.H.

LIMERICKS.

There was a young fellow from Wye,
Who when fighting received a black eye,
Then he said "Deary me!
I'm afraid I can't see,"
And he gave up the fight with a sigh.

There was a young fellow from Rye,
Who was eating a very large pie,
When he finished his eating
He started by bleating
He had eaten sheep's glands, what a guy!

There was a young artist from Crewe,
Who drew an exceeding large ewe,
When a fellow who came
Asked the article's name
The artist replied "That is you."

H. P. Form IIIb.

There was a young fellow of Bristol,
Who looked down the bore of a pistol,
The pistol it fired,
The man he expired,
And later was buried at Bristol.

There was a young man from Devon,
Who wanted to get up to heaven,
He got half way there,
And then didn't dare,
To climb any nearer to heaven.

G. H. Form IIIb.

A sportsman, who strolled by the sea,
Met a bear and attempted to flee,
He set a good pace,
But the bear won the race,
And had quite an enjoyable tea.

G. E. P. Form IIIb.

THE PERFECT BATSMAN.

Who is the perfect batsman? Who is he?
 Each youthful cricketer should wish to be?
 Who to despair or anger ne'er gave way,
 And for an easy run, he said not, "Stay."
 Ne'er his bat dropped, nor at the wicket threw,
 When a good bowler twixt stumps old or new
 Had sent the ball. And never in disgrace
 Had left the field with disrespectful face.
 This is the perfect batsman, this is he,
 Each youthful cricketer should wish to be.
 [With apologies to W. Wordsworth].

SWOTTY.

REFLECTIONS.

Aeroplanes! Submarines! Things of the future to be used like motor-cars and bicycles! We schoolboys think of these with bated breath and pulsing hearts. Just imagine the time when schoolboys from the B.I. shall swoop down in Whetstone Lane, descend from the cockpits of their aeroplanes and walk to the master's entrance, ascend by means of an escalator to their form-rooms and sit down to their tasks. Then at home-time—home by aeroplane. The pupil sits down, presses a button, and at once a robot walks in, seats itself at a table and does his home-work for him. Oh, what thoughts! Oh, for the time when these shall happen. Oh, for the time when each schoolboy shall possess a pocket televisior! Why, he need only look in to see that William the Conqueror defeated Napoleon just after he signed Magna Charta. Then pocket telephones. In the middle of a lengthy argument with x and y he could telephone to the janitor's kitchen for a lemon cordial.

What about a miniature gramophone? But I am afraid this would be confusing. What would happen if, in answer to the question, "Where was King Harold slain?" he replied, "Please sir, on the banks of Allan Water?"

These things shall not be for some time yet. Picture us schoolboys walking to school with weary, flagging steps, bent down with homework books and then think of what improvements there could be.

L. WARD Form IIIc.

GHOSTS.

He was drunk, extremely so. He staggered to the entrance of the stores and gazed blearily at the objects displayed there, on a small stand. There were some books upon the stand and for a long time he stared stupidly at them, without seeing anything. Then slowly the title of one of the books made itself clear to his fuddled brain. It was printed in faint, wispy, white letters on a jet black background, "Ghosts." "Ghosts? Ghosts? Huh! I don't believe in ghosts."

He lurched blindly inside. "Yes, please?" said the assistant. "Ghosts! Huh! I don't believe in ghosts." His breath, heavy with the beer that he had been drinking, curled round the man's face. "Say, what on earth will I do?" whispered the mystified man to the lift-girl, who was peeping out of the lift. "Oh, I don't know. Don't ask me," she replied indignantly, tossing her head in the air. "There, I'll tell you. Take him up to Dr. Jenkins on the third floor, he's sure to know what to do." "All right. You'll have to put him in, though. I'm not going to touch the smelly brute." "Oh. Ugh! He's dead drunk and smells of bad tobacco and stale beer."

He felt himself being propelled gently into a small room, and he slumped heavily on to a seat, muttering, "Ghosts, I don't believe—Huh! Ghosts," as he stared, with blood-shot eyes, at the floor. The lift-girl stood in the opposite corner of the room and wrinkled her little nose in disgust. Half way up, he lurched forward and said, "I don't believe in ghosts." "Don't you?" said the girl and vanished.

For a few minutes, he stared in front of himself, utterly bewildered. Then the idea came home to him with great force, and he cowered back in terror. His hair rose, his flesh crept, the very marrow in his bones seemed to freeze. She was a ghost. Ghosts, yes, he did believe in ghosts now. Never again would he doubt the existence of ghosts.

He then thought of his own predicament. The lift was rising. It would never stop. It would go up and up until he died of thirst, and still higher it would go until his body was carried farther and farther from mortal ken. No! He must not die yet. He was not fit to die. He must not die before he got another drink. He screamed in horror.

The girl stopped the lift and ran terrified into the room of Dr. Jenkins. "Oh Dr. Jenkins do come quick. There's a drunken man in the lift, and he's behaving horribly. He said to me, 'I don't believe in ghosts.' Then he fell on the floor, and he's had an awful nightmare. He's been screaming something fearful, and now he's under the seat shivering with fear. He has frightened me, he has."

W. D. CHRISTIAN, Form Va.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CABIN BOY.

At 9-30 a.m. the Cabin Boy (C.B.) is awakened gently by the Captain who asks him whether he would like his coffee or his shaving water. The C.B., with his usual glow of energy, replies tiredly that the shaving water would be preferred, as he will breakfast with the *passengers* in the saloon. The Captain takes the C.B.'s orders with an "Aye! Aye! Sir," and promptly speeds away to execute his duties. After the C.B. has his breakfast he usually goes back to bed until the first evening meal. For this he puts on his evening dress, walks into the lounge, smokes as many cigarettes as he finds lying about, and then saunters into the dining saloon and eats until he is absolutely full. After eating he goes to the ball-room, chooses the best girl present, and dances till he is tired. He then goes to bed and thus ends his day.

DUCK, Lower VIc.

SPRING.

Winter is o'er and Spring has truly come;
 The yellow primrose shimmers in the dell
 And daffodils with bright and golden bell
 Wave 'mid the dewy grass and seek the sun.
 The birds sing sweetly in the bursting trees
 And in the hedgerows, tinged with delicate green,
 'Midst which the catkins wave in glorious sheen,
 Their golden pollen borne upon the breeze.
 This bright new birth of Nature gladdened me
 And coming after gloomy winter's hour
 It filled me with a heart-felt harmony.
 Which naught but welcome spring-time could restore.
 Man's earthly wonders change like fickle weather,
 But beauteous Spring retains her wonders ever.

G.R.

WANTED—A COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER.

The great day had come, I had left school. Armed with my last report and a flattering reference I cast my eyes around to look for a post (a post of course being superior to a job). I picked up the "Daily Prevaricator" and rapidly ran through the "Persons Wanted." I saw the very post for me, advertised as follows:—Wanted, youth, 16—17, Smart, matric., good talker; Apply Box xw14z.

I placed on my hat and departed to interview the gentlemen in dire need of a smart youth.

I entered the portals and halted before the office boy's hostile eyes. "Well," said he, "what do you want, wanna see the boss?"

"Yes," replied I, "I am indeed desirous of seeing the manager of this establishment."

After a slight conference between the office boy and his employer, I was cautiously thrust into the manager's sanctum.

"Well," said he; he was bald and squinted, horribly. "Well," he repeated.

"I've come—," I commenced.

"Precisely, you want a job," barked he.

"Yes," said I, making a mental bet that his right eye was looking at the floor.

Then began the inquisition.

"Where were you educated?"

"The Birkenhead Institute, sir."

"Did you pass the Matric?"

"Yes, sir, on the other side."

"Are you honest?"

"Yes, sir."

"Clean?"

"Yes, sir."

"Straight-forward and manly?"

"Yes, sir."

"A good sport and plucky?"

"Yes, sir."

"Are you a thoroughly good, Christian fellow?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then I'm sorry, I have no job for you. What we want is a commercial traveller."

CYMRO, Lower Vlb.

PORT ERIN, SEPTEMER, 1929.

O, he that would a sweet, calm peace enjoy,
 Though it endure for but a little space—
 Let him some golden evening seaward row,
 Off Bradda stop and westwards turn his face!

No sound save for the water's gentle lap!
 The noisy seabirds, that all day do cry,
 Have ceased their wheeling flight and drowsily
 Each in his craggy aerial nest doth lie.

O'er Calf of Man there hangs a yellow moon—
 A crescent slim—the lovely queen of night.
 Capp'd by the Tower, rise Bradda's shadowy sides,
 Their harshness softened by the evening light.

O'er th' sea's wide bosom now the setting sun
 Sends one last gleam—a golden pathway broad,
 And soon the darkly outlin'd Mounts of Mourne
 Will hide from dreaming Erin day's bright Lord.

The world's at rest: the boat drifts aimlessly.
 To westward fades away the golden haze,
 And silently the slowly climbing moon
 Upon the sleeping waters sheds its rays.

Then shall the soul breathe free, the heart shall swell,
 The bosom heave, the eyes grow dim with tears,
 And Nature and thyself shall then be one.
 O Memory that will outlast the years!

D.M.

A LAMENT.

A weakness seizes upon my mind—I would more pudding
 take;
 But all in vain—I feel—I feel, my little head will ache,
 Oh! that I alone be left to rest where now I am
 And with a piece of bread finish that pot of currant jam.
 With tears, I gaze upon that cake and wildly I deplore,
 That I must take a powder if I touch a morsel more,
 Or oil of castor, smoothly, bland, then will be offered me,
 In a wave pelucid, floating on a cup of milkless tea.

AMATEUR, Form Vc.

THE COUNTRY.

The stream runs merrily down the hill,
Swiftly passing the aged mill;
The birds up in the trees do sing,
'Tweet, tweet,' for now it is spring.
And when the veil of night is spread,
And everybody is in bed;
The silent owl looks through the night
Its gleaming eyes so strangely bright.
With the coming of the day,
The birds rise up, merry and gay;
The farmer goes forth to his field,
To help his seeds their harvest yield.
When his daily task is done,
And the shades of night are come;
Then he plods his homeward way,
Wearied by his toilsome day.

E.R., Form IIIb.

VARIA.

On February 14th, we received, from Mr. Frederick Whelen, a report on the efforts of the League of Nations to promote world peace. He spoke of the formation and growth of this League and declared that the future safety and welfare of the world depended upon the upholding of the covenant which it had drawn up.

Lines in the schoolyard are now taken by Ovens, the Head Prefect. Each House lines up separately and is under the supervision of a House Prefect.

We must congratulate Andrews, Burnett, Mason, McBride, and Richards on gaining their football colours.

A party of about thirty of the elect visited Liverpool Institute on March 11th to listen to a lecture on the Roman soldier. The lecture, given by the Headmaster of L.I., began at 5-15 and lasted until 6-30 p.m.

CHESS CLUB NOTES.

The Chess Club has enjoyed a highly successful season. For the third time in five years we have gained first place in the Wright Challenge Shield Competition, having won every game except that against Liverpool Collegiate, which was drawn.

The School Team has usually been:—Ovens, McNeill (Capt), Wood, Green, Wright, Greaves and Pritchard, with Halliday and Jellicoe as reserves. In all these matches Ovens has conceded only half a point, while Pritchard has lost only one game out of seven. The match results were 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. ..	3
Birkenhead Institute	..... 3½	Liverpool Collegiate	.... 3½
Birkenhead Institute	..... 5½	Oldershaw	..... 1½
Birkenhead Institute	..... 6	Rock Ferry	..... 1
Birkenhead Institute	..... 6	St. Francis Xaviers	..... 1
Birkenhead Institute	..... 6	Merchant Taylors	..... 1

Turning to the school tournaments, we must congratulate Green on winning the School Championship in the First Division. He and McNeill tied for first place with 5½ points each out of seven. Green then won the play-off. Wood was third with 3½ points. Ovens did not participate in this tournament.

W. H. Marsh has won first place in the Second Division tournament, having won all his games. Sarginson, Piggott and Miller were runners-up with two losses each. It is hoped that many of the players in this division will be successful members of the School team next year.

The third division tournament resulted in a victory for J. Green, Ashton being the other finalist.

The fourth division was won by A. J. Marsh. This division, a new venture, has proved entirely successful in stimulating interest among new members of the club.

In the House Championship matches, Tate beat Westminster 5—2, while Stitt beat Atkin 4½—2½. In the final, Tate, as was expected, defeated Stitt 5—2. Thus Tate are champions for the second year in succession.

In conclusion, we should like to express our appreciation of Mr. Moat's invaluable efforts and encouragement throughout a very busy and successful session.

L.B.W.

DEBATING SOCIETY NOTES.

The Debating Society has again concluded a very successful session. The attendance at all meetings has maintained a remarkably high average: and we are gratified to note that several new speakers have come forward this term who, we hope, will prove a valuable support to the Society next year.

The first debate of the Easter term was held on Monday, January 27th, 1930, the proposition being that "the Manners of the Rising Generation are to be Deplored." Greaves, supported by Magee, strongly denounced modern youth; but the combined efforts of Matthews and Pierce, opposing the motion, ensured its defeat by fifty votes to one.

The second debate, held on February 10th, had as its motion, "That the Curriculum of the Modern Secondary School is too Academic." McNeill, seconded by Wharton, held that there was not enough specialisation in modern Education. Pritchard, on the other hand, supported by Humphreys, held that specialisation was useless, unless based on an Academic training. The motion was lost by sixteen votes to four.

The third debate, held on 3rd March, centred around the topic that "The Boy Scout Movement has done, and will continue to do, more for World Peace than any other Peace Movement." Halliday and Wetherell were supporting the motion, but the convincing arguments of Pierce and Jellicoe were instrumental in defeating it.

By far the most interesting meeting of the term was held on March 17th, when a most humorous and entertaining Mock Trial was held before a very large audience. Humphreys made a capable judge, while the two counsel (Pierce and Pritchard) did full justice to their respective parts. The Prisoner (Piggott), and witnesses, Simon Sloppit (Halliday), Mariah Muggins (Coughtrie), P. C. Catchem (Matthews), Hezekiah Brown (Magee), John Pussey (McNeill), and Prof. Tickler (Greaves), raised many a laugh by their humorous mannerisms and repartee, while Collins and Miller were effective as Ushers and Clerk of the Court. All who took part in this admirable entertainment are to be congratulated on its complete success.

In conclusion, we would again like to thank Mr. Allison for the practical help and encouragement which he has given throughout the session, and we would ask members not to lose interest in the Society, but to ensure, by their support, a successful run of meetings next year. A.V.H.

THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

President: THE HEADMASTER. Chairman: Mr. WATTS.
Secretary: G. W. D. WRIGHT. Treasurer: A. W. BURNET.

Committee:

THE OFFICERS and Messrs. A. O. JONES, H. T. DAVIES,
D. J. WILLIAMS, J. PRITCHARD, J. W. HUTCHINSON,
W. BRIDGE, T. W. MCBRIDE and J. W. ALLAN.

The Session commenced with a paper by Greaves on the Early Evolution of Plant Life, showing the transition from Algae to Lichens and through Mosses to Ferns. The Paper was illustrated by an exhibition of Mosses and other plants. An interesting discussion followed the reading of a very interesting paper.

On February 11th, Piggott entertained the Society with an account of the development of Wireless Telegraphy from its earliest. We congratulate the speaker on his presentation of the subject; a number of members took part in the discussion that followed.

On March 10th, a very interesting paper was contributed by G. W. D. Wright on Numerals, in which a great deal of useful information on the origin of Numerals was contained.

Our next meeting is to be devoted to the study of Protective Colouring amongst animals under the direction of A. H. Williams of VIa.

The meetings, which are open to the Sixths, have been well attended and a good deal of interest shown in the proceedings.

We are hoping to arrange for an occasional "Open Night," when the whole of the Senior School will be invited to attend a lecture or demonstration on some popular scientific subject. A Syllabus of the Society's proceedings is in course of preparation.

SCOUT NOTES.

During the winter months our scouting activities have been largely of an indoor nature. The forthcoming Handicraft Exhibition will provide an opportunity for the younger members of our troop to display the various articles they have been making. We hope to send in a good selection of exhibits.

Badge work has occupied most of our time. The Patrol-leaders have been giving a series of short lectures on hygiene and ambulance-work which have been much appreciated by those who attended them.

With the approach of spring our thoughts turn to out-door activities and especially to camping. We hope to have some week-end camps which will provide good training for the summer camp. The site for this camp has not yet been decided. There is a strong feeling that we should explore the Isle of Man, or at least some part of it. To others, Anglesey makes a greater appeal.

We are looking forward to having a very busy summer term, and, given plenty of fine weather, we shall enjoy the "out" in scouting to no little extent.

Social.

Near the end of last term, with the advent of Christmas and the departure of Exams. cheering us up, we Scouts held our social. The Scoutmaster, Cub-Mistress, and the District Commissioner, Mr. A. C. Jackson, were present, and also our pack of Cubs. It was a very cheerful affair, for at this function everybody knew everybody else.

CERCLE FRANCAIS.

The French Society has had a very enjoyable term. The main items of the programme have been a Mock Trial, a Presidential Address by Mr. Deakin, and a Games Night, all in French. The question of the annual play has not yet been settled, but the rehearsals of the farce "L'Avocat Patelin" have been well attended.

Mr. Deakin proposes taking a small party to Brittany during the Summer Holidays, and up to date about ten members have expressed a desire to accompany him.

The membership of the society now stands at twenty-three, and all the members are looking forward to the annual excursion next term.

P. B. WHARTON (Hon. Sec.)

THE HARRIERS' CLUB.

This term the Harriers' Club was founded, the Headmaster being President, and Mr. A. O. Jones being the master in charge. Since the first run on January 22nd, the club has been going successfully, owing to Mr. A. O. Jones's fine organising, abilities and the support given by the lower sixth forms. Since the club up to the present time has drawn one inter-school match, a very good team can be placed in the field. The fastest time for the six-mile course was made by A. C. Horne in 37 minutes. Many boys hope to lower this time, and are doing their very best.

DONALD RIGBY (Hon. Sec.)

SAVINGS SOCIETY.

The amount saved since January 1st, 1930, is not quite so large as usual owing to the comparative shortness of the term, but, when it is realised that the total of £106 14s. 6d. has been collected in nine weeks, it will be obvious that the weekly takings show no falling off.

Our year ends on March 31st, and during the last twelve months, (to date March 22nd), we have saved £370 8s. od., and purchased 447 Savings Certificates, collections having been made on 32 occasions. In the hope of making next year a record one for this Association, we appeal urgently for at least fifty new members to join when School re-opens next term.

THE BADMINTON CLUB.

The Club was instituted at the beginning of this term, and meets every Friday night. The membership of the club is limited to fifteen, and so far has been confined to the Upper Sixth. As most of us are new to the game, we are at present occupied in the improvement of play. We have not played any matches so far, but are deciding upon positions for future fixtures. We are all looking forward to an American Tournament, to be held at the end of the term.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NOTES.

Since the publication of the last number of the Magazine, there are few outstanding events to record.

The Prize Distribution took place in Beechcroft on Dec. 18th, when T. McLellan, Esq., J.P., Mayor of Birkenhead, presented the prizes and certificates. Carols were sung by the School, and we entertained our visitors with sword and country dancing. After the distribution, scenes from Dickens's "Christmas Carol" were presented, and the evening ended with "A Merry Christmas" from Mr. Scrooge.

The Cub Pack is flourishing, and now numbers 48 members. At the end of last term we had a jolly Christmas party with the Scouts, when the amount of food consumed was truly remarkable! Regular weekly meetings have been held, and last week a cub football match was played. A good many cubs have gained proficiency badges recently, and next week the pack is entering for the "Johnson Shield and Totem Pole" Competition. This summer the cubs hope to go to camp; they are eagerly looking forward to this, and, we understand, are practising peeling potatoes!

During the year, the Junior School have managed to collect 204 pounds of tinfoil. We have not inquired whether this achievement has any connection with the number of chocolates they have eaten, but anyhow we were judged fourth in the British Isles in the tinfoil competition for schools.

The captain reports that the Junior School football team is playing very well this season. The chief match seems to be that played with IIIa., when, after a good game, the score was 4—3 in favour of IIIa. Atkin and Westminster played a house match recently, Atkin winning 6—2. A match between Stitt and Tate was arranged, but the weather was so bad that only four determined sportsmen turned out to play, and the game is postponed till next week.

OLD BOYS' CHESS CLUB.

The coming month will see the close of the initial session of the B.I.O.B. Chess Club.

As anticipated, the new club has more than justified its existence. A good match record, a steady influx of new members, and a sustained enthusiasm augur well for the future.

At the commencement of the session, the delayed appearance of the club and the need for match practice made immediate entry into any local competition impossible, and rendered it necessary for a programme of friendly matches to be arranged with clubs already committed to many engagements. Nevertheless, several matches were arranged, the details of which are as follows:—

Dec. 13th—Home, v. Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. ...Lost $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$
 Dec. 6th—Home, v. Liverpool G.P.O.Lost 4—3
 Jan. 29th—Away, v. Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. ...Won 4—2
 Mar. 28—Home, v. Liverpool University

In addition, the club have played the School on two occasions.

A steady improvement in play has undoubtedly been achieved and the session has been invaluable in building a team strong enough to overcome the stiffest opposition on entry into the 'Silver Rook' Competition next session.

RIFLE CLUB.

The Rifle Club continues its weekly meetings, although attendance has not been up to its usual high level of late, due mainly to illness. Nevertheless some good practices have been held, and considerable and praiseworthy improvement has been made by several. Now that their "grouping" is becoming satisfactory, the members are looking forward to "application" practices in the Summer Term, when a Championship Competition will be held.

LIBRARY NOTES.

We are pleased to report that the "ideal home" effect referred to in our last notes (thanks to the munificence of two past members of this august body), has at last been completed. Their gift of two massive oak candlesticks was much appreciated. (A suggestion that they are genuine old "Woolworthendales" has received much support!)

A peculiar phenomenon which proved an unfailing source of interest, throughout the term, is the Peripalpebral Ecchymosis (black eye) of a stately member of the Upper Sixth. At the beginning of the term, he developed a sudden passion for boxing (?), the fruits of which were an "alcoholic" nose, and the eye in question—the finest specimen I have ever seen.

It has recently come to our notice, that certain budding horticulturists in the Cubby Hole spend their leisure moments in watching the antics of a tame Tasmanian pea-plant, germinating in an ink-pot. Not to be outdone, we have decided to lay out a rockery in our waste-paper basket, complete with alpine flora, etc. We have already planted seeds of aspidestra, cactus, pussy willow, and cod liver oil, which are progressing as well as can be expected.

The prefects re-union, held at the end of the Christmas term, was a great success. A very enjoyable evening was spent in a variety of ways, including community singing and table-tennis. The Headmaster kindly consented to be present and expressed the hope that this was but the first of a long series of similar functions in the future. We are grateful to the Janitor for allowing us the free run of his catering department.

THE LARGE BLUE BUTTERFLY.

The large blue butterfly is, in many ways, remarkable and differs considerably from the other members of the "Blue" family in both size and habits. It measures an inch and a half across its wings, which are of a purplish-blue with rather broad, black hind-margins. The underside is many-spotted as the scientific name (*Polyomatus*) implies.

The life-history is as follows:—The female lays her eggs on wild thyme in late July or early August. The caterpillars, on hatching, feed on the leaves until they have moulted (cast their skin) twice. Then they become restless, stop feeding, and wander away from their food-plant. When they find an ant-track, they wait there until the ants come and find them. The ants do not kill them but carry them back to their nest, where they chafe them with their antennae. The large blue caterpillars excrete a sweet liquid resembling honeydew which the ants drink voraciously. In return for this liquid, the ants keep the caterpillars all winter and do not seem to object to the large blue larvae eating their own ant larvae. When spring comes, the large blue caterpillars escape and change into chrysalides near to the ant's nest. The butterfly hatches in July.

A. H. W., Lower VIa.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LETTER.

Dear Editor,

Speaking for one minute on "Nothing" has always seemed to me to be a rather difficult feat. Perhaps what may be termed the Club Room is a more worthy object for discussion.

This is situated on the heavenward side of fifty-three stairs so that the "casual" visitor is a rather rare phenomenon. Cambridge, tho' by nature a sport loving congregation, prefers to take its exercise in other ways.

The Room faces due west and overlooks in succession the Master's Garden, the River, the Fellows' Garden and the Clare New Building—altogether a very pleasing prospect. College Gardens are noted for their wonderfully well-kept appearance at all seasons of the year.

The River provides just that small touch of comic relief which is so essential, for on it one is privileged to observe, now that lighter days have come, the freshman vainly striving to guide aright his curiously elongated boat with a singularly unruly pole.

Next term will find the River thronged with boatloads of those who are designated on the examination lists Women; thronged, however, not at 3 or 4 p.m. but (I raise my hat!) at 9, 8, yes, even 7 a.m. For 9 and 8 a.m. I myself can vouch, the latter figure I have heard from the lips of those whom I believe to be truthful.

J. R. DICKINSON.

A FASCINATING HOBBY.

Stamp collecting is a favourite hobby in all lands. It owes its charms to the immense variety of stamps in existence, the diversity of their designs, and the glimpses that they bring us of peoples and places all over the world.

The postage stamp, as we know it, is not a thing of great antiquity. Owing chiefly to the exertions of Sir Rowland Hill, penny postage was introduced by Act of Parliament in 1840. The pattern was furnished by Mr. Henry Gorbould, who copied the Queen's portrait from a medal struck by William Wyon, then Chief Engraver to the Royal Mint. The Queen was so much pleased with this "Wyon Head" that it was used for all British stamps during her reign. A few weeks after the "Penny Black," the "Two-penny Blue" (of the same design) made its appearance. Both

were engraved by Mr. Frederick Heath, and printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Petch.

Sir Rowland Hill's own definition of a postage-stamp was:—

"A bit of paper just large enough to bear a stamp and covered at the back with a glutinous wash."

Another little point that might be mentioned is that the margin of the sheets of stamps bore the following lines:—

'Price 1d. per label, 1s. per row of 12, £1 per sheet. Place the labels ABOVE the address and towards the Right-Hand side of the letter. In wetting the back, be careful not to remove the cement.'

The word "label" was used instead of "stamp," the warning being not to lick off the gum!

Owing to the fact that the official postmarks were being fraudulently removed, or "cleaned," from "Penny Blacks," so that they might be used again, the first "Penny Red" appeared in 1841. The "Penny Black" therefore had a short life, but, as huge quantities were printed during that time, it is not a rare stamp, the value being 45s. unused, and 4s. used. The "Twopenny Blues" are worth four times as much.

As may be seen from any collection, many countries have followed our example in using portraits of their sovereigns, or in some cases their statesmen, for stamp designs. Others have studies of natives, local scenery, architectural gems, heraldic emblems, zoological and even mythological subjects.

In setting out to form a collection, the would-be collector should resolve to treat his stamps as though they conveyed a message to him, and not simply as scraps of paper, each of which adds one to his collection but does not increase his interest in it. Stamps are pictures, messengers, historians, or heralds, but the boy or man whose collection means nothing more to him than numbers or cash value will never be a true collector, for the latter is a lover of what he collects, and numbers and values are of secondary importance.

Leave figures to those who collect tram-tickets or match-boxes, values to the professional, and collect as an amateur, for the love of the game, and the knowledge and world-wide interest which the hobby will bring to you. Then your collection will not be a passing whim of boyhood's years, but a life-long instruction and friend.

H. GIBSON, Vb.

SNAPSHOTTING.

When on holiday, in summer, one cannot fail to observe the large number of sightseers, holidaymakers, and the like, who carry cameras. Box cameras, and pocket cameras are especially popular.

Yet it is to be doubted whether more than one in a hundred of these "snapshotters" realises the possibilities that lie in photography beyond the mere pressing of a button, and the payment of a chemist, and that constitute the main interest of photography as a hobby.

As a means of giving scope to one's own individuality, photography has probably no equal. In the choice, and arrangement, of the subject, for example, there is ample room for the expression of one's personal ideas of what a photograph should be, whether as a true record of an incident or an object, or as a more ambitious pictorial effort.

Moreover, in all hobbies worth the name, one is always striving after something new, some improvement, or addition. Thus the philatelist adds more and more rare stamps to his collection; the wireless "fan" increases the range, and power, of his set; the model railway enthusiast strives to add to his rolling-stock; and so on. Here again, photography more than holds its own. Beginning with printing in the daylight the photographic novice can advance to "gaslight," and then to "bromide" printing, each, although very simple, requiring additional apparatus. He can develop his own films either in the dark room or otherwise. He can move on to "enlarging," an extremely fascinating branch of the subject, and, all the time, he will be perfecting his technical and manipulative skill.

Photography, for full enjoyment, therefore, makes demands on one's imagination, patience, and skill, and provides an endless source of interest and amusement, thus being a hobby well worth pursuing.

L.B.W., Upper VIa.

8-45 TO 9 A.M.

"One crowded hour of glorious life," they say, "is worth an age without a name."

On this point I, the Hall Clock, may speak with the voice of authority! Through long, desolate hours of daylight, through eerie silent hours of darkness, I mechanically tick away the seconds. But I know, as my minute hand travels

towards 8-45 a.m. that for one quarter of an hour, at least I shall *live*. This is the oasis in my desert.

From my elevated position I command a splendid view of the hall, and it is most gratifying to me to see the scholars troop in, punctual to the minute. Form IIa. enters in a quiet and orderly fashion. Each boy taking off his cap, reveals a fair, intelligent brow. His eyes glow with eagerness and enthusiasm as he comes to sit at the feet of knowledge.

Form IIb. saunter in sucking their sugar sticks and waving their rattles. Some of their dear little faces are tear-stained. Perhaps they have tumbled in the play-ground. Others skip along shaking with girlish laughter.

When the whistle blows, there is a scurry and bustle followed by a deep silence. Before me there are many lonely hours.

THE HALL CLOCK (Junior School).

LOWER BEBINGTON PARISH CHURCH.

There are some churches in Wirral which have not been built, but have evolved; not erected in a short time, as we are now used to seeing churches built, but which have grown and been enlarged, in order to accommodate the ever-increasing population. Bebington Church is a church of this type, for since the erection of that small oblong building which served as both fortress and church, at least six generations have added new parts and rebuilt and renewed old ones.

All that remain to remind us of those times, in which the tribes of Bebbia took refuge within the church are two bricked-up loopholes and some battered skulls which were found beneath the floor of the south aisle.

The Saxon Church is said to have occupied the site of the present south aisle. It was a plain, oblong building, built of stone, the walls being pierced with one or two loopholes. To this church, the Normans added a north aisle, the present south aisle being the nave of the church, and the Norman font, which now stands at the end of the nave, stood in 1847, at the west end of the south aisle, probably occupying its original position in the Norman Church.

The Norman Church consisted of four bays; an arcade, which still remains, separating the nave from the north aisle. In the south wall were a porch and a doorway, on either side of which was a window. The Norman Arches, of two square orders, supported by circular columns, with scalloped

cushioned capital and chambered abacus, which form the south nave arcade are original Norman work.

Between 1260 and 1280, alterations were made in the south wall, the early porch and doorway being replaced by those of the Early Decorated Style; and the two small windows were replaced by two two-light windows, pierced at the top with a single opening which nevertheless show the beginning of that window tracery which later became so ornate. The spire which is one of the few surviving broach spires in Wirral, was probably built at this time also.

In 1320 the north aisle was widened and made into the nave, the former nave becoming the south aisle. The Norman Chancel was taken down, its material being used in the extension of the west wall, and a new Chancel was built which remained until the building of the present one.

The present Chancel was built in the reign of Henry VIII., in the late perpendicular style, and it is very good work for the period. It is a lofty Chancel of three bays, the columns being slender and imposing, and the wooden screens between them exquisite.

It is spoken of by Cox as "One of the finest compositions of its kind to be found in its style, in any local parish church."

While the Chancel was being built, the church was rebuilt and raised slanting from the east end. The object of this was, it is suggested, to use up the surplus funds of the Abbey of St. Werbourg, lest their existence should tempt the rapacious Henry. The blow, however, fell before the church was completed, and a curious temporary arch was built, joining the old and new arches, whilst, on the outside, the south exterior wall shows exactly where the old and new work met. The work was not finished, however, until 1847, when the north aisle was built in imitation of the south, a north aisle arcade being erected to resemble exactly the Norman south aisle arcade.

We can truly say that this church was "not built but evolved" for since the building of the Saxon Church every style of architecture has added to and improved upon it. How impressive and inspiring this church is, which has seen Saxons, Romans and Normans, and yet remains inexorable, unchanged in the midst of change. How much it could tell us, teach, and inspire us, if only it could speak.

G. RICHARDSON.

ATKIN HOUSE NOTES.

House Master—Mr. BLOOR.

House Captain—G. V. OVENS.

The House has certainly not distinguished itself, at football, this term. We have played six matches and won only two; our Sixth Form team defeated that of Tate but not decisively, the score being [1—0], and our Third Form team won a decided victory over opponents from the same House [7—2].

We have been much more successful in our school-work, for, although we have not yet reached top place in the fortnightly lists, we have done well and have risen from bottom to second place.

Our Chess Team, which unfortunately is rather weak, as we have only one representative in the First Division, lost to Stitt in an Inter-House match and we must compliment Tate on gaining the House Championship.

Social.

At last we have discovered something which appeals to the schoolboy mind:—the House Social. Or was the unqualified success of the Atkin House gathering merely another aspect of the old saying that the nearest way to a boy's heart is through his stomach?

The lighter part of the evening's entertainment (with all due respect to the Janitor's cakes) proved gratifying, and the House owes a debt of gratitude to a small number of boys (notably the House Captain) who spent a great deal of time in preparing for the occasion. It seems that in our House there is no dearth of musical talent. In Griffiths and Gould we have accomplished soloists, and Aslett, Aldis, and Cathcart gave evidence that they can still find time to cultivate the nobler arts. Collins's conjuring made us all feel nervously in our pockets, while Ovens's plaint about the 'gramophone next door' went straight to our hearts.

The star turn, of course, was the Play. Perhaps the audience did not appreciate the fact that this entailed many weary hours of rehearsal. Most of the company are still suffering from indigestion through eating their dinners too rapidly in order to get back to lunch-time rehearsals.

No concert is complete, of course, without community singing, and on this occasion we had some really good singing under the able conductorship of Mr. Davies, who sang some of the verses for us. We are now waiting for the next.

D.J.W.

STITT HOUSE NOTES.

House Master—Mr. W. H. WATTS.

House Captain—G. N. RICHARDS.

House Committee—Mr. WATTS, Mr. ALLISON, Mr. A. O. JONES, Mr. HALL, RICHARDS, JONES, MCBRIDE, CURRIE.

Social.

After a strenuous day's work on December 9th, the members of Stitt House adjourned to the dining room, and there began to demolish the good things set temptingly before them.

We were pleased to have with us our Head Master, who regretted he could not stay long owing to other important engagements. Mr. Watts emphasised his wish that Stitt should become the best House in School work.

After a splendid tea the members of the House retired to the Gymnasium, where a most enjoyable evening was spent. A quintet was given by the masters and mistresses of the House, after which the entertainment took the form of House songs and recitations given by the members.

In conclusion we would like to thank the Janitor for a splendid tea, and all those who helped towards the success of the evening.
C.R.C.

Owing to bad weather and Shield Matches, we have only played six games this term, and of these we have won five, the remaining one being lost. We have defeated Atkin and Westminster in the Junior Section and so are at present the leaders in this department. The other games have been form matches.

We must congratulate McBride and Richards on being awarded their football colours, which they well deserved.

In the Chess Competition, we were knocked out by Tate by 5 matches to 2, after having beaten Atkin. We will do better in this next year, as the majority of the players are not yet in the Sixes.
G.N.R.

TATE HOUSE NOTES.

House Master—Mr. HARRIS.

House Captain—A. W. BURNET.

Committee—WRIGHT (Sec.), MASON, MCNEILL, PEEL, COUGHTRIE.

Tate House has had, on the whole, a very successful term, and continues to uphold its good record, in all the differ-

WESTMINSTER HOUSE NOTES.

House Master—Mr. F. W. JONES.

House Captain—T. J. ANDREWS.

By far the biggest House event this term was the House Social which was held on February 20th, and was a great success. Having done ample justice to the tea which the Janitor had prepared, and for which we tender him our grateful thanks, we adjourned to the gym for an evening's entertainment.

The Headmaster first made a short speech which was followed by a programme of interesting items, including a saxophone solo by Hughes, a pianoforte solo by Keates and a violin solo by Snelson. Vocal solos were rendered by Lea and Miller, while the latter and Kendrick sang a duet. The IIIa. Nigger Troupe showed unexpected talent in a short sketch; and S. W. Jones gave a humorous recitation. During the evening there were several competitions as well as community singing. The turn which evoked most applause, however, was the juggling performance by Mr. Lord. Our thanks are due to him for his kindness in coming to entertain us.

We have not done at all well in football this term. Only six games in all have been played; of these the Junior team have drawn one with Tate (three all), and lost one to Stitt, the Sixth and Fourth forms have played one each, both resulting in losses; and the Third form have played two, one lost to Stitt, and the other resulting in our only win, against Atkin 8—0.

We had five representatives in the Shield teams this year—Baxter, Horne and Lea, in the Senior team, and Rice and Roberts in the Junior team.

In Chess also we have been unfortunate. In the House matches we were beaten in the first round by Tate, who finally won the Championship. Jellicoe represented the House in the Wright Shield team; W. H. Marsh is top of the second division, and A. J. Marsh is top of the fourth division.

Only once this term has any house beaten us in fortnightly marks. We hope to maintain this standard, and to improve on our Football and Chess results next year.

CUBBY HOLE NOTES.

Of first importance is the reference to the (top) electric-light switch in the Cubby Hole, for it is with deep regret that

we watch the weary masters expending their energies in vain on the troublesome switch.

Although somewhat depleted since last term the "cubs" are still lively, chiefly as the flat roof (as Mr. Ha——o remarks) keeps us cool, from the tremendous heat of numerous pipes and radiators (?) Yet this term, the room does not look so dull, for we have a dainty market garden under the joint management of Th——s and L——b.

This garden consists of two healthy virile peas and a spray of "that dear little shamrock."

C—ght—e, one of our members is quite willing to give tips on the art of lesson-dodging—apologies.

There is no reason why the Cubby Hole should not have a clock, so that we can amuse ourselves by watching the dreary hours ticking away. Perhaps a cuckoo clock, or a quarter hour Westminster chimer would be suitable. On second thought, I discover it best to have a good toned alarm clock, to remind the work-loving (?) masters not to carry on after the feeble-toned bell (to us—far away from humanity) has sweetly tinkled its message of joy to the weary French scholar.

We extend our hearty wishes for a prosperous future to those who have deserted from us, to earn their bit in the weary world.

R. D. THOMAS.

FORM NOTES.

Lower Via.

We are still to be found in the sanctity of the Geography room, struggling beneath the heavy burdens of our long and arduous studies! Our gas supply has been greatly increased by the addition of an unlimited volume of H_2S and the like. However, through this thick, odoriferous atmosphere, we look for something a little brighter, namely a fight between L^*x^*m and $Gl^{**}st^*r$, to take place on some date yet unknown.

Football.

"Bunny" B^*rn^*t is still running wild, amusing the spectators by an occasional display of pugilism or cock-fighting. "Petit" M^*nns still amuses himself with the idea of playing football—some time or other.

Chess.

Our redheaded Capablanca is still making good progress through the mist, having won the championship this year; while various other members of the form belong to the Chess Club.

W.B.

Lower Vlb.

As a form, we extend our hearty and sincere congratulations to McBride on having obtained his school-colours for football. In addition to the pride which the Form has in him, his highly coloured cap has served to sustain us through many trials.

Also, in a minor degree we should like to congratulate McLennan on being appointed Warden of the Blackboard Duster.

You know, our pictures are wonderful things. We have one of either the battle of Hastings or the opening of the first railway—I'm not sure which. It is a wonderful etching and is about two or three hundred years old. We are shortly going to petition for lovelier pictures, or permission to paper the room with National Savings pictures. J.E.P.

Lower Vlc.

Last term the form, as a whole, had progressed very favourably, both in the form-room and on the football field. The form is represented in the school teams by Andrews, in the 1st eleven, and Harrison and Anderson in the 2nd eleven. At the beginning of the year the form consisted of thirty-two members, but since then four have left.

On December 8th of last year the form decided to have a social.

As soon as the door was opened the boys swarmed to their allotted places. After the tea, which was a great success, speeches were made by both the Headmaster and Mr. Hall, and then the form adjourned to the gym, where an orchestra gave a very good selection of songs. The next item was a Table Tennis tournament which was won by Andrews, after a hard struggle with Thomas in the final. After a few more musical items the party broke up. It is intended that another party shall be held at the end of this term.

Va.

The intelligence of the form has greatly advanced during the past term. Water on the brain has been catching here, not water on the knee. One boy told Mr. All*s*n that 'Chicago is at the bottom of Lake Michigan,' I suppose the gun-men wear bathing-costumes or have little fins. Mr.

W**d has a lesson in Geometry when he was informed that 'a rhombus is a 4 sided equilateral triangle with none of its angles right angles.'

No Football has been played this term owing to Shield Matches.

Chess.

Chess is very prominent amongst us: Marsh and Miller head the 2nd Division, Marsh being 1st Reserve for the School Team. In the 3rd Division Ashton has lost to Green in the final. Walker and Clarkson were the other semi-finalists in the 3rd Division. Good luck to the chess members.

Harriers.

Five members of the form are in this club. Shaw is in the School Team. R.B., F.B.

Vb.

The Christmas Exams of last term resulted in H. Barker obtaining first position, N.Shipley and D.Henderson securing second and third places respectively. In due course M. Baker was promoted to Va.

We were extremely glad to welcome H. Gibson and Fryer into the form at the beginning of the term.

Now that a running club has been established and divers youths have regularly taken part in the runs, we are all looking forward to the School Sports which will take place in the near future.

We are glad to see several of our form in the School Choir and we are sure the choir will add pleasure and success to the coming Prize Distribution, to which we are all looking forward with interest.

Football.

No match of any importance has been played this term but the form has been represented in the Junior Eleven by K. Rice, C. A. Shaw and J. A. Smith. J.N.

Vc.

At the beginning of this term we were amused by certain masters' misfortunes when seated in the chair, which had a nasty habit of tipping over. Since our move into better quarters this chair has behaved quite normally, to the great pleasure of the Staff.

Before our move we suffered the loss of Fryer and Gibson, the latter having been top for each fortnight since the scheme began, but McKenzie, from Vb. has helped to fill the gap.

We have many good footballers, including Barton, Laird, Allsopp and Watkins.

The Form cannot be complimented on the number of orders which have been received for the magazine. Some, when asked if they intend to buy one, say that they do not; others are more voluble.

There is some talk, at the "time of going to press," of our Form producing two scenes from "Julius Cæsar," full details cannot be given.

L. ANDREWS.

IVa.

Things have slackened down a lot this term, but all the same, it has been brightened up here and there by a few howlers.

In the fortnightly lists E**ns is to be congratulated by us on still being top of the form; he has not been dethroned since we started this year's work. Near the end of last term it was said that "Good 'Eavens" would be a common term in the school.

Our all round sportsman G**d**n has had to move his abode to the back of the form room, where he is proving himself a bad boy.

The Form Library was restarted after half term holiday and L*v*r is proving himself an excellent librarian.

Football.

The only football match played was against IVb.; we were beaten 6—3.

Howlers.

1. One day when we were having English M**l*r was asked a question: "Who was the most famous of the Tudor Kings?" He answered: "Queen Elizabeth."

2. In a Geography lesson we were discussing Africa and Bl**r was asked a question about the climate of some region and he answered that it had a "Hot and drafty (droughty) summer."

3. One Scripture lesson R*b**s*n was reading and he said "A man was buried in his sculpture (sepulchre)."

C.M.

IVb.

Interest was shown recently when a member of the form brought to school a poisonous beetle (dead, thank goodness), which hailed from S. Africa, and, by its appearance, it ought to have stopped there.

Our form room bell, so small, yet so very, very important, has taken one of its periodical spasms, and has now relapsed into silence, its sweet, dulcet tones (?) are stilled for ever—or at least for some time, until a Good Samaritan in the form of a plumber—comes along and mends the “doings.”

G.M.

IVc.

Although it is two or three months ago it seems barely a week since the last batch of notes appeared. The health of the form is as good as ever, but most of us are feeling down-hearted on account of the forth-coming exams! Our form is the brightest of the fourths, in fact, one of our ‘bright sparks’ in describing an experiment in the lab. stated that he used a stream of heat to heat his beaker. (Loud applause).

D.R.W.

IIIa.

Our Form is improving at Football. We have played three matches, drawn one and won two. We beat the Juniors, 4—3. The ground was so wet that we do not know whether all the Juniors arrived home safely. Moffat's own mother would not have recognised him, he was so muddy. We drew with IIIb, 3—3, Smith scored two.

We have originated a “Flying Squad.” It consists of the best boys at French who proceed in the lessons ahead of the others. As yet there are only nine boys in this squad, but it is hoped that by the end of the term twenty-nine boys will belong to it. In the last fortnightly exam., Bozier managed to secure the top position, while Lunn, who has been top so long, had to be satisfied with the fourth place.

Eldin is continually missing his 'bus, because Mr. H**m* keeps him in.

It was suggested that the third formers should form a cycling club. Perhaps we shall hear more of this next term.

IIIb.

We have in our midst a youth who provides a comedy every day to vary the monotony of school life. His humour, we must admit, is quite unintentional, but may we be excused such another! Being a funny person he naturally possesses funny things; his atlas seems to inform him that Grimsby is a famous holiday resort in Cornwall.

We have had a successful term of football considering the awful time we had last term, and, although we have been able to play only two matches for one reason and another, in both we gave a good account of ourselves, beating IIIc. and drawing with IIIa. The only thing we now have to complain of about football is that the fellows won't turn up. As the two results show, we can put a very strong team in the field if they will all turn out and be loyal to their Form. We hope to have a good season at cricket, and if it is as successful as this term's football we shall be satisfied.

It is pleasing to note that the Headmaster praised us on the last day of Autumn Term. C.A.

IIIc.

We have among us a far-famed chess-player, one M**sh. From this statement you may think that he wears horn-rimmed glasses, a butterfly-bow and an intelligent look. He possesses none of these qualities, but makes up for them with his red hair. I believe he dazzles his opponent with his vivid thatch and then wins the game. Let us turn our thoughts to other fields.

Lately startling notices appeared in the IIIc. Form-room announcing the fact that a running club was to be founded and baptised by W**d. The members are seriously thinking of running round the School Ground and back. We all express our desire that they come to no harm.

We have had several surprises through Form members turning into song birds. They have entered the school choir. Our friend Ch*pm*n still takes a childish delight in engines. Fancy not knowing that the accelerator of the train is on the dash-board! The rumour that comrade H*gh*s thinks he is a butterfly is absolutely unfounded. However, when he made a humming noise he was asked whether he was a 'bomber.' Looking as innocent as a cannibal chief he replied, "No sir, only a 'Bristol Fighter.'"

Football.

We played only one match this term and were beaten by IIIb. Several of our best players were absent, however.

Chess.

In the chess club we have Marsh, Williams and Todd. We have lately changed our headquarters to move into IVc. room. Now, IIIc. put your backs into it; it's our job to show that we're the top Form of the thirds. Up to now many boys have been slack, but if they don't do their part there are other boys ready to see why. L.W.

FOOTBALL.**First Eleven v. Wallasey Grammar School.**

Team:—Laird; Burnet, Currie; Richards, Peel, Minns; Mason, Andrews, McBride, Ovens, Baxter.

B. I. gained the first goal, when Mason scored from McBride's pass. Before half-time a good shot from Peel was saved but Baxter scored from the rebound.

Half-time: B.I. 2. Wallasey 0.

Wallasey scored straight from the kick-off but McBride countered this with a fine solo goal. Wallasey gradually took the upper-hand and quickly equalised, but Ovens scored again five minutes from time. However, Wallasey equalised just on time.

Score B.I. 4. Wallasey 4.

First Eleven v. Waterloo Secondary School.

Team:—Smith; Burnet, Currie; Richards, Peel, Minns; Andrews, Harrison, McBride, Ovens, Mason.

Waterloo fielded a strong side who soon made themselves a goal ahead.

Animated by a goal due to Ovens, the School team rallied and vigorously pressed Waterloo, until the defence erred with the result that at half-time the score was 2—1 for the visitors.

In the second half B.I. fell to pieces; the backs, however, strove their utmost to repel attacks on the home goal, but their continued efforts could not prevent Waterloo from adding four more goals. McBride scored a good goal for the School just before the end.

Final Score: B.I. 2. Waterloo 6.

SENIOR SHIELD COMPETITION—1st ROUND.

Versus Chester City and County School.

Team:—Laird; Burnet, Anderson; Richards, Barton, Horne; Andrews, Minns, McBride, Mason, Baxter.

The game opened with a strong attack by Chester, but the School defence held, and play was carried into the opponents' half. When the game had been in progress only ten minutes, McBride opened the score for B.I. Receiving a pass while apparently surrounded by defenders, he ran right through and placed the ball well out of the goalkeeper's reach. The game now became very fast and there was little to choose between the two teams.

The half-time score was 1—0 in favour of B.I.

Chester pressed strongly again at the beginning of the second half, but the School halves and backs played extremely well and B.I. began to get the upper hand. A penalty, taken by Burnet, was well saved by the opposing goalkeeper. Mason, however increased the score with a good shot from Baxter's pass, and Andrews added a third goal shortly afterwards. The School attacked continually in the last few minutes, but there was no further score, and thus B.I. won by three goals to nil.

The victory was largely due to the good play of the School backs and half-backs, of whom Burnet, Richards and Barton were outstanding. Considering that the School had not won a Senior game for five years, the whole team must surely be congratulated on their success.

J.M.M.

SECOND ROUND.

Versus Alsop High School (Home).

Team:—Laird; Burnet, Currie; Richards, Barton, Horne; Andrews, Lea, McBride, Minns, Mason.

Once again the School were slow in settling down, and Alsop attacked strongly. However, the good play of the School defence prevented them from scoring and the first goal fell, rather unexpectedly, to B.I., when Minns scored from Richards' pass. For the remainder of the first half Alsop were superior, particularly at forward, but there was no further score.

Half-time score: B.I. 1. Alsop 0.

In the second half the game was more even, but, after a period of end-to-end play, Alsop equalised from a very fine movement which certainly deserved a goal. Soon afterwards Mason gave B.I. the lead, after a clever run-through. The

School forward now began to show better form, but there was no more scoring.

Thus the School won by two goals to one.

Once more the School forwards were not impressive, and the main credit for the victory must be given to the defence, in which Burnet, Richards, Barton and Horne played extremely well.

SEMI-FINAL.

Versus Liverpool Institute (Home).

Team:—Laird; Burnet, Currie; Richards, Barton, Horne; Andrews, Lea, McBride, Mason, Minns.

B.I. kicked off with the sun, slope and a slight wind, assisting them, and at once attacked very strongly. Liverpool retaliated, but the School kept up the pressure, and Minns, McBride and Lea all came very near scoring, while Barton was most unfortunate to hit the bar with a fine drive. The forwards played well together, and the defence was steady, but neither side had scored by half-time.

Half-time: Birkenhead Institute 0. Liverpool Institute 0.

The second half opened with some even play, but after five minutes Liverpool went ahead from a corner and shortly afterwards increased their lead from a good passing movement. The School made a great effort to reduce the lead, but Liverpool made the game almost certain when the wind helped into the net a long shot from the right winger. B.I. now attacked, and after running right through, Mason shot just wide of the post. The L.I. defence was good, and the score remained unchanged.

Score Birkenhead Institute 0. Liverpool Institute 3.

Our team as a whole played better than in previous matches, but the opposing forwards showed up the slowness of the defence and gave the School forwards an object-lesson in opportunism and good shooting. In the B.I. team, Laird played well in goal, and Burnet, Andrews and Mason were all good. In contrast to the last two matches, the forwards made a better showing than the defence. J.M.M.

JUNIOR SHIELD COMPETITION—SECOND ROUND.

B. I. v. Bootle S. S. (at Bootle).

Team:—Smith (G.W.); Anderson, Shaw; Rice, Barton, Allsop; Roberts, Smith (A.), Minns (Capt.), Harrison, Pott.

B. I. kicked off and were soon on the attack, but Bootle retaliated, and Barton was prominent in repelling their attacks. After ten minutes play, Pott centred for Smith to score. Following this success the School pressed hard, and Minns scored two good goals. Play then became scrappy, each goal being visited in turn, but the interval arrived without any further score.

Half-time: B. I. 3. Bootle 0.

Bootle immediately attacked and were successful in scoring, G. W. Smith being beaten from short range. Following this reverse, the School took play to the other end, and from a corner Barton scored. B. I. continued to have the better of the game and in the closing minutes Harrison rushed the ball in from a *melée* in the goal mouth. Uninteresting play followed and full time came with the score

B. I. 5. Bootle 1.

There was little of interest in the match, the game being too one-sided, while the state of the ground militated against good football. The defence was not tested very strongly, but Smith was excellent and Shaw and Anderson quite satisfactory. Barton was out-standing in the half-backs while A. Smith and Minns were the best of the forwards. G.N.R.

SEMI-FINAL.

B. I. v. Alsop High School (at Home).

Team:—Smith, G. W.; Shaw, Allsop; Rice, Barton, Silcock; Roberts, Smith (A.), Minns (Capt.), Harrison, Pott.

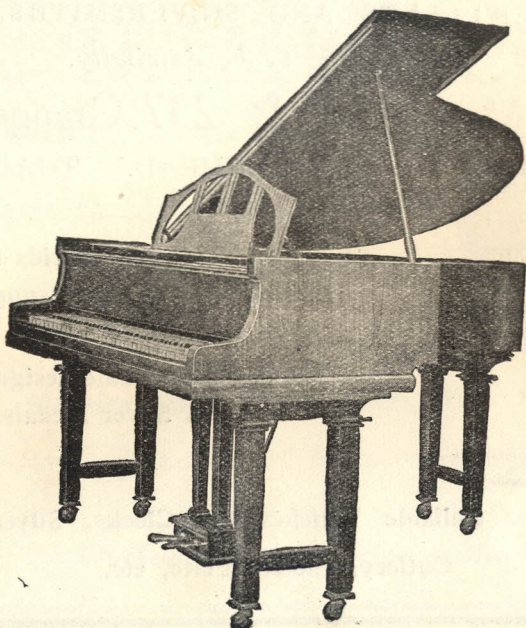
Straight from the kick-off Alsop pressed, and took the lead through a defensive error. The visitors continued to have much the better of the game, and scored two further goals. Although they attacked spasmodically, the School were outplayed and before the interval Alsop scored again.

Half-time: B. I. 0. Alsop 4.

Soon after the re-start Alsop increased their lead from a break-away. Although B. I. played much better and attacked strongly they could not score, and before the end Alsop added two further goals.

It is difficult to account for the School's inept display but each individual played below his form except Smith (G.W.), who kept the score from reaching double figures. The backs were slow and uncertain, the half-backs never got a grip on the opposing forwards; consequently the School forwards, who were up against a splendid defence, had to forage for themselves. They did little with the ball, however, when they had it. G.N.R.

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