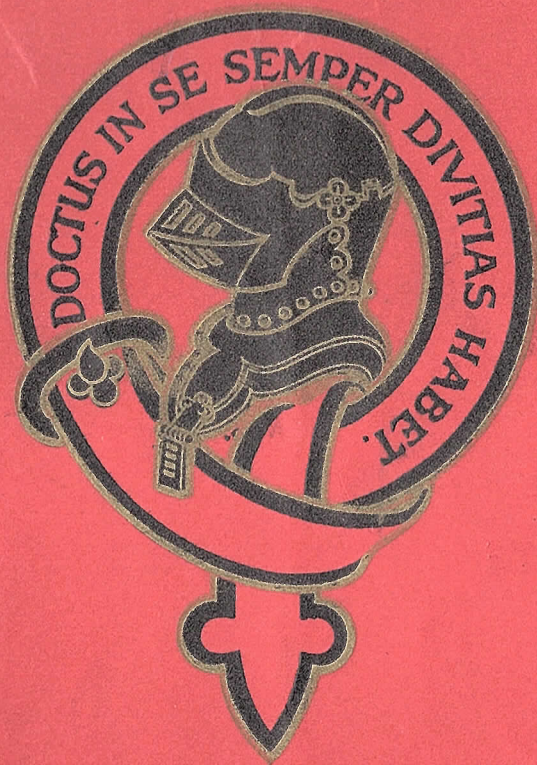


# THE VISOR

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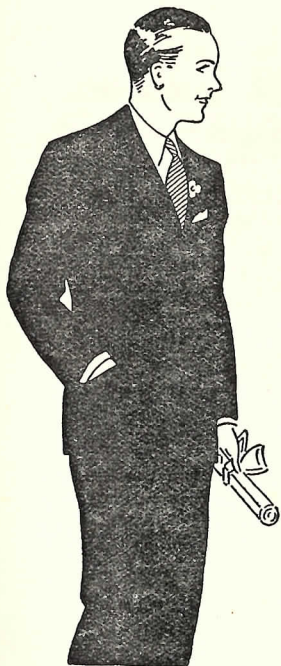
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE  
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

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CHRISTMAS, 1931.

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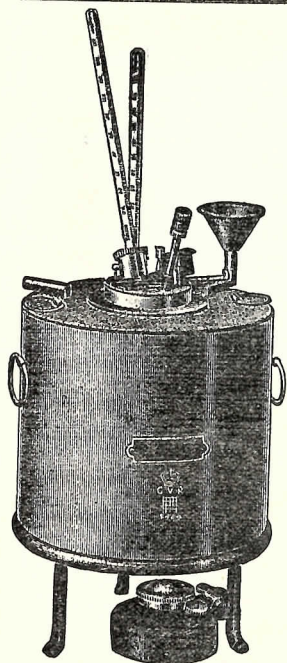
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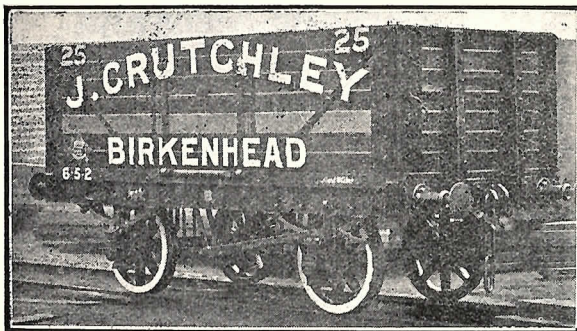
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# THE VISOR

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE.

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VOL. V., No. I.

CHRISTMAS, 1931.

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# THE VISOR.

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## EDITORIAL.

This issue sees a considerably augmented Magazine Committee. The sub-editing has been entrusted to two members instead of one, and the result has been a speedier and much smoother production of the Magazine. Another consequence, voiced by the sub-editors themselves, is two nervous breakdowns instead of one. Two Art Editors have also come into existence. This post is no sinecure, and the work before them is going to be as difficult as it is extensive. Not only are they to produce the necessary posters, but they are also to improve the interior of *The Visor*. Some results of their activities will be apparent in the Magazine and we hope that these will become still more numerous as the year progresses.

A new feature appearing in this issue is the School Calendar. As can only be expected, the entries are not very numerous to begin with, but they will naturally be increased in future issues.

All these seemingly trivial additions, and improvements are leading to one end. They are enhancing the general tone and interest of *The Visor*, and widening its appeal. No doubt there are some features in the present Magazine not generally approved; no doubt there are many improvements which might be made. All constructive criticism is welcomed and, if possible, its suggestions are adopted. In the event *The Visor* is just what its critics make it.

Spontaneity should be the keynote of a School Magazine, whether in its originality, its humour, or its literary style. Hence magazine articles that are obviously written with effort or in order to forestall persistent demands, are useless.

A prominent event of the term was the School Swimming Gala. It passed off with the usual enthusiasm. Atkin not only carried off the School Championship but its members most of the prizes as well.

In external activities the School has more than held its own. Our football results are cheering, our show in the Inter-Schools Swimming Gala is above reproach, while the Scout Troop has repeated its now annual successes.

On behalf of the School, we extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Morris and Mr. Wild. They quickly settled down in their new surroundings and have shown keen interest in many of the School activities.

### THE SWIMMING GALA.

Our annual "big splash" at Livingstone Street Baths on Thursday, October 29th, was the usual great success, and tremendous enthusiasm was displayed by everybody.

Todd is to be congratulated on winning the School Championship, while C. G. Smith again won the (very) Old Boys' Race.

The Mop Fight was as usual a very popular event, and Peckham, exhibiting true British aplomb and avoirdupois, caused a mild sensation by emerging victorious from the Senior and Junior combats. The Obstacle Race was also an exciting affair—for the competitors. The suggestion (made by a non-competitor) that the bar should be encircled twice, doubtless appeared amusing to the spectators, but to the swimmers it was a mild form of Inquisition, and several tragedies almost resulted because of the frantic efforts made to go over the bar twice.

In the Lighted Taper Race, many weird evolutions were performed by competitors, endeavouring to preserve their "flambeaux" from the hungry waters. The most successful in this respect was Darlington, who swam a steady Breast Stroke with one hand, while brandishing the all important vesta in the other.

The Novices' Race, instead of being decided in two heats, as was stated, proved to be a terrific scramble, from which the first to emerge was Phoenix.

The Plunge was easily won by McFarlane with a magnificent effort of 60 feet, which, it is thought, constitutes a schoolboy record.

The Senior House Squadron was the last event of the evening, and, as usual, the residents of Livingstone Street and district were aroused from their slumbers by the thunderous applause which ensued.

In conclusion, we must tender our sincere thanks to Mr. Clague and the members of the staff who helped to make the Gala a success, and to Mr. Darlington who kindly consented to distribute the medals in the absence of Mr. Maddocks.

#### Results.

Form Handicaps—VI., S. R. Allsopp (T) ; V., A. N. Jones (T) ; IV., R. Smith (A) ; III., M. Makin (W).

School Championship—1, E. Todd (A) ; 2, R. Smith (A).



Neat Dives—Senior : J. Watkins (T) ; Junior : A. Darlington (A.)  
 Neat Breast Stroke—Senior : M. A. Minns (T) ; Junior : A. Darlington (A.)  
 Mop Fights—Senior and Junior : D. Peckham (W.)  
 Object Dive—E. Todd (A.)  
 Novices' Race—F. Phoenix (S.)  
 Obstacle Race—E. Todd (A.)  
 Back Stroke Race—C. A. Shaw (T.)  
 Plunge—A. P. McFarlane (A) (60 ft.)  
 Breast Stroke Race—N. Shipley (A.)  
 Lighted Taper—Senior : D. Henderson (S) ; Junior : A. Darlington (A.)  
 Old Boys' Race—C. G. Smith.  
 House Squadron—1, Atkin ; 2, Tate ; 3, Stitt.

### EXAMINATION RESULTS, JULY, 1931.

#### HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

Greaves, C. D. ; Jellicoe, G. (Distinction in English) ;  
 Pritchard, J. ; Wetherell, J. H. D.

#### LETTERS OF SUCCESS.

Anderson, E. S. ; Brecknell, W. A. ; Halliday, J. A. ;  
 Jones, W. S. ; Matthews, E. J. ; Lewis, A. ; Minns, M. A. ;  
 Magee, D. ; Richardson, G.

#### SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

##### FORM VIs.

m Andrews, S. C. ; m Andrews, T. J. ; m Ashton, D. K. ;  
 m Chalkley, A. ; Collins, F. B. ; m Cullen, J. L. ; m Clarkson,  
 L. S. (F.P.C.) ; Colley, H. ; Elton, S. ; m Enescott, J. ; m  
 Evans, W. A. (F.) ; Gill, E. P. (A.) ; m Griffiths, H. (C.) ;  
 m Hamilton, F. L. ; m Hemsall, G. F. (M.) ; m Hirst, J. E.  
 (H.) ; m Hughes, L. (C.) ; m Jones, H. W. (C.) ; m Jones,  
 S. W. (C.) ; m Loxam, R. C. (M. C.) ; Manley, W. H. ; m  
 Marsh, W. H. (F. C.) ; m McFarlane, A. P. (M. C.) ; Miller,  
 F. W. ; m Powl, K. L. ; m Reid, B. H. (C.) ; Robinson,  
 G. W. ; Slee, G. E. ; Smith, G. W. ; m Todd, E. (C.) ; m  
 Walker, K. W. (E. L. H.)

##### FORM LOWER VIa.

Acton, J. ; Ambler, E. ; Angelman, H. ; Barker, H. B. ;  
 Bennett, W. A. ; Bird, F. N. ; Brewster, E. W. G. ; m Broad-  
 foot, R. F. (F.) ; m Christian, W. D. ; m Clarke, G. H. ;

Cutbill, D. W. ; Davies, S. ; Hayes, W. J. ; Henderson, D. G. ; Jackson, A. ; m Jones, R. H. ; Jones, T. A. ; m Lees, V. H. ; May, W. D. ; m Neil, G. S. ; Rice, K. J. ; Riding, J. T. ; m Shaw, G. W. ; Shipley, N. D. H. ; Smith, J. A. A. ; Welch, F. A.

FORM LOWER VIB.

Darlington, H. N. ; Niblock, J. ; Richards, P. T. ; Rogers, A. D. ; Seed, W. L. ; Tomlinson, F. E. ; Watkins, J. C. G.

SEPTEMBER, 1931.

m Currie, C. R. (M.)

**Matriculation**—m.

**Distinction**—Art—A., Chemistry—C., English Literature—E. L., French—F., History—H., Mathematics—M., Physics—P.

SALVETE.

**VIa.**—**Tate** :—Lilley, R. E.

**VIb.**—**Tate** :—Lilley, F. H.

**IVa.**—**Stitt** :—Cound, L. J. ; **Tate** :—Hamilton, F. L. ;

**Westminster** :—Evans, H. B. ; Evans, R. H. W. ; Turnbull, J. H.

**IIIa.**—**Atkin** :—Bennet, M. R. (J.) , Humphreys, G. L. , Makepeace, H. (J.) , McKechnie, J. J. (J.) , Moss, R. (J.) , Robey, R. D. (J.) , Winter, H. T. (J.) ; **Stitt** :—Batho, A. (J.) , Campbell, F. J. S. (J.) , Clark, R. A. , Dean, A. W. S. (J.) , Duff, A. S. , Halliwell, A. H. (J.) , Jones, E. H. (J.) , Jones, J. C. (J.) , King, J. (J.) , Russell, R. E. (J.) , Smith, M. B. (J.) ; **Tate** :—Lea, W. R. (J.) , Reid, K. (J.) , Sherriff, W. F. (J.) , Wilkins, F. P. (J.) ; **Westminster** :—Bryan, G. (J.) , Kellitt, L. (J.) , Makin, M. (J.) , Moss, N. (J.) , Poole, J. B. (J.) , Quaile, A. (J.) , Roberts A. (J.)

**IIIb.**—**Atkin** :—Evans G. L. , Jones, P. O. (J.) , Manley, A. W. (J.) , McFarlane, D. , Rowland, S. ; **Stitt** :—Clark, J. , de Croos, M. (J.) , Fallon, J. , Leighton, A. (J.) , Nava, H. , Renner, N. A. (J.) ; **Tate** :—Banks, R. D. , Capes, A. T. , Clare, W. E. (J.) , Dean, K. W. (J.) , Evans, R. L. , Forsythe, G. A. , Goudie, J. C. (J.) , Hughes, G. E. (J.) , Mayo, J. R. (J.) , Montgomery, C. J. , Shandley, J. , Tweedle, F. (J.) , Wall, J. L. , Warr, S. A. ; **Westminster** :—Anderson, A. P. , Davies, H. L. (J.) , Kay, R. W. , Lowson, G. C. , Sarginson, J. R.

**IIIj.—Atkin:**—Black, L., Bryant, H. O. M., Powl, G. E. (J.) ; **Stitt:**—Bell, G. R., Bunting, S., Davies, J. S., Evans, H., Husselbury, W. D. (J.), Lewis, F. J. L., Merrett, F., Owen, J. T., Roberts, F. G., Speech, A. J., Waring, T. E. ; **Tate:**—Astley, T. G., Hardie, J. G., Jones, W. E., Mule, R. H., Martin, F. C., Stuart-Brown, C. H., Williams, A. E. ; **Westminster:**—Ceha, M. C., Coglan, A. H., Coglan, G. K., Hayward, L. G., Kay, G., Moyes, T., Weir, A. R. M. (J.)

**Ila.—Atkin:**—Eyton-Jones, A. P. ; **Tate:**—Pierce, A. R., Simpson, P. P. ; **Westminster:**—Lowson, R. C., Smedley, K. J.

**Ilb.—Stitt:**—Adams, C. R. ; **Tate:**—Shaw, S. ; **Westminster:**—Henshaw, R., Lorimer, C.

**Upper Prep.—Atkin:**—Gibson, J. J. L. ; **Stitt:**—Batho, P. C. ; **Tate:**—Higgins, L. ; **Westminster:**—Hirst, J. D.

**Lower Prep.—Atkin:**—Griffith, J., Williams, J. S. ; **Stitt:**—Beer, E. A., Byrne, K. A. R., Lyons, E. J. M., Sargent, A. E. H., Sudworth, J. F. ; **Tate:**—Barnes, W. D., Beckett, J. G., Proudman, H. G., Underwood, P. R. ; **Westminster:**—Darlington, A. T.

(J.) Denotes Ex-Junior.

### VALETE.

**Upper VIa.—Atkin:**—Richardson, G. (1925—1931), *Prefect, Matric., 1929, House Representative on Visor Committee.* **Stitt:**—Greaves, C. D. (1925—1931), *Matric., 1929, H.S.C., 1931, Captain of Chess Team, Member of Debating Society Committee.* **Tate:**—Halliday, J. A. (1924—1931), *Matric., 1929, Member of Chess Club Committee, Member of Debating Society Committee, Patrol Leader in School Scout Troop.* Pritchard, J. (1925—1931), *Matric., 1929, H.S.C., 1931, Member of Chess Club Committee, Member of Debating Society Committee.* **Westminster:**—Magee, D. (1924—1931), *Matric., 1929, House Representative on Visor Committee, Member of Debating Society Committee.* Matthews, E. J. (1924—1931), *Prefect, Matric., 1929, Financial Secretary for The Visor, Secretary of Debating Society, Treasurer of Rifle Club.*

**Upper VIb.—Stitt:**—Jones, W. S. (1926—1931), *Prefect, Matric., 1930, House Representative on Visor Committee,*



*Vice-Captain of House.* **Tate**:—Coughtrie, W. D. (1921—1931), *Head Prefect and Captain of the School, Matric.*, 1929, *Secretary of The Visor, Patrol Leader in School Scout Troop, Member of Scientific Society Committee.* **Westminster**:—Lewis, A. J.

**VIs.**—**Atkin**:—Collins, F. B., Manley, W. H. **Stitt**:—Chalkley, A., Elton, S., Evans, W. A., Reid, B. H., Slee, G. E. **Tate**:—Andrews, S. C., Colley, H., Woodhead, R. A. **Westminster**:—Andrews, T. J. (1923—1931), *Prefect, Matric.*, 1931, *House Captain, Captain of Football, 1930-1931, Football and Cricket Colours, Victor Ludorum, 1929-1931, Member of Football Selection Committee.* Enescott, J., Hughes, L., Hughes, L. J. T., Jones, S. W., Kirchin, A. D.

**Lower VIa.**—**Atkin**:—Bird, F. N. (1922—1931), *Member of Debating Society Committee, Patrol Leader in School School Troop.* Gibson, H., Riding, J., Shipley, N. D. H. **Stitt**:—Acton, J., Ambler, E., Lees, V. H., Roscoe, W. E. **Tate**:—Welch, F. A. **Westminster**:—Jackson, A.

**Lower VIb.**—**Atkin**:—Barrett, G. C., Darlington, H. N. **Stitt**:—Anderson, S. E., Campbell, J. C., Campbell, S., Callister, J., Harrison, F. V., Mason, F. A., Sutcliffe, R. J. **Tate**:—Allsopp, S. R., Niblock, J., Watkins, J. C. G. **Westminster**:—Morris, C.

**VIr.**—**Stitt**:—Hughes, A. W., Ramsden, J. D. **Tate**:—Williams, T. H. **Westminster**:—Hughes, R.

**Va.**—**Westminster**:—Moughtin, G.

**Vb.**—**Atkin**:—Roberts, H. **Stitt**:—McKenzie, D., Nichols, J. S.

**Vr.**—**Westminster**:—Shipley, F. B.

**IVb.**—**Atkin**:—Dubois, J. **Westminster**:—Wunstall, A.

**IIIb.**—**Stitt**:—Buckwell, E. R.

**I.**—**Westminster**:—Squire, C. H., Watson, A. B.

**Upper Prep.**—**Tate**:—Fenner, W. R. **Westminster**:—Urquhart, R. A.

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### A FRAGMENT.

Dr. Mann U. Script, the famous American archaeologist, sends the following:—

Dear Sir,

Allow me to present the enclosed MS., as I believe it proves conclusively that the B.I. was known to Elizabethan

writers. It is an unfinished drama by the well-known playwright Shilliam Wakespeare, and speaks for itself:—

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M. H. WARSH, J. H. RONES ..... Schoolboys.

Mr. H. W. JAIME ..... Master.

S. W. GAW and two other PREFECTS.

VOICE (off).

A CROWD.

ACT I. SCENE I.

[*The Library (or any other desolate place). M.H.W. and J.H.R. are seen placing a huge lexicon over the door.*]

M.H.W.— “He that’s coming,  
Must be provided for!” [*knock without*].

J.H.R.— “Come in, without there!” [*Aside*] “Let  
it come down!”

[*S.W.G. enters, and is struck by the lexicon.*]

S.W.G.— “Help me hence, ho!—What is amiss?”

J.H.R.— “You are, and do not know it!” [*laughs*].

S.W.G. [*scornfully*] “I’ll not fight with thee!”

M.H.W.—“New honours come upon him, like our strange  
garments, cleave not to their mould, but with the aid of  
use!”

[*Exit S.W.G. and enter two more Prefects.*]

J.H.R.— “What are these  
So withered and so wild in their attire,  
That look not like th’inhabitants of the earth,  
And yet are on’t. Live you? Or are you aught  
That man may question?”

1st Pre. [*haughtily*] “My curse upon thee light, thou cream-  
faced loon!”

2nd Pre. “Take thy face hence!”

1st Pre. [*consulting watch*] “One, two: why then, ’tis time  
to do it.”

2nd Pre. “I go, and it is done, the bell invites me” [*exit*].  
[*Crowd make an uproar, a bell rings*].

[*2nd Pre. re-entering*] “I have done the deed. Didst thou  
not hear a noise?”

[*Enter Mr. H. W. Jaime*]

Mr. H. W. J.—“What’s that noise? Can such things be?”

Crowd—“Ay, sir, these things are so!”

Mr. H. W. J.—“Stand not upon the order of your going, but  
go at once!”

M.H.W.—[*pointing at Pre's*] “What will you do?  
Let's not consort with them.”

J.H.R.—“Let's briefly put on manly readiness  
And meet i' the hall together.”

[*Here the MS. ends*].

MANN. U. SCRIPT.

### MARVELS OF MODERN RADIO HOUSES.

Broadcasting makes yet another claim to have changed our lives—it has brought new progress to architecture. The designing of sound-proof buildings is an idea which has captured the thoughts of many famous architects. The new “Broadcast House” in London is one of the marvels of the modern world.

Now New York is contemplating “Radio City,” a group of four skyscrapers, costing £50,000,000, and including an opera house. “Radio City” is still a city of dreams, although it is planned right down to the method of suspending the studios by wire! There will be rooms within rooms, rubber insulated, fed with artificial sunlight and home-made “atmosphere,” warmed in winter, and cooled in summer. This conception might seem like another dream, were it not for the realities of “Broadcast House” in London.

In the new headquarters, the studios are insulated with sound-proof plaster, between the layers of which thick wads of seaweed are wedged. “Broadcast House” will follow radio technique, and make its own atmosphere.

The basement contains the most modern apparatus. Vast shafts draw air from the summit of the building down to the basement, where conditioning apparatus cleans, cools or warms it, and passes it along to the studios, where it enters at ceiling level, and leaves at floor level. Just as nature makes winds and clouds, so does the weather machine manufacture artificial weather. Cool water droplets absorb heat from the air, and reduce its temperature to several degrees below that to be maintained in the studio. As the air is cooled, excess moisture is condensed and removed.

Then the air, having been cleansed and cooled, leaves the conditioning machine, and enters the distributing ducts, which lead to the studios, where temperamental artistes will not be expected to shiver when it is chilly outside, or to swelter in stuffy rooms when it is not.

O.G.H., Vb.



---

**GREEN PAINT.**

A few weeks ago, the Junior School was painted. We had a terrible time! Teachers were vainly trying to make us attend, while we were taking lessons in house-painting and decorating.

We had just settled down to work when a troop of white-clad individuals tramped up the path. A large man in hob-nailed boots upset his paint-pot and slid down our beloved embankment, scraping a considerable amount of turf away. We tremble at such sacrilege!

Then the men started their task, and we became absorbed in house-painting. By the end of the lesson, the class had learned how to balance a paint-pot on a ladder, and the painters were probably repeating French verbs to each other!

Quite a number of accidents happened. When the cubs were conducting, on the door-step, a sale of cake and biscuits some clumsy person kicked over the tin of paint and the cakes suddenly turned from brown sponge to green, which certainly improved their appearance!

Once the windows stuck, and we endured suffocation for some hours; on another occasion a mistress was much startled by an unshaven face suddenly popping up at the window.

We hear that one bright boy, when asked what food Ben Gunn ate while marooned on Treasure Island, replied dreamily, "Green Paint!"

The decorators have painted everything that came their way, devoting special attention to the old rickety garden seat.

Now the Junior School looks as if it has consumed something that did not agree with it, for it is a sickly green.

P. RIDOUT and R. TAYLOR, Form IIa.

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**A NOW.**

(With apologies to Leigh Hunt).

Now it is 7 a.m.; now I am swotting hard; now I moisten the towel round my head. Now I am called for breakfast; now I can't eat breakfast; now I walk upstairs, now I run downstairs. Now I feel hungry, now there is no time to eat.

Now I gaze steadfastly at my exam paper; now I gnaw my coat-lapel, now the end of my pen, now tongue, now a piece of chewing-gum. Now I look at the clock, now at my watch.

Now I find I have plenty of time to spare, now no time at all. Now two masters have an interesting conversation in front of my desk. Now I count the bricks in the gym-wall.

Now a sonorous voice shouts 'Time' (omits the 'gentlemen please.') Now I receive a length of silken rope, with which to bind my tomes of wisdom; now I thrust them with undue haste into a pair of rapacious-looking hands. Now I forfeit a penny in order to receive a book, which will probably tell me a result I already know.

Now everybody draws 'Easy,' hardly noticing their quivering hands and pale faces. Now I gulp down a longed-for meal; now the family gaze disdainfully on the exam-paper repeating in chorus, 'I could do this one—*this* one is simple—what an easy paper!'

ANGELO, VI.

## ODES TO A PREFECT.

BY A SCHOOLBOY.

Most lordly and esteemed chappie,  
The friend of youthful schoolboys happy,  
Who helps them out when they are stuck,  
And lends them 'tin' to spend on 'tuck.'  
I know you have quite good intentions,  
But why give impots—and detentions?  
Why are you cruel, why keep us in  
When we've committed not a sin?  
O why? The answer, neat and trim,  
Is—"Just to satisfy your whim!"

BY A MASTER.

Most trustful and most goodly creature,  
The boon of every living teacher,  
Who quiets boys when they're unruly,  
And never punishes unduly—  
I've come to find that, up to now,  
You make by *far* the biggest row  
Of any boy within the School!  
(That's my experience, as a rule).  
So be prepared to have no praise,  
Until you mend your evil ways.

J. G. STOTT.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Visor*.

Sir,

*The Visor*, at the invitation of a contemporary, took to itself, in the last issue, the somewhat thankless task of critic. I was glad to notice that its criticisms were not all destructive, and that it bared its own breast, so to speak, to the sword or, it would be more appropriate to say, the scalpel of criticism.

Bearing in mind, then, that you asked for it, have at you! I trust you will not consider my criticisms purely destructive.

I have seen, I should think, most of the school and university magazines in England, but with the possible exception of the production of a certain public school, not one with so depressing an interior as has *The Visor*.

I don't know, Mr. Editor, whether you have much to do with the setting up of *The Visor*. If you have,—I don't wish to be unkind—so shall we say it can be improved? If it lies in the hands of the printer, then it's time you had a long chat with him.

It would be very simple to use a sub-heading or two and so break up (and make appear more interesting) the huge chunks of prose which at present exist in indigestible form.

If you are not tied to the present form it would be an improvement to use larger paper and two columns.

Tail-pieces are not *very* expensive and I think you would be surprised at the difference which could be effected by the use of one or two of these, which could be designed by your pet artist or by the indefatigable Art Master. And if only you could use a block or two—but perhaps that is rather too expensive.

Bitter experience of magazine work tells me how difficult it is to collect contributions so that I refrain from any criticism along *that* line. Allow me, however, to congratulate you on the fact that your material is drawn from the whole school, and, that your magazine is thus truly representative.

Believe me, these criticisms are not meant to irritate, nor are they the outcome of wanton vindictiveness. I feel that a little thought given to the lay-out of the actual print would be well repaid. After all, you know, people are inclined to judge from *appearances*.

Yours, etc.,

HUBERT CHRISTIAN.



[We are grateful to the sender of the above letter for his interest in *The Visor* and for his criticism, must of which is well-founded. But modesty will not let us accept so high a position as second in an All-England competition for depressing interiors. We can supply Mr. Christian with copies of several Merseyside magazines with far stronger claims than ours. Devices for enlivening the lay-out are under consideration, the main difficulty being expense. At present we only just pay our way, and any increase in the cost per page means a decrease in the number of pages.—ED.]

### VARIA.

The Swimming Gala was again a ' howling ' success, the presence of so much water in and out of doors failing to damp enthusiasm. We noticed three handsome heads of hair, one on M\*\*ns and two on the mops.

\* \* \* \*

MacFarlane's achievement in the Long Plunge, reported elsewhere, has met with unexpected recognition. With characteristic generosity Mr. William Jackson has presented him with a silver medal to commemorate the setting up of a record.

\* \* \* \*

The Chairman of the School Governors, Ald. G. A. Solly, has had to go away for a complete rest following an operation. A letter received from him the other day shows that he still has the School in mind. In its name we wish our Chairman a speedy recovery and a long continued period of public activity and interest in the Institute.

\* \* \* \*

Our posters flaunting themselves in the corridors have hit the eye of every beholder. He who runs cannot have failed to read. Next term we hope that he who sits may be induced to write.

\* \* \* \*

A flagpole has recently been erected in front of the School. It is understood that by means of a diabolically contrived and cunningly concealed mechanism it can be timed to fall on the head of any varlet entering the gates without a School cap.

\* \* \* \*

The Chess Club has felt the loss of the old-timers who have left us. That Challenge Shield must be brought back to its old home in B.I., and for this the Club is relying on its younger members. It is their move.

The Scouts have won the Shield for Swimming in competition with other troops in the town for the third consecutive year. Hearty congratulations!

\* \* \* \*

We assembled once again on November 11th, in memory of those former members of the School who gave up their lives in the Great War. We thought in silence of the eighty-four boys who at the Institute learned, among other things, to play the game. The Headmaster's address emphasised the futility of war and its disastrous consequences. The impressiveness of the Silence was heightened by the very marked pause in the noise of the traffic outside.

\* \* \* \*

A former School Captain was present with the wreath from the Old Boys, which took its place with our own near the memorial tablet.

\* \* \* \*

We are glad to welcome Mr. Hall back again after his recent illness, and hope he is now well on the way to complete recovery.

\* \* \* \*

Boys are requested not to leave articles of unwanted clothing, cash, food, and the like, lying about the premises. These should be disposed of through the usual charitable agencies.

\* \* \* \*

The prefects are contemplating their annual Re-union Tea. Tenders are invited from water-works and hop-sotch importers.

\* \* \* \*

Candidates in the Mock Election were evidently treated on their electioneering merits, for, despite the handicap of his lurid programme and gory banner, Angelmanski was defeated by only one vote,—not a crushing victory for his opponent.

\* \* \* \*

It has come to light that the French of IIIa. has recently acquired a musical bias. This is not due to the introduction of the Singuaphone Method, but is an attempt at correlation with orchestral work in the Gym.

Mention of the Gym reminds us of its varied uses, and then of the promised new wing. But as this has been mentioned in every issue of the magazine for the last two years, we make no apology for giving it a miss this time. Besides, at a Time of Grave National Crisis, perhaps it is hardly The Thing.

\* \* \* \*

With Matric. behind us until next year, the question arises, 'Where does the Joint Board go in the winter time?' Is it carefully preserved in creosote, or disposed of as firewood at a reasonable figure?

\* \* \* \*

Our successes this year included thirty matriculation and thirty-four school certificates, with even better results in the H.S.C. than were expected. Letters of success were obtained by several experts in economics and statistical mathematics.

\* \* \* \*

Look out for the new ping-pong colours: you may shortly see M\*ll\*r sporting gold braid from ear to ear on one of these brighter mornings.

\* \* \* \*

After some fluctuation due to late arrivals and early departures the number of Librarians seems to have been stabilised at thirty-nine. The way in which this host has been wedged into the Library without encroaching on the bookshelves makes a Chicago meat-packer look like a bungling amateur.

\* \* \* \*

Towards the end of term wonder increases at the amount of work done by the Secretary in her sunless cell at the end of the corridor. The accommodation there would cramp an anchorite, and lovers of the great open spaces can only misquote and marvel at this example of

'infinite labour in a little room.'

\* \* \* \*

The alleged Faraday exhibition turned out to be a commercial undertaking masquerading under the name of the great scientist. We think we are voicing the sentiments of all school parties who visited the exhibition in denouncing a not very creditable piece of business.



After our instructive visit to the Lever Art Gallery some of us feel that there is beauty in almost anything, and learn to drink in draughts of loveliness even from the saucepan reposing on the ancient packing-case in the Art Room.

\* \* \* \*

Our tame mediaevalist in the Library informs us that it was a common pastime among Inquisitors to cut off a victim's head and throw it in his face. It sounds a capital game.

\* \* \* \*

*The Visor* Committee desire to thank Shannon and Cathcart, who have assisted the Art Editors, Gill and Keates, with poster work.

\* \* \* \*

Casualties on *The Visor* staff have unusually heavy this term. Our Chairman is only convalescent, and at the last moment, when everything should have been in the printer's hands, the Editor and one of the Sub-Editors succumbed to 'flu.' Our thanks to all those who have come to our rescue and enabled the survivors to carry on.

### A TALE OF WOE.

The end of term is drawing near,  
 With holidays and Christmas cheer.  
 But, before that happy day  
 When pens and books are put away,  
 We have to face examinations,  
 A time of fears and lamentations.  
 What's the date of William one?  
 And how many hundredweights in a ton?  
 I can't think what's twice times two  
 Nor what the French word is for 'blue.'  
 And oh! my head it is so thick  
 I can't do problems in Arithmetic.  
 Where's the Tropic of Capricorn?  
 At the pole or near Cape Horn?  
 Was it the famous Robert Clive  
 Who led the rebellion of '45?  
 When on the lists I see my name  
 I'll be lost in sorrow and shame.  
 The things I don't know seem a lot:  
 Perhaps I'd better start to swot!

Form IIa.

### THE BELGIAN HOLIDAY.

A School party visited Belgium last August under the direction of Mr. Allison and Mr. Thacker. The holiday was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who went.

We departed from Woodside Station at 7-30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 12th, and arrived in London early in the afternoon. We stayed for a while here, to see a few of the sights of the city, before proceeding to Dover. Darkness had fallen when we arrived at Ostend after a calm crossing. From here, a short railway journey brought us to Bruges, which was to be our headquarters.

The next morning was spent 'discovering' Bruges, which we found to be an ancient and historical city, rich in old buildings, such as the great Belfry, standing at one end of the Grand Place, the Cathedral, and the Church of Notre Dame. The most remarkable feature of the city was the network of canals with which it was intersected. Small boats could be hired out on these canals, and the scenery to be found there varied from the warehouses of the shipping-wharves to the shaded grassey banks of the Béguinage.

In the afternoon of the first day we went to Blankenbergh, a small seaside resort, where some members of the party bathed.

On Saturday, we visited Brussels, where we saw many interesting sights, including the Royal Palace and the Cathedral.

On Sunday, some members of the party went by canal to Sluys, a little town just over the Dutch border.

On Monday came what was popularly voted the most interesting of all the trips. This was a motor-coach tour over a section of the battle fields. Starting at about 10 o'clock in the morning, we entered the battle fields area about half an hour later. Relics of the War were to be seen everywhere about the countryside. War cemeteries were dotted here and there. Concrete 'pill-boxes' stood in the midst of ploughed fields. Shell holes could be seen disguised beneath mantles of green grass, and dead, blackened tree-stumps stood amidst plantations of young trees which are growing up everywhere.

Our first stop was at the famous Tyne Cot cemetery, the largest British cemetery in Belgium. Continuing, we saw the trenches and dug-outs at 'Hill 60,' and from there we continued to Ypres, where we spent about two hours exploring the town. Everyone, of course, saw the famous Menin Gate

memorial and the ruins of the Cloth Hall, while several of the party visited the reconstructed Cathedral. Before returning to Bruges, we called at Dixmude, and then, on the return journey, we stopped to see Big Bertha II. This huge German gun, which was used to fire on Dunkerque, 28 miles away, was built below ground level, in a great concrete well, and was complete with shell-proof ammunition stores and quarters for the men in charge.

On the next and last day of our stay we visited Zeebrugge, where, sitting on the shore and looking out at the harbour mouth and the Mole, we had related to us by a guide the story of the memorable sea battle which took place there.

It was with regret that we departed from Bruges the next day. The journey home was broken for an hour or so in London, where we renewed our acquaintance with the English 'tea,' while waiting for the midnight train. At 7-15 the next morning we found ourselves once more in Woodside Station.

Finally, we wish to thank Mr. Allison and Mr. Thacker for the trouble which they took in making this holiday such a great success.

J.W.

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## ROUND THE YOUTH HOSTELS IN NORTH WALES.

With the pound at fourteen shillings, and everybody buying 'British,' few of us dare contemplate a continental holiday next year. We must see our own country first. There is much well worth seeing, some of it on our own doorstep, and the facilities now offered by the Youths Hostels Association make it possible to spend a most enjoyable holiday with the minimum outlay. Such, at least, is the experience of members of the School Party which toured the North Wales Hostels during the last week of the summer holidays.

The tour was largely an experiment, none of our members having visited the Hostels before, and it proved successful. The party was small, but very select, consisting of two of the more frivolous members of the staff, and four senior boys taken on what are known as 'Leader's passes.' When it is mentioned that the standard charge for dinner, bed and breakfast at a Hostel is three shillings, it will be understood that we set out with a certain amount of misgiving.

A detailed account of the tour would make interesting reading, for it was crowded with novel experiences, but it must



suffice to say that it was an unqualified success. In a week, we walked over eighty miles through the most magnificent country imaginable, crossing miles of unspoilt moorland, meandering through wonderfully fertile valleys, fording picturesque streams, and most remarkable of all, perhaps, climbing the dizzy heights of Tryfan, the Glyders, and Snowdon.

The evenings spent in the Hostels themselves were most enjoyable. There was every attraction, from community singing round a roaring fire to sleeping in three decker beds, besides the unique experience of helping members of the staff to wash dishes.

Another tour is contemplated for next year. Should the demand materialise, we intend forming a B.I. section of the Youth Hostel Association. The annual subscription, under twenty-five, is only half-a-crown, and this covers the use of any of the Hostel chains in Great Britain.

### OTHERS AS WE SEE THEM.

The magazines of Tranmere High School, Birkenhead High School and Birkenhead Girls' Secondary School (named, without prejudice, in the order received) are before us. For information, let it be said that these are three,—*the* three places of higher education for girls in Birkenhead, and that we fully appreciate the extreme delicacy of our task. But let no evil-disposed person imagine that *The Visor* is going to allow itself to become entangled in a local Judgment of Paris: those who are already anticipating the unpleasant odours of comparison must sniff elsewhere.

\* \* \* \*

One point they have in common—they are all annual publications, and one does not see why schools of this size and standing should not produce a magazine every term. This view is not due to any soreness at the rate of exchange—three copies of *The Visor* for one of theirs—but to the feeling that there is so little continuity about a series of annual publications, and that a termly magazine is much more than three times better than a yearly one. Our three contemporaries, we feel sure, do not need to be won over to this view by argument; it is only a matter of overcoming certain difficulties; it will be interesting to see which will be the first to adopt the suggestion, for which no charge is made.

Pursuing a policy of absolute impartiality, let us consider them separately, taking them this time in strictly alphabetical order.

B.G.S.S. Magazine (No. 21, July, 1931) is recovering from a brief lapse, and we congratulate its producers on having brought it to a state of very vigorous convalescence. Among the verse contributions the translation from Ronsard (*To Marie*) reaches a high standard, and some of the more youthful efforts are promising. There is an amusing Shakesperian burlesque in a style compounded of *1066* and *All That* and Anita Loos; but that sort of thing is very difficult, and the humour is sometimes rather thinly and wordily spread. The illustrations, by the same hand, are highly illustrative.

A desire to be emphatic seems to have resulted in some curious statements. Thus some contributions sent in are described as 'entirely innocent of orthodox spelling.' Were *none* of the words correctly spelt? There is, perhaps, a trace of ambiguity, too, in the hope expressed about a staff play, that it 'will not be the last of many such'! A word to the sub-editors (or their successors). Is the best possible arrangement that which starts off with reports of societies, and groups all verse contributions together? And is it not overdoing economy to insert a reprint of a Speech Day programme (on paper of a different size) in the middle of an article on Devon?

\* \* \* \*

In B.H.S. Magazine (Vol. XI., 1931), there are twice as many items in verse as in prose. This preponderance could have been lessened without material loss. It is an excellent thing to encourage talent in the lower forms, and no one applies Sixth Form standards to Form I. But is it encouraging talent to include work which, weighed in any balance, is found sadly wanting? Is it not rather encouraging the belief that if you can hunt up enough words that rhyme you can write verse that will be printed in the magazine? Some of the lines contributed by the lower forms seem to have been composed on this principle.

An ear for rhythm does not go by forms, and is evident in *The Moon* (Upper II.), *Wandering* (Upper IVb.), and *Autumn* (Upper VI.) These pieces are all over the same surname, so perhaps it is a family matter. Translation from French into American should be attempted only by Frenchmen or Americans. Those to whom both languages are foreign will only come to grief like a member of the Lower VI. translating

Hugo for the Hoodlums: she does not always understand his French, and her American would make them go all goosey.

This magazine is well arranged and neatly set up. The cover design is dignified and tasteful, and the printing is done by a firm that knows its job.

\* \* \*

H.T.H.S. Magazine (Vol. 9, 1931) publishes a very useful school calendar. Its record of school events and activities is a model of conciseness, and a good deal is gained by printing the more prosy details in smaller type. Financial stringency (*vide* Magazine Account, p. 13) presumably dictates a like economy in printing the numerous verse contributions. This is rather a pity, as some of them are very good indeed,—far better than the *sole* contribution of the Sixth Form, in prose. The issue is rather a thin one, and among other things editorial comment is lacking. One feels that it ought not to have been left to an outsider to suggest that it is inconceivable that a school which raises such vast sums for charities and playing fields should let its magazine languish for lack of financial support.

\* \* \*

*The Caldeian* (Calday Grammar, July, 1931), is another annual publication. This explains, one supposes, why more than one third of its pages are occupied with Rugby football. Hockey is also played, and sports are held, but cricket is not known to *The Caldeian*.

We read of a new school society, the Neo Caldeians, which is a successor to the cadet corps and scout troop (Why has the latter been abandoned?), and includes as members practically the whole school. Apart from camping and drill its many activities are very vaguely stated, and more information would be interesting.

\* \* \*

*The Wallaseyan* (July, 1931) contains a very informative article on German schools by a German Sixth Former. The material it affords for comparison with our own schools makes it well worth reading.

The motto of Seacombe House, *SI CUM unitate laboremus*, makes us feel *SI SIC omnes*!

\* \* \*

*The Nautilus* (O. W. Holmes, Jnr., High School, Philadelphia, Pa.) is all glossy and American. The cover, paper, lay-out, and printing deserve material of the finest quality. But how many of us get what we deserve?



The Park High School Magazine (July, 1931) is yet another annual which we hope will soon appear once a term. The quality of the material is good on the whole, and it is a pity there is not more of it. A nasty jar was felt on reading the verses on p. 11, where 'fared' is apparently made to rhyme with 'heard' and 'transferred'! Our worst fears were allayed, however, on observing that the author was a Scot who, we hope, pronounces both words to rhyme with 'laird,' a Scottish landowner, *not* with 'Lurd,' a street, one understands, in Birkenhead.

\* \* \* \*

In addition to the above *The Visor* Committee gratefully acknowledges receipt of *Esmeduna*, *The Inkwell*, *The Quarry*, *The Towers*, *The Cowleian*, *Oultonion*, *The Lion*.

### INTER-SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA.

This event was held at Picton Road Baths, on Friday, October 30th. Twelve schools competed, and the School were placed fourth. Quarry Bank High School are to be congratulated on their splendid performance in winning both the Senior and Junior Competitions.

Considering the strenuous efforts of our team on the previous night, they did quite well. Todd, after a very close race, lost the 100 yards Free Style by a touch, while R. Smith finished a fine third in the 50 yards Free Style for Juniors. Darlington swam well in the 50 yards Breast Stroke, but he was competing against much older and bigger boys. Watkins made a valiant if unsuccessful attempt to carry off the 100 yards Breast Stroke, but he put on a spurt just a shade too late. Shaw, C. A., finished second in his heat for the Back Stroke Race, but was unable to compete in the final. Hirst and Ashton did well to be third in the Life-Saving display, while much credit is due to Darlington and Peckham for their fine diving.

In the Junior Squadron Race the Juniors (J. Barker, Peckham, Wylie and R. Smith) were eliminated in the heat, but the Seniors (Alsopp, C.A. Shaw, Todd, and G.W. Smith) swam very well, winning their heat, and coming a close second in the final.

X.V.Z.

## ATKIN HOUSE NOTES.

This term has been the most successful we have had for some time. We have more than held our own in Football, and we gained many honours at the Swimming Gala, while we were top in the first Mark-Sheets issued this term. We have come very near to repeating our success in this direction since then, but we have been pulled down by the abnormal number of detentions accumulated by certain members of the House.

As has been said, a hitherto undiscovered standard of excellence has been produced in the House Football. Twelve "Atkinites" are in the School Teams. In the First Eleven we have Robinson, Powl, Smith, Morrell, and Shipley. Powl and Shipley have now left us, and we wish them every success in the future. In the Second Eleven we have Walker, Hall, Seville, May, Jones, J. O., and Smith, R. With such talent as this we ought to make sure of the Football Championship next term. The results to date are as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Seniors ... ..	1	1	0	0	4	3	2
Inters. ... ..	3	0	2	1	7	20	1
Juniors ... ..	3	2	0	1	19	5	5

It will be seen that we are very strong in the Junior Department, and we have high hopes for the future.

At the Swimming Gala we were even more successful than last year. Eleven events went to members of our House, including the School Championship, which was won by Todd. Our team, composed of Todd, Smith, R., McFarlane, and Allen, won the Senior House Squadron Race, beating Tate comfortably by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a length. McFarlane set up a new record for the Long Plunge, by a splendid effort of 60 feet.

In the Chess Club we are not strongly represented. Walker is the only member who has played for the School Team, but J. A. A. Smith is heading strongly for Second Division honours.

We must congratulate Robinson, our captain, on becoming a prefect, and on gaining his Cricket Colours, and Walker and Todd, who have also been made Prefects, and we hope that next term Atkin will make further progress on the road to success.

In conclusion, we extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Wild, who has joined the House this term.

E.T.

### STITT HOUSE NOTES.

The House is to be congratulated upon carrying off the Cricket Championship last term. However, credit must be given to Westminster who were very close runners-up.

If we are to retain the Football Championship this year the present standard of play must be improved, especially in the Juniors. The Seniors have played only one match as yet. This was against Westminster, and we won it by 6 goals to 1.

The Intermediates have won one match against Tate by 3 goals to 2, and drawn with Atkin 4—4, and with Westminster 1—1. This department is not so strong as it has been in previous years.

The Juniors have lost their two matches against Westminster and Atkin. This section is very weak indeed.

The table of matches played this term is as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Seniors ... ..	1	1	0	0	6	1	2
Inters. ... ..	3	1	0	2	8	7	4
Juniors ... ..	2	0	2	0	4	20	0

We are represented in the First Eleven this year by:—Currie (capt.), Smith, G. W., and Neil, and in the Second by Arthur, Christian, Milligan, Pott, and Silcock.

The House continues to figure brilliantly in cross-country running, and we are represented in the Harriers by Shaw, G. W. (capt.), Smith, G. W., Christian, Wallace, Williams, and Wood, all of whom run regularly for the School. We have every hope of retaining the Cross Country Championship this year.

Once more we have failed in our endeavour to regain the Swimming Championship. Our Squadron team must, however, be congratulated upon its valiant effort. The team, which gained third place, was:—Smith G. W., McKenzie, Neil, and Ambler.

We have two members, Hunt and Martin, in the School Chess Team.

J.W.

### TATE HOUSE NOTES.

Every House has its bad times, when nothing seems to go the right way, and Tate appears to be experiencing one of its worst years for some time. We look, therefore, to the younger members of the House to retrieve the position we held a few years ago.



Nevertheless the House has not absolutely been eclipsed. We can easily hold our own in the fortnightly mark sheets, for we have not yet dropped below second place. Another cheering feature is the decrease in the number of regular attendants at detention.

Three of the School Prefects are in Tate. They are Minns, Stanley, and Tomlinson.

It has been our football which has been so unsuccessful. Out of the seven matches played only six points have been secured.

The Seniors have lost to Atkin by four goals to three. The Intermediate team, after losing two matches, won the third by a wide margin. We lost to Westminster in the first match by seven goals to three, although the score is not a fair reflex of the play. Against Atkin we won by thirteen goals to one, and yet Stitt gained the better of us by the odd goal in seven, in a match which should easily have been won, judging by the respective sides.

The Juniors, too, have played three games, and here, the results are more promising. We beat Westminster by seven goals to six, but lost to Atkin by four goals to two. We also beat Stitt by the great score of sixteen goals to two.

The results may be summarised thus:—

						P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.				
Seniors	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0
Inters.	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	0	...	2
Juniors	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	4

There are at present only two regular representatives in both of the School Elevens. They are Minns (vice-capt.) and Shaw, C. A., Tong, Venables, and Slinn have, however, played for the Second Eleven.

The House Squadron Team at the Swimming Gala was an easy second, coming in about three-quarters of a length behind Atkin. It consisted of Minns, Watkins, Alsopp, and Shaw, C. A. (in order of swimming). Several members of Tate were successful in gaining places in other events.

On reviewing our results, the present may seem black, but there are signs of an eager spirit which heralds a happier future.

M.A.M.

### WESTMINSTER HOUSE NOTES.

After having been for several years a really good House in almost every sphere of activity, Westminster seems to have lost some of its old greatness. It remains with the House to see that it is a temporary lapse.

With regard to the House positions, our poor show, as contrasted with our success last year, is due mainly to the activities of a few select "detention-hogs." When we have routed out these offenders and set them to work in earnest, there will be better results in this department.

I should like to point out that we are giving a fine lead in some of the activities of the School. Of the seven players constituting the School Chess Team, five are Westminsterites—Jellicoe (capt.), Sarginson, Marsh, F. W. Miller, and Weston, while the latter is making a fine attempt to carry off the School Championship. We are also well represented in the lower divisions.

The prefects in the House are:—Jellicoe (captain of the School and Head Prefect), Wetherell, who is also a prominent scout, Loxam, Gill, Sarginson, and Jenkins.

At a general House Meeting early in the term, K. J. Rice was elected House Captain, in the place of the sorely-missed veteran, T. J. Andrews, whilst G. Jellicoe was elected vice-captain.

Football is not a speciality with the House, though we have done moderately well. In the School First Eleven we are represented by Rice, F. W. Miller, and Roberts, while Barker (capt.) and Holme play well for the Second Eleven.

As may be seen from the following table, we have not altogether been brilliant in the House matches, though the Juniors are a decided improvement on last season.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Seniors ... ..	I	...	0	...	I	...	6 ... 0
Inters. ... ..	3	...	2	...	0	...	I2 ... 8 ... 5
Juniors ... ..	2	...	I	...	I	...	0 ... I2 ... 9 ... 2

The results of the Swimming Gala were only what we expected. We finished fourth in the House Squadron Race, our team being:—Williams, Peckham, Wylie, and Rice. Peckham made a good show in this and many other events. We were, however, robbed of a certain first in the Junior Squadron by its abandonment.

In conclusion we extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Morris, who joined the House at the beginning of this term. W.H.M.

## LIBRARY NOTES.

The Library, this year, is suffering from overcrowding, owing to the fact that we have about forty occupants, and only thirty-three desks. (The mathematically-minded may work out the result—it is given at the end)\*. Apart from this factor, we are quite happy and comfortable, even at times unbending so far as to approach the humorous (?)

In the first place (but 'tis a secret; let it go no further!), Br\*\*ge is rumoured to be trying to grow a beard. So romantic! And so useful! He could keep lost property in it; he could spank IIIj. with it; when angry, he could mutter into it; above all, how perfectly splendid it would be for cleaning out test-tubes in the (al)chemy lab.

Speaking of the lab., one feels tempted to mention the delightful perfume which, stealing through the joints in the fume-cupboard every Tuesday afternoon, makes the Library a place fit for men to live in. In fact, by a process of elimination, and survival of the fittest, we shall soon have a handful of 'he-men.' Wordsworth must have had us in mind when he wrote the (not very) famous lines:—

“Bliss is it in that lab. to be alive,

But to smell  $H_2S$ . is very heaven!”

Confusion seize all dabblers in the Black Art!

Although, mind you, some of these same dabblers are not averse to experimenting with arts rather more fair. For instance, our budding scientist Clar——(oh!—'sh!)

But 7 a.m. cycling is *such* good practice for the Harriers!

However, we cannot devote any more of our time to the unspeakable (al)chemists, but shall pass on to the élite (Ha!) of the Library, namely the literary coterie.

Our friends, 'Bobby' and 'Chris,' were observed returning from Mr. Davies's lecture on the scientific detection of crime, looking very scared and thoughtful, and have since gone into hiding with their confederates. 'Bobby' is lying low in Eastham, and he confesses that even now he perspires freely at the sight of the village constable.



The rumour that M\*ll\*r and some friends are about to form a Chaucer society is unfounded, but their language might be described as "a well of talkie undiluted."

The library shelves are, we understand, to be re-stocked in the near future with several hundred volumes of works by our tame historian, George, who bids fair to 'out-go' Mr. Motley. The cataloguing of these volumes is expected to provide employment for M\*t\*h\*ws and Co. for many Wednesday afternoons to come.

George is also 'doing his bit' for British Trade by refusing to buy foreign braids or badges. Since the quadruple band was introduced, the gold braid industry is brightening up, and hundreds of new hands are being employed.

We occasionally shine at Football, Chess, and so forth, and have several members of School teams among us. But the rest of the acts of these mighty men of valour, and all the acts which they did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the School Elevens?

Oh, of course, there is also another set of ruffians in the Library rejoicing in the name of the 'commercial set.' Its members form, we think, an interesting link between the LITERARY section, and the lowest known form of life, the scientist, and constitute the basis of 'George's' theory of evolution.

Their aim in life would appear to be to heap infamy on all who do not belong to their gang of cut-throats, wholesale robbers, and issuers of false balance sheets. Their leaders, Sh\*w and An\*e\*s\*n, are thorough villains, but the others *may* have some good in them. We have met worse. (Echo answers, "Where?")

It was, however, Shaw who petitioned for the return of Lizzie (our oracle), who had been kidnapped by certain of the Staff, and whose face was marred by the addition of a false moustache (Loud cries of "Lizzie uber alles!" from Sh\*w and Co.)

Oh me! I have done it again. Already the editor's eye gleams. His hand steals to his terrible Red Pencil; he will cut half of this! But please, Mr. Editor, leave the bit about the beard!

\*(To mathematicians—the result is chaos!) R.I.P.

## FORM NOTES.

## VI. Senior.

We have had a very successful football season, beating VIa., VIb., and VIr., and drawing with Va. We lost only one match, namely that against the Advanced. We have as representatives in the various School activities: Rice and Smith, J. A., in the First Eleven, Barker and Seville in the Second Eleven, Rees in the Harriers, and Weston, Miller and Martin in the Chess Team.

We extend to Mr. Morris, our new form-master, a hearty welcome, and hope he will be as pleased with us as we assuredly are with him. We have a new-comer to the form, who although he has lived for some years among a supposedly logical race, told Mr. W\*\*ts that the only 'Light' he had learned was 'Heat and Sound.' Dav\*\*s informed us that when an object is reflected in a plane mirror, it is the same in front as it is behind. (We have searched all family records, but can still find no Dutch ancestry).

Our form is very conservative. Our battle-cry is 'Vodka,' and our coat of arms consists of a shorn ape, clasping a dissected lion, on a field of blood. We are not without our Punchinellos; our harriers provide the motley, and our chalk monitor the powder (with a strong odour of scent, if you please !)

In spite of our frivolities, our work is hard and earnest, and life-long friendships have been severed by disputes over mark-sheets.

At the beginning of term, many boys were stricken with a strange eye-disease. We have now diagnosed their case, and are in touch with a Society for the Furtherance of Bigger and Better Writing on Blackboards. Several weeks ago, the board refused to take any impression from chalk, but treatment with a purple, fuming liquid soon put matters right. Some suggested that a boy had rubbed his head against it (the board, not the liquid !) We think the Dock authorities should keep an eye on their engine-grease.

We hope soon to have a form 'feed,' and several of our number are already dieting strenuously !      ANGELO, VIs.

**Vla.**

Who said school-life could be dull? Anybody of that opinion should have spent the past term with us in Vla!

Yes, we have had a very eventful term, its only drawback being the loss of the greater part of our gym periods, owing to the unfortunate absence of Mr. Hall.

Our black-board, of the type worked on the sash system, caused much comic relief by going on strike. This can be best described by means of an extract from an imaginary diary.

**Monday, October 26th :**

Heard a sudden crash in class, and the black-board fell to the bottom of its frame. (Expected Mr. M\*\*t to cry, "La justice est faite!")

**Tuesday, October 27th :**

Each master in turn vainly struggled to keep the board up.

**Wednesday, October 28th :**

Came to school, and found the board propped up with waste-paper basket and detention-sheet.

**Thursday, October 29th :**

Board in same condition, only the time-table frame was used instead of the detention-sheet, which had collapsed under the strain.

**Monday, November 2nd :**

Board in working order again. Derived some amusement from watching the masters reach for the waste-paper basket, from force of habit, only to find it was not needed.

\* \* \* \*

Much distress was caused by the expiration of our bell, and the one in the hall outside, as, too often, we were dismissed from morning or afternoon school five minutes after everyone was out. Imagine our gratification when our ears were blessed with the merry tinkle of a new bell which delights in interrupting Mr. M\*\*t in the middle of a French translation.

We also have a few words to say to Janny's advantage (or disadvantage) as that individual flatly refused to give us an electric light bulb, with the result that we had to peer at the board through a blanket of thick, brooding darkness. Many suggestions were made, such as pinching one from VI. Senior, but we still continued in a blanket of thick, etc.

We have had quite a successful football season, having lost only one match out of four, and two of the other three were drawn.



There were broken hearts and gnashing teeth in our form when we received the news that our football had been cancelled for the rest of the term, owing to the state of the field and the early hour at which it grows dark.

There has been a growing mania for broken desks this term, with the result that certain people use chairs for the seats of the desks. If this goes on, there will be no more chairs left in the Art Room.

We notice that "Golly" has been coming to school with his left hand swathed in bandages. This is the direct result of a brutal attack made by his canary! The canary has nearly recovered.

Our friend Cockbain gave us a splendid illustration of inertia of motion; his motor-cycle stopped, but he did not. Under ordinary circumstances he would have slowed down with uniform deceleration, but in this case he stopped rather suddenly. Before we know where we are, Mack will be crashing in his racing motor-car.

It is well said that 'one man's meat is another man's poison,' for our little round man has been suffering untold agonies with a pair of borrowed football boots.

Mr. D\*v\*\*s must think that there is a war on, for he still keeps up a heavy fire of artillery in the shape of record books. As an inevitable result of this, cracked pates and gory noses are as cheap as 'stinking mackerel' (sez Shakespeare).

J.C.

### Vib.

[None Received].

### VIr.

VIr. consists of boys drawn from last year's Va., Vb., and Vr. We regret that Kendrick has not been able to join us this term, because he is in hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

The form is represented in the School football teams by Roberts, in the First Eleven, and Ames, in the Second Eleven. We have done well in football this term under the direction of Roberts, our captain. We have played three matches and won all of them. The scores were:—v. Vib. 5—3; v. Va. 18—1; v. Vb. 6—3.

A few of our members entered for the Swimming Gala, but were unsuccessful.

On being told, during a Chemistry lesson, that the first gentleman to discover nitrogen trichloride lost an eye and an arm, Br\*me inquired whether it was Nelson.

### Va.

Have we had a fairly good term? The answer is in the infirmary, ahem!—affirmative. By the way, that word ‘infirmary’ reminds me of an accident to one of our noble band. One Pr\*n\*le was reported to have fallen off his brother’s motor cycle. He arrived back at school with the complaint of rheumatism. Great hordes of Va-ites invade the detention room nearly every night. “Aha,” you sneer, “Detentions!” “No!” we answer, “Library!” During Physics, with regard to an experiment, Mr. W\*t\*s said, “The best we have for it is asbestos” “*As best as we’ve got*,” remarked B\*\*k\*r from the back. Explaining a point in French Mr. M\*rr\*s said, “Thus they have to pay homage to Napoleon.” “How much do they pay?” asked Pr\*n\*le.

**Football.** We have lost to VIr. and Vb. and beaten Vj.

We are hoping to have a Form Social soon. L.W.

### Vb.

Much to the chagrin of the other Fifth Forms, the Head master this term granted us a free period as a reward for the improvement in our work and behaviour.

There have been several good jokes in the form this term: for instance, Chalkley was much disgusted when Mr. Williams gave him only four marks for a record, after he had worked (or cooked!) the result to eighteen places of decimals. Thomas still continues his ‘bughunting’ and Wilson his love of music, while Matthews is still wondering why Mr. Jones will not allow him to borrow a library book!

Out of the five football matches played, we have won three, drawn one, and lost one.

We have been represented in the Second Eleven by Smith, Jones, Milligan, and Hall. J.S.M.

## Vj.

This term we have played two football matches only. The first we drew, 7—7, with IIIb., and the second, against Vb., we lost, 8—1. We hope for improvements in this direction later.

As regards work, Cumming holds first place. He also occupies another high position—that of form ‘cackling champion.’ This latter has earned for him much trouble, and the life-long hatred of his near neighbours.

Recently Bell (popularly known as Ding-dong), was seized with the Christmas spirit, and, going down to Woolworth’s, he purchased a large number of coloured streamers, with which he decked the ‘Cubby Hole.’ The effort was greeted with enthusiasm by his class-mates, and there was almost a riot when we were ordered to take the decorations down.

We have in our form several well-meaning, but misinformed scholars. Hughes, for instance, asserts that Bucks is short for Buckshire, while Todd tells us that ‘j’étais’ means ‘I have.’

Some time ago, R\*\*\*\* (a member of the pigmy tribe) was sent out for a wash. He returned looking much thinner, cleaner, and more depressed. However, he is gradually regaining his customary dusky hue, and with it his happiness.

Pipon, our form mechanic and art critic, has high hopes of being top in the coming exams., but others of us are less optimistic.

T.N.J.

## IVa.

IVa. are well to the fore this year in everything except, perhaps, work.

We are able to field a strong football team, containing several notable players, especially Tong and Holme, who play for the School Second Eleven. Our record to date is:—v. IVj. 4—4; v. Va. 4—1; v. IVb. 2—4; and 7—4 versus a team selected from the Thirds. In this last match the pitch was in such a bad condition that several of our players spent most of their time helping each other out of the mud, like (but not looking in the least like) perfect little gentlemen.

Although a fairly large number of the form entered for the Swimming Gala only one medal was won. This was obtained by Phoenix, who gained 1st place in the novices’ race.

We have several experts at the ancient game of chess, namely, Wadlow, Young, and Hayward.



Most of the form are enthusiastic scouts, and upon these Mr. M\*\*t firmly impresses the 11th Scout law, "A scout must do his French homework." Unfortunately, however, this law is often disregarded, with painful results to the offenders.

Curious facts are often told us in class. For instance, F. D. T. said that a Canadian export was tinned meat and logs, which would not be a very appetising mixture for dinner, I should imagine. We were also informed that "garden" was a preposition and that the gender of Latin nouns of the second declension ending in "um" was Genitive. However, I am convinced that such answers are only given because we are thinking of the lovely pudding we had for dinner, and not because we are mentally deficient. W.K.

#### IVb.

The term is swiftly drawing to a close,  
And soon will come relief from all our woes:  
We'll say farewell to Latin verbs and syntax,  
And sitting down on carefully-placed tin-tacks.

This is indeed the end of term, and we are all looking forward with enthusiasm to holidays (and exams.?)

The shining wits of the form have not been quite so much in evidence as usual, and only two gems of humour have brightened our dull routine: even these were remarkable for their imagination rather than their wit. Mr. W——, a 'fishy' authority, ingeniously introduced to all lovers of sport the splendid fishing grounds off the South Coast of Canada; we, however, are inclined to believe that he was 'codding.'

Christmas approaches fast, and, as at this season giving is closely associated with eating, our friend M—— is evidently more given to the latter, for, in his translation of Latin, he confusedly substituted 'doughnut' for 'donat.'

In the big event of the term, that is to say, the Gala, we were very unfortunate in that Goodwin, probably our best swimmer, was unable to compete, and no victories came our way.

At football, however, we have shone. We have, so far, played only three matches. The first, against IVa., we won by four goals to two; in the second, we beat IVj. by seven goals to three; and we finished by beating IIIb. by a slight margin, the score being twenty-three goals to two! May this success continue to attend us in the future!

We have a large number of keen chess players, including Goodwin, who is in the Second Division.

No one has yet succeeded in removing Blair from his position at the head of the lists. In the last sheet he had six stars.

We all extend a very hearty welcome to Mr. Hall, who has returned after a long illness, during which Mr. Davies took his place as our form-master.

I. M., assisted by S. D. & H. W.

#### IVj.

Our football this term has been quite average; we have played six matches in all. We lost to IVa. by seven goals to eight, after having previously drawn, four all. We drew with Vj. (seven all), lost by three goals to seven to IVb. and beat IIIa: twice by the same amount, the score being three to one in each case.

We had several entries for the Swimming Gala, but no laurels came to us, although Smart had entered for everything and staked his all (half-a-crown) on the result.

The fourths were annoyed at not being allowed to attend the Mock Election, but this was owing to the fact that several boys were creating a disturbance in the passage before the debate commenced. We hope for better luck next time.

One bright youth, D\*!i\*!l, distinguished himself by saying that Columbus "found great difficulty with the currants." We are not sure whether they gave him 'pains under his pinny,' or stuck in his throat. Another gentleman who is, perhaps, worthy of note, is W\*o\*m\*n, the "World's Champion imitator of a hyena." This accomplishment comes quite naturally to him, and any one who would like to sample it should pay him the sum of one shilling, when he will oblige with a demonstration.

"Matter," say the knowing ones, "is indestructible and indivisible." "But," queries a 'Smart' youth, "where does matter go when you get holes in your stockings?" (Aha!)

J.S.

#### IIIa.

The form is still as jolly as it used to be. Certain boys, of whom D\*\*n is one, continue to amuse us. D\*\*n says that a Llama has six wheels, while another youth is still trying to find what an army is.

Br\*\*\*n loves VIr. room, and seems happy only when there. We have now a cycling club, which we hope will do well. Humphreys, our crack centre-fowward, has scored nearly thirty goals this season. We beat IIIb. by seven goals to three. Good-bye until next term. Q.

### IIIb.

We are making progress in several directions ; at football, chess, and stamp-collecting.

We are proud of Clare, who is the best runner in the third forms, and who helped us to win the third form run.

One Wednesday afternoon we were to have run against IIIa., but, whether from ' funk,' or by reason of ' Wednesday afternoon school,' they did not turn up.

We have done only moderately well in football, losing five matches out of seven. Our late captain has resigned, and we are now under the leadership of Davies. As yet, IIIj. is the only form to feel our supremacy in this direction.

Eight of our number are in the Chess Club, the brightest ' sparks ' being Sarginson and Lawson.

There are few in the form who do not collect foreign stamps ; this hobby should be encouraged, for, besides being interesting, it is a sound investment, as the value of many stamps increases as time goes on.

We have been gaining an increasing number of ' stars ' during the term ; there were eighteen on the last sheet.

Unfortunately, we have more detentions than either of the other thirds, one boy having contributed fifteen ! We hope, however, that the figure will soon be greatly reduced. J.M.

### IIIj.

We are not at all proud of our record on the sports field, as we have lost both our fixtures by seven goals to three, and six goals to four respectively.

Friend H\*\*\*\*\*b\*\*\*y came off second best in a tussle with the vaulting box in the Gym, and as a result had to pay a short visit to a local hospital. We have also had minor casualties in the woodwork room. Some people simply can't realise that it is the wood, and not their fingers, which they are to cut !

About six of our more seriously-minded members have joined the Chess Club. G.E.P.



### JUNIOR SCHOOL NOTES.

Since the last issue of *The Visor*, the Junior School has lost its "senior" members, and our second forms are now the unimportant thirds 'across the yard.' Marvellous to relate, they still seem to be aware of the existence of the Junior School and are not too proud to claim acquaintance with us. This unusual state of affairs is worth recording!

The present second forms seem to be quite as active as those of last year. Their interest was aroused recently by the political posters displayed in the Senior School and they decided to be present at the mock election. In spite of some—not unexpected—opposition, they apparently succeeded in forcing their way in, and, we believe, recorded their votes after careful consideration! They have, too, produced a Junior School football team which has won each of the matches played against the third forms on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The Cub Pack has been re-organised and continues to achieve successes. For the third time in succession, it carried off the Sports Shield, and, by winning the cub events, helped the 23rd group to gain the Swimming Shield. Some cubs again camped with the scouts during the summer holidays, and seem to have adapted themselves to camp life with remarkable zeal. It is reported that, on one occasion, two cubs—with a true scouting feeling of brotherly love—were found to be using the same bowl of water, one for scrubbing his teeth, the other for washing his feet!

Every spare moment now is devoted to rehearsal of the play to be given at the Prize Distribution which, as usual, takes place at the end of the Christmas term. The Juniors are acting scenes from "The Wind in the Willows" with some of the music written for "Toad of Toad Hall," and we hope that it will be as successful as last year's production of "The Rose and the Ring."

Nobody can have failed to notice the change in the appearance of the Junior School building. Its peculiar style of architecture is intensified by the yellow and green paint which now adorns it. Those whose way to school lies along Derby Road are gradually growing accustomed to the somewhat startling view it presents, and, fortunately, November fogs and Birkenhead soot have already dimmed its radiance.

H.M.D.

**FOOTBALL.****First Eleven.**

The First Eleven has won four games and lost five but it must be noted that, out of the five games lost, three were the first matches of the season when a number of experiments were being made.

Now the team has become more settled, we have reasonable hopes for the Senior Shield Competition, although we lost the services of Shipley and Powl during the latter part of the term.

We regret the absence of our captain, Currie, since the second match of the season. Minns, as deputy, has, however, very capably executed his duties.

**September 23rd, v. Alsop High School (Away).**

The School fielded an almost trial side, Neil and Smith having changed positions and Powl having moved to left-half. B.I. were decidedly unimpressive but according to the run of the play were unfortunate in losing by so many goals.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 0. Alsop High School 5.

**September 30th, v. Liverpool Collegiate (Home).**

Playing with the slope, Collegiate opened the score, but a little later Neil equalised. Collegiate, however, took the lead and by half-time were further ahead. In the second half the School played better, Neil decreasing the lead, but the Collegiate's forwards took advantage of several lapses on the part of B.I.'s defence and scored two more goals.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 2. Liverpool Collegiate 6.

**October 7th, v. Bootle Secondary School (Away).**

Conditions were unfavourable; a steep side-slope being augmented by a strong cross wind. The School were unfortunate when Minns hit the cross-bar, and Rice the post with a great long-range drive. Bootle opened the score and later went further ahead. About ten minutes from the end Minns scored whilst B.I. were having the best of the play. If the team had rallied five minutes earlier the School would probably have equalised but as it was the extra effort came too late.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 1. Bootle Secondary School 2.

**October 21st, v. Quarry Bank School (Home).**

Kicking with the slope, Quarry Bank opened the score, but almost immediately Neil equalised from a pass up the middle by Smith, G.W. B.I. took the lead through Smith, J.A., who later added a third. From a long shot, Minns rushed in and headed the ball out of the goal-keeper's hands to score the fourth. Quarry Bank later reduced the lead from a break-away. Throughout the game, there was present in the School team that system which had hitherto been lacking.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 4. Quarry Bank 2.

**October 28th, v. Oulton Secondary School (Away).**

Miller made his debut, at inside-right. Oulton kicked with the wind and had the majority of the play in the first half. Thus it was against the run of the play when B.I. broke away and Minns headed in a centre from Neil. Later Oulton deservedly equalised. Early in the second half Neil scored twice; Rice quickly added a fourth and just on time an Oulton player headed into his own goal from a cross shot by Minns.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 5. Oulton Secondary School 1.

**November 4th, v. St. Edward's College (Home).**

During the first quarter of an hour the School obtained a 3—1 lead through Neil (2) and Shipley. Minns added a fourth but St. Edward's scored again just on half-time. Throughout the whole of the first half Robinson, playing a brilliant game, was responsible for St. Edward's score being limited to two. In the second half Neil deflected into the net a shot by Smith, J. A., and Rice scored with a fine long-range shot. St. Edward's decreased the lead a few minutes before time.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 6. St. Edward's 3.

**November 11th, v. Holt Secondary School (Away).**

The School had most of the game in the first half, but the forwards missed many scoring chances. In the second half Holt scored three times, and though chances still presented themselves to B.I.'s forwards, the latter failed owing to poor shooting and finishing. Individually the forwards were quite good; they combined well in mid-field but were very poor in front of goal.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 0. Holt Secondary School 3.



**November 18th, v. Liscard High School (Home).**

Considering the bad conditions the play of both sides was of a very high order. The School took the lead through Miller, but Liscard equalised and later took the lead. Neil brought the scores level, but Liscard surprised B.I.'s defence and scored twice. Early in the second half Shipley headed in a centre from Minns but Liscard swept the ball to the other end and scored a fifth. B.I. rallied and attacked strongly until the end of the game. Smith, J.A., scored the fourth while Minns equalised and added the winning goal from Shipley, who played well in his last match for the School.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 6. Liscard High School 5.

**November 25th, v. Alsop High School (Home).**

Alsop early took the lead, and scored again before half time. After the resumption Alsop dominated the game and scored another two. In the last quarter of an hour the School rallied and took control of the play. Shaw shot just wide from a penalty, but both Smith, J. A., and Morrell, who was making his debut, scored with good shots.

Result: Birkenhead Institute 2. Alsop High School 4.

**Second Eleven.**

Sept. 23rd—v. Alsop High School (Home) ... Lost 2—3  
 Sept. 30th—v. Liverpool Collegiate (Away)... ... Lost 1—12  
 Oct. 7th—v. Bootle Secondary School (Home) Won 6—5  
 Oct. 21st—v. Quarry Bank School (Away) ... Won 4—2  
 Oct. 28th—v. Oulton Secondary School (Home) Won 6—0  
 Nov. 4th—v. St. Edward's College (Away) ... Lost 3—5  
 Nov. 11th—v. Holt Secondary School (Home) ... Won 4—0  
 Nov. 25th—v. Alsop High School (Away) ... Won 2—1

**BADMINTON CLUB.**

The Club has started well this term, six new members having joined. This makes a total of five masters and six boys, leaving four vacancies. Practice is in full swing, for, although there are some still in the "promising" stage, we hope for good results in the near future, so that matches can be arranged for next year.

If there are any boys who wish to join the Club, which meets every Friday, after School, they should see Mr. Sorby about any details. Members bring their own racquets and the subscription is 2s. 6d.

J.W.

**CHESS CLUB.**

" I attribute much of my success to my early start "—

J. R. Capablanca.

If the third and fourth formers of the School would think over this remark of the world's finest chess-master, if they would only realise what a lot there is in Chess, and come down some Tuesday or Thursday to learn the elements of the game, we should soon have a club comparable with any on Merseyside,—something for the School to be proud of. Remember that we held the Wright Challenge Shield for three of the first five years of its existence, and that we shall not be able to produce teams to regain it until talent joins while young for development.

Our team this year consists of Sarginson, Jellicoe (capt.), Marsh, F. W. Miller, F. L. Miller, Ashton, and Weston, while Martin plays reserve. We have played five matches in this year's Shield Competition.

The Results were :—

Birkenhead Institute ... ..	1	Oulton ... ..	6
Birkenhead Institute ... ..	3½	Oldershaw ... ..	3½
Birkenhead Institute ... ..	2	Rock Ferry H. School ...	5
Birkenhead Institute ... ..	2½	Liverpool Institute ... ..	4½
Birkenhead Institute ... ..	4	Merchant Taylor's Sch ...	3

—making a score of 1½ points out of 5.

Rock Ferry defeated us for the first time in the history of the Shield Competition. The best individual score is Sarginson's three games out of five.

The Club again consists of four Divisions. The first is bigger than usual, containing eleven members. The tournament has taken an unexpected turn, for Weston bids fair to be School Champion, having lost only one of the seven games he has played.

In the Second Division, consisting of thirteen members, J. A. A. Smith leads with a score of seven games out of eight.

**DEBATING SOCIETY NOTES.**

There was not much opportunity to get the Society properly going before half-term, but a general meeting was held near the end of October. W. H. Marsh was elected Secretary in succession to E. J. Matthews, who left us last term. Mr. Allison's never failing co-operation with our efforts is the main reason for our success.

The committee consists, at present of Keats (publicity), Jellicoe, Jenkins and F. W. Miller. There will probably be additions later.

In order to renew interest in a once popular society, we decided to organise a Mock Election, which was held in the Gym on Tuesday, November 10th, with Mr. Jellicoe in the chair, and resulted in Mr. F. W. Miller, the Liberal candidate, being returned as M.P. for the Birkenhead Institute constituency by a majority of one.

On Tuesday, December 1st, we held the first Debate of the Session in the Gym, the motion being:—

“That the bad effects of the cinema outweigh its good effects.”

Mr. Matthews was in the chair. The proposer was Mr. F. W. Miller, seconded by Mr. Neil, and the opposer Mr. Jellicoe, seconded by Mr. Cullen. The two seconders are new to our Society, and we hope that many others will follow their excellent lead. The motion was rejected by 27 votes to 12.

A programme for next term is now in course of preparation. It will interest the younger boys to hear that it will include the annual Junior Debate for third and fourth forms only.

One advantage our Society has over others is that there is no formal membership. You have only to come in after school and enjoy what is usually a very interesting meeting. Don't forget that organisation is hard work. Make it worth our while and turn up in encouraging numbers. W.H.M.

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### THE HARRIERS CLUB.

This is the third successful year of the Harriers' Club. During the past term we have held about ten meetings, including a fixture with the Liverpool University, run over their course on October 31st, and one with Alsop, at home, on November 18th.

The first of these two events we lost to the Varsity by 47 points to 34. We had the first two men home, however, in Shaw and G. W. Smith, and we might have been much more successful had not several members of our team lost the course. We fielded the following team:—Shaw (capt.), G. W. Smith, Christian, W. H. Marsh, Rees, Wallace, Williams, and Wood.

The second event we lost to Alsop by 39 points to 20. Rain had been falling for several days before the match and parts



of the course were in a very bad state. This was a handicap for the visiting team, who are accustomed to a road course, but they made good use of the road section of our course, and it soon became apparent that they had the upper hand. Moreover, we were unfortunate in having several of our team unfit, and we hope for greater success in our return match next term. Our team was as follows:—Shaw (capt.), Christian, Rees, Wallace, Williams, Loxam, and Gill.

In spite of the losses it has suffered since last year, the Senior pack retains its former strength. Some big improvements are noticeable in the old members, and several new members are showing great ability. These include Wallace and A. H. Williams, who, in a few weeks, have risen to prominent positions in the School team.

The Junior pack is very small and needs a lot more members. Tweedle and Clare have, however, been very consistent, and show steady improvement.

We have fixtures for next term with Alsop, the 'Varsity, Liverpool Institute, and Oulton, and we are hoping for success in some of these at least. Our ordinary Wednesday runs from the School ground are still held, and we invite all who are interested to come along.

J. WOOD, Secretary.

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### THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

Once again the Scientific Society has started a successful season. At the business meeting, Mr. Watts was re-elected chairman, and Wetherell and Sarginson were elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Bridge, Jenkins, Marsh, and Williams were elected to the committee.

Lectures were later arranged for ten meetings, five of which have already been held, and another five are arranged for next term. Owing to financial circumstances, there have been no cards for this year. At the meetings we have kept up the custom of having the chairman chosen by the lecturer himself. This is thought to comfort the lecturer during critical moments.

At the first meeting, Mr. H. T. Davies gave a paper on "The Application of Science to the Detection of Crime." This was a splendid lecture, and the attendance was remarkably good. Members now think twice about the clues they are likely to leave behind, when contemplating criminal pursuits.

Mr. Piggott, an old boy of the Society, gave a talk on the subject of "Short Waves." He stated that he had obtained satisfactory results from his set, and offered to help any member who might be in difficulties in that direction.

On November 13th, Mr. Watts gave a very interesting talk, accompanied by slides, on "The Life of Faraday." Mr. Watts said that Faraday's was an excellent example of what could be done by perseverance, and love of one's subject, as Faraday's early education was practically negligible.

Broadhurst also gave a lecture on the "Wireless Valve," and A.H. Williams one on "Protective Colouring in Animals."

Prospective members should note that there is still room in the Society, especially for those who come from the Fifth Forms.

Practice is being given to members in proposing and seconding votes of thanks. It is apparent, however, that some of the members require more practice than the Society can give.

The thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Watts and the Science Staff for their interest and help throughout the term.

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### SCOUT NOTES.

The annual camp, which this year was held at Silverdale in North Lancashire, was as usual a complete success. The theories of the geographical experts, referred to in the last notes, proved wrong, for, although Birkenhead was not blessed with fine weather, Silverdale experienced only two wet days. The camp was one of the largest yet held, and the party included four officers, twenty-five scouts and eleven wolf cubs. All of these enjoyed the excellent facilities which the surroundings presented.

We hope that the Cub who opened his camera to see how the photos were getting on was highly satisfied with his results.

At the Inter-Troop Swimming Gala, held in October, the Troop representatives, for the third year in succession, won the Brewster Challenge Shield, gaining the highest aggregate of points. As a result of this, four of the swimmers, R. Smith, Ashton, Wylie, and Makin were chosen to swim for Birkenhead, at the County Swimming Gala held at Chester.

The Troop gained fifth place in the recent Inter-Troop evening, held at the School. We hope to give a better account of ourselves, however, in future competitions.

This term the Troop has increased considerably so that, although we have lost several of the older members, we are now over fifty strong. So far, badge work has taken up most of our time, one more First Class having been gained by Alldis, and a large number of Tenderfoot and Proficiency Badges have been distributed throughout the Troop.

At present, we are very busy preparing a programme for the Tea and Social to be held at the end of the term. The Cubs are to join us, and the evening promises to be particularly successful.

We regret to say that Mr. Solly, who was President of the Birkenhead Scout Council and who has always taken an interest in the School Troop, has found it necessary to resign his position.

We are pleased to announce that the Headmaster has been elected vice-chairman of the executive committee of the Birkenhead Association for the coming year. We wish him every success in this new capacity.

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### ON WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR THE VISOR.

I dip my pen into the ink.  
I scratch my head and try to think.  
I think of school, I think of sport,  
Of all the subjects I am taught,  
Of schoolboy joys and schoolboy woes,  
But not a word from my pen flows.  
I think of land, I think of sea,  
Of all the things I'd like to be.  
I think of men, I think of boys,  
Of cinemas and other joys,  
I think of Christmas when it comes,  
Of puddings huge, stuffed up with plums,  
I think, I think, I think in vain,  
So now I think I'll write my name.

F. L. MILLER, VIs.



### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CONSTANT READER, VIr. We might reduce *The Visor* to 6d., if we could get any articles, but as it is, we fear it will be reduced to zero.

ANNOYED, VIb. The preparation of  $H_2S$  does not, technically, constitute a nuisance. If, however, the gas comes on to your premises, you are legally entitled to take any steps, however drastic, to remove it. The law cannot touch you, even if you open windows.

CURIOUS, Va. 'Curious' writes, "Does any one know quite why most of the youth of Tranmere and district is in the habit of shutting itself up in certain forbidding-looking buildings every morning, and remaining there (more or less) until the evening?"

As this is a big subject, I would refer you to Professor Jelly Koh's latest work, "Hill Tribes of Tranmere." [Library Publishing Co., 17/6. Patch-work cover 6d. extra], in which this topic is fully dealt with.

INDIGNANT V. Yes, our Communist candidate is standing by his pledges. As leader of the Opposition, he is advocating a heavy duty on detentions, to be paid *by the donor*.

HELPFUL VIIs. You suggested that the Prefects be given a holiday to go to the 'grotto.' You would have been amply repaid, had you seen their little faces light up at the prospect of shaking hands with Father Christmas.

WORRIED IIIa. A knowledge of hieroglyphics is not an essential qualification for membership of *The Visor* committee, but it is advisable.

You may become a Head Prefect, if you continue to wash your neck, especially behind the ears, as soon as you have saved enough to pay for your gold braid.

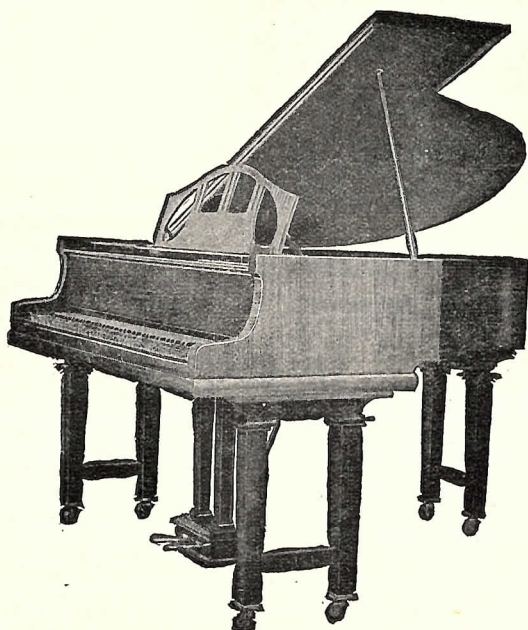
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If you have any troubles, or if there are any points, legal or otherwise, which you would like cleared up, write to

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N.B.—Do not send a stamped addressed envelope, unless you have no other use for it.

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