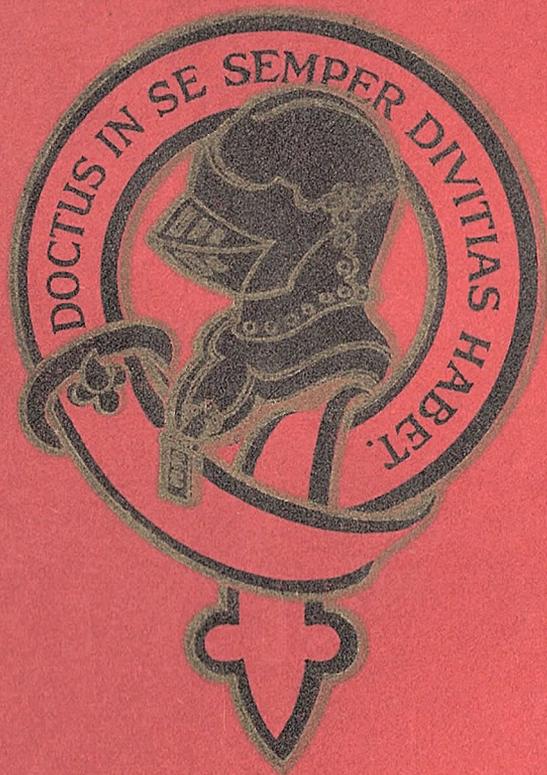
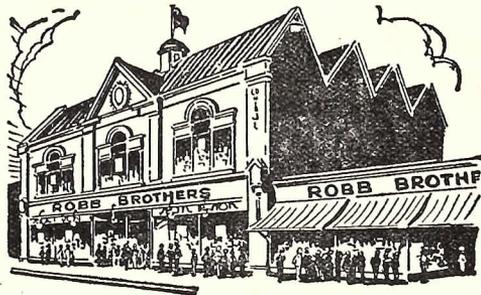


"THE VISOR"



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

EASTER, 1931.



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THE VISOR

THE ORGAN OF THE BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE.

VOL. IV., No. 2.

EASTER, 1931.

EDITORIAL.

Two great improvements in School life have taken place this term. First of these is the great reduction in the number of lates. It is well known that slackness in any department, whether office or school, usually shows itself in tardiness. Hence this diminution seems to indicate a much greater efficiency. This belief is further supported by the second change. The much complained of rowdiness in both form-rooms and corridors has now almost vanished. The latter, however, has been attributed to a much more serious cause, namely influenza, it being said that sore throats are by no means productive of loud-voiced conversations.

This affliction has taken great toll of the School throughout the term, and many familiar faces were missed. Nevertheless, the large number of vacations so earned did not produce a flood of articles, but instead, they became still fewer. Hence it seems unfair that *The Visor* should be criticised as being more a minute book of the previous term's activities than a collection of literary articles. The magazine would not be a School magazine without the reports from the societies, and it is only by an increase of suitable articles that the proportion of reading matter to reports can become larger. Does not the feeble support given by the School this term indicate that it is quite satisfied with *The Visor* in its present form? We are willing to extend the magazine to sixty or more pages if only the additional pages contain nothing but good, readable matter and there is a corresponding increase in sales.

At present, the new means adopted of stimulating the sales have increased the number of subscribers by one hundred and fifty. The circulation is now five hundred copies and, as far as the sales are concerned, there is every hope of realising the proposed increase in the size of the magazine, if only the Old Boys will justify the eight pages devoted to them in this issue by buying largely. We hope that in the future sales to Old Boys will amount to two hundred copies.

We regret that the Football Teams and the Chess Club have not been able to repeat the fine results they obtained

last year, and that the School must once more forego both Junior and Senior Shields, and the Wright Challenge Shield. Full details of these activities will, however, be found elsewhere.

We are pleased to include in this issue the first report of the Orchestra, a School activity that was much needed, and which has received much support since Mr. W. E. Williams kindly lent his aid at its beginning. We should like to add that this new venture may well suggest another—the inauguration of a Dramatic Society. Indeed, the Old Boys have for the first time formed a society that the School does not possess, and their first Dramatic Society Notes will be found in this issue. Hats off to the Old Boys!

Finally, we ask any boy, who has an innovation he would like *The Visor* to adopt, to send it, in letter form, to the Committee some time during next term, and anyone, who has a humorous, serious, or ingenious thought, to express it in words and hand it in as soon as possible. We address one warning to the latter. His article need not be a model of English Literature. An original thought couched in presentable English is all he need submit.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT.

On the last day of the Christmas term the whole school assembled in the Gym for the end-of-term concert. Seating accommodation was provided, and everyone received a printed copy of the Christmas hymns and carols. These included "Good King Wenceslas," in which Mr. Harris took the part of the King and Griffiths (Vr.), that of the Page. Pianoforte solos were given by Keates and Wetherell, and a violin solo by Snelson. The School Orchestra played Purcell's "Trumpet Tune" and accompanied the Staff when they sang that fine old 15th Century carol "Unto us a boy is born." Everyone entered into the spirit of the concert, in spite of the dark shadow that loomed ahead, that ever-present nightmare through the happy term, alas! so quickly passed:—three long tedious weeks of holiday.

A noteworthy feature of this concert was that it witnessed the first appearance of the Orchestra at a school function. It is hoped that this will be the first of many appearances which will be made by this and succeeding Orchestras at end-of-term concerts and on Speech Night. G.R.

SALVETE.**IVa.**—Atkin:—Black, L. D. **Stitt**:—Powell, J. P.**IIIa.**—Westminster:—Holme, W. O.**Lower Prep.**—Tate:—Aitken, J. A. C.**VALETE.****Upper VI.**—Atkin:—Benson, C. W. **Tate**:—Dutton, T. S., Hardie, W. R., Thomas, R. D. **Westminster**:—Horne, A. C. (1925-30), *Matric, 1930, Prefect, Captain of Harriers Club.***VIa.**—Tate:—Woodhead, R. A.**Va.**—Stitt:—Taylor, H.**Vb.**—Tate:—Jones, S. R.**ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES.****Neither Late nor Absent for the Year 1929-30.**

S. E. Anderson, W. W. Aslett, G. G. Bennett, T. W. Blair, D. Boggie, W. E. Boston, H. J. Bozier, L. S. Clarkson, F. B. Collins, G. Collinson, D. A. Cumming, W. Cumming, J. Davies, R. L. Davies, P. T. Edwards, S. Elton, J. Enescott, G. Glaister, T. H. H. Green, W. G. Grundy, W. J. Hayes, V. G. Hughes, G. F. Hemsall, S. W. Jones, F. Kirkland, W. L. Ince, W. H. Kendrick, D. Magee, R. E. May, F. L. Miller, K. G. Miller, J. S. Moffatt, G. S. Neil, W. H. Penlington, J. W. Piggott, J. G. Ramsden, N. W. Rees, A. D. Rogers, J. F. Rogers, T. Seville, F. Silcock, G. E. Slee, R. Squires, V. A. Stanley, E. Taylor, E. Todd, C. G. Todd, P. B. Wharton, J. C. G. Watkins, L. B. Wood.

Neither Late nor Absent for Two Years 1928-30.

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

Neither Late nor Absent for Three Years 1927-30.

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

Neither Late nor Absent for Four Years 1926-30.

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

Neither Late nor Absent for Five Years 1925-30.

W. Bridge, J. P. Hardie.

Neither Late nor Absent for Six Years 1924-30.

E. J. Matthews.

SCHOLARSHIPS.**Bartlett Entrance Scholarship to the University of Liverpool,
for Engineering.**

£100 per annum for 3 years: L. B. Wood.

Kitchener Scholarship.

£50: G. W. D. Wright.

Royal Artillery Exhibition.

£28: G. W. D. Wright.

Educational Training Grant.

A. V. Humphreys, J. M. McNeill, J. W. Piggott.

INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS.**Henry Tate.**

£10: W. Bridge, G. N. Jenkins, R. R. Sarginson, J. Wood.

Duke of Westminster.

£5: R. C. Loxam, L. S. Clarkson, V. H. Lees, A. D. Rogers.

Atkin.

£5: J. R. Campbell, W. D. Christian.

1929-30, OLD BOYS' SUCCESSES.**University of Cambridge.**

Natural Sciences Tripos, Part I., Class II.: J. R. Dickinson.

University of London.

Intermediate B.Sc.: G. Whalley.

University of Manchester.

Degree of Mus.Doc.: C. E. Jarvis.

University of Liverpool.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE :—

Degree of M.B., Ch.B.

Final Examination, Part A, with Distinction in Forensic
Medicine and Toxicology : I. Harris.Second Examination, with Distinction in Anatomy and
Physiology : S. Papperovitch.

D.P.H. : Dr. J. W. Pickup, M.B., Ch.B.

FACULTY OF ARTS :—

Honours School of French, Part I., Class I. : S.Y. Richard-
son.

Ordinary Degree of B.A. : H. Christian.

1st Year Examination : I. R. M. Latto.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE :—

Degree of M.Sc. School of Chemistry : R. Kerr.

Degree of M.Sc. School of Chemistry : R.Kerr, J.H.Reade.

Degree of B.Sc. with Honours :

School of Physics, Class I. : R. E. Wood.

Intermediate Examination : R. Blackwood, G. Clark.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING :—

School of Electrical Engineering.

Degree of B.Eng., Class I. : J. E. Lowry.

School of Mechanical Engineering.

Degree of B.Eng. (Honours), Class I. : J. W. Gray.

Intermediate Examination : B. H. Cockbain, D. F. W.
Jenkins, C. H. Verity.

School of Commerce.

Degree of B.Comm., 1st Year Examination : C. Kehoe.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER EXAMINATIONS :—

David Rew Memorial Scholarship (renewed for second
year) : late C. D. Hall.University Scholarship, Honorary Scholar and Oliver
Lodge Prize : R. E. Wood.

Stitt Gold Medal for Mechanical Engineering : G.W. Gray.

Institute of Chartered Accountants :—

Final Examination : W. J. Brereton.

Intermediate Examination : D. J. Hadfield.

PRIZE LIST.

FORM IIIA.		FORM IVA.		FORM VA.	
1st Prize...	H. J. Bozier.	1st Prize...	L. Evans.	1st Prize...	L.S.Clarkson.
2nd ,,	...C. A. Lunn.	2nd ,,	...A. Cathcart.	2nd ,,	...S. J. Jones.
3rd ,,	...C. R. Barker.	3rd ,,	...G.H.Weston.	3rd ,,	G.F. Hemsall.
3rd ,,	...T. W. Hunt.	4th ,,	...K. G. Miller.	4th ,,	...W.H. Marsh.
FORM IIIB.		FORM IVB.		FORM VB.	
1st Prize...	D. Boggie.	1st Prize...	G. Moughtin.	1st Prize	N.D.H.Shipley.
2nd ,,	...G.E.Hughes.	2nd ,,	W.H.Penlington.	2nd ,,	...W. L. Ince.
3rd ,,	...C. Alldis.	3rd ,,	...L. M. Davies.	3rd ,,	...E.W.G.Brewster.
FORM IIIC.		FORM IVC.		FORM VC.	
1st Prize	W.H.Edelston.	1st Prize...	J. H. Wright.	1st Prize	J.C.G.Watkins.
2nd ,,	...E. Taylor.	2nd ,,	...D. R. Wylie.	2nd ,,	...H. Gibson.
3rd ,,	D.C.Chapman.	3rd ,,	...R. Colenso		

Special Prizes for High Standard in Matriculation.

C. W. Benson, W. Bridge, A. W. Burnet, A. C. Horne, A. G. Lewis, M. A. Minns, J. Pemberton, F. Richards, K. R. Sarginson, V. A. Stanley, P. B. Wharton, J. Wood.

The George Holt Prizes.

Mathematics...L. B. Wood.
 Chemistry.....L. B. Wood. Prox.Accessit.G.W.D.Wright.
 Physics.....L. B. Wood. Prox.Accessit.G. V. Ovens.

Solly History Prize.

J. E. Pierce.

Connacher Memorial Prize for English.

A. V. Humphreys, J. M. McNeill.

Miss Dodge Memorial Prize for History Essay.

(Presented by Rev. C. Dodge).

G. Jellicoe.

Prizes for Drawing.

E. Gill, W. W. Aslett.

Silver Cup for Games.

Senior: A. W. Burnet; Junior: K. Rice.

House Trophies (Champion Houses).

Athletics: Westminster; Football: Stitt; Cricket: Tate.

Medals for Drill and Gymnastics (Champion Four).

T. J. Andrews, R. N. Barton, J. P. Hardie, H. Colley.

Free Exercise Medal.

G. V. Ovens,

MRS. BEETON'S PAVILION HELP.**To make tea :**

Soak dishes over-night in hot water. Strain water in the morning, place in stoppered bottle, and use when required.

To make lemonade :

Divide the cost of the tin of lemonade powder by the number of grains in the tin ; work out to three decimal places the number of grains per penny. Halve number of grains, place in glass, and charge 2d.

To save sugar :

Don't give any.

To test money :

(a) Place coin between front teeth, wrench coin down towards chin. If your teeth come out or break, take the coin.

(b) Clash coin on counter. Then read chapter on Sound, " Physics for School Certificate," W. Littler, 3/6.

To steal cakes :

Just eat them. They have not been missed before. They won't be missed now.

MAN, VIa.

LIMERICKS.

There was a young fellow of Kent,
Whose nose was exceedingly bent.
He tried a massage,
But it made it too large,
So he stuck it up straight with cement.

J. S., IIIJ.

A lazy young fellow, named Ted,
Spent half of his time in his bed ;
Till, one morning early,
His father, quite surly,
Emptied him out on his head !

L. G., IIIb.

There was an old man of Nout
Who suffered from pains he called ' gout.'
When his friend said " I thought
That you suffered from nought " ;
He gave up the ghost with a shout.

R. V. W., IIIb.

Said a cute old codger of Cutch,
 " For houses they're asking too much,
 So I'll ask my tame rabbit
 To teach me the habit
 Of making my home in a hutch." N. W., IVb.

To a bee-keeper, living in Friesland,
 Said a Scot, " I don't mind if your bees land
 On my sporran or kilt,
 But I naturally wilt,
 When the troublesome pests on my knees land."
N. W., IVb.

" A MURDER HAS BEEN ARRANGED."

The hall clock was the only thing that broke the silence of the night. The room was in darkness, save where a beam of moonlight streamed through the oriel window and struck the crimson fringe of the carpet. Suddenly, the oaken door creaked on its hinges. It gradually opened to reveal the ugly features of a man, carrying a stump of candle, which flickered and sent ghostly shadows leaping round the room. He was closely followed by another, who, though not so ugly, was stouter and far from handsome. Both of them crept stealthily across the thick piled carpet, and now and again glanced nervously around, as though they feared being seen. The second crossed to a bureau, in front of which he knelt down. At the same time he beckoned to the other, who held the candle. He then started to work at the lock, when, without any warning, the first man produced an ugly-looking knife, and plunged it into the other's back. Uttering a piercing cry, he fell on his side.

Skilfully concealed behind a box in the corner, over which hung the folds of a cloth, was a third man. On hearing the cry he stood up. The man holding the candle spun round on his heel. " Well " ? he gasped breathlessly. The third man crossed to the centre of the room and carelessly lit a cigarette. " Rotten " ! he replied. " We'll have that reel again to-morrow " !
J.G.K., VIr.

A LAMENT.

Oh! School it is a pleasant place
 For those that are most spry;
 But School it is an awful place
 For such a dud as I!

KELLIT, IIb.

CRABWALL DINGLE.

Crabwall Dingle is a wood near Saughall, and, although only small, it is remarkable for the number of birds which nest in and around it.

In 1928, we found a large, well-built nest in a tree, quite easy for climbing, which was overhanging the stream flowing through the Dingle. This was a sparrowhawk's. It was empty when we first found it, but later, four eggs were laid, all well marked. The ground colour of the egg is a very pale blue, like that of a cloudless sky just after sunset. The larger end is covered with reddish blotches, arranged so as to appear like a coronet.

Next year, a lesser spotted wood-pecker built, or rather bored, high up in an absolutely inaccessible, branchless ash. I had to be satisfied with watching her untiring search for insects, and listening to her incessant tap, tap, tap. Later on in the year, a pair of starlings usurped the "hole."

Each year a magpie builds in the Dingle, but often the nest is high up in the thin branches, where it is impossible to climb.

Usually a long-tailed tit builds its peculiar, bottle-shaped, nest in some of the thorny sloe bushes which form an impenetrable mass at the end of the Dingle. This nest is a really wonderful structure, as it consists of moss, horsehair, and fibres, matted together into a fine felt. The tiny hole is at the top of the side of the nest, and is only big enough for three fingers to be inserted at once. On the outside of the nest, the bird sticks pieces of rotten wood to make it inconspicuous. On one of the nests I saw, the bird had stuck pieces of newspaper.

Last year, a carrion crow built in the Dingle, but she never laid, because we climbed to the nest, and the crows seem to realise that they are not safe if the tree is climable.

We spoke of the owls last term. One of the four Saughall owls lays in the same nest in the Dingle each year, and, incidentally, when I was at Saughall during half-term, the nest showed signs of "spring cleaning." In a week or so, it may have eggs in it.

A.H.W., Upper VIb.

SONG OF THE DAYS.

At 7 o'clock I open my eyes
 And sigh "Woe is me, I now must arise,"
 For to school I must go
 Through the sun, rain, or snow,
 My lessons to learn—

Lack-a-day!

On Wednesday morning I get up with joy,
 For a holiday comes to-day to each boy,
 At football or cricket,
 With goal-post or wicket,
 Through the long afternoon—

Happy Day!

And when the long week comes at last to an end,
 To all sorts of pleasures our minds we will bend;
 When lessons are done,
 We look forward to fun
 On the jolliest day—

Saturday!

G. E. POWL, Form IIa.

THE CHAFFINCH.

It was warm in the nest. The four naked little new born birds nestled against each other, and snuggled closer to their mother. She was a trim little bird, the mother, with the crown and nape of her head grayish-brown, and two conspicuous white bars on her almost black wings. The nest of the chaffinch was wonderfully made. There it lay amidst the thick hawthorn hedge, a mossy model of neatness interwoven with grass, moss, and wool, but lined with soft down, hair, and feathers. No wonder the little birds were warm, most of all the largest and strongest who crushed close to his mother.

He was a fine youngster this largest one, first born of the brood, and larger and stronger than the rest. No doubt his constant clamouring for food, and ruthless usurping of the warmest, softest place in the cosy nest had much to do with his development. For a while all he thought about was warmth and food: first to crouch amongst the warm down when his mother left to foray for food, he was the first to throw wide his beak (ludicrously wide for so small a bird), at the first rustle of her approach. Hustling, jostling, and chirping, he always saw that a large share of flies, insects or succulent caterpillars, brought by his industrious parent, fell to him. So he throve

and grew, and his first covering of greyish brown feathers (later to be changed for the resplendent colours of the male), began to appear. Then one day he lifted his little head above the level of the nest, and viewed with wonder the world around. No longer did the circle of the sky and tangle of boughs form his little universe; he caught glimpses of the world beyond. There, singing on a green-clad bough, was his father, larger and more brightly clad than his dutiful mate, with his bluish-grey neck, chestnut back, and red throat and breast. Beyond the happy songster was a gleam of green field, a streak of blue sky, proclaiming a wonderful world beyond.

Still the young bird grew on, till his sturdy little wings could deal his brothers a buffet, and his little claws could grip tight. Then came the day of his life. His mother, pushing, enticing, twittering, forced him from the nest, along with his brothers, till they hung, swaying drunkenly, on a neighbouring bough. Scolding and encouraging, the busy mother fluttered in front of the frightened little group, till at last the largest bird launched weakly from the bough and half fell, half flew, with fiercely flailing wings, to the ground. From that point he learned quickly; long before the others he could flutter and fly, and soon he could fend for himself. Then followed delightful days of wonder and exploration. He followed his mother over green hill and bubbling stream, he delighted in the cool greenness of the beech wood and the sombre shade of the pine forest, and all the time he learned. He learned that insects abounded in the apple blossomed orchard, but he learned too that danger lay near the white-washed farm-house, dangers connected with the tender seedlings that formed so delicate a food. He learned to perch on the ugly scarecrow, but to fly from any unfriendly movement; and still, as he learned, he grew.

The soft down of his baby-hood was gone, replaced by glossy plumage; his mother's care was forgotten. He now was a chaffinch, a gay, irresponsible, little bird. Flocking with his mates, filling the air with his merry tweet-tweet, he passed the days gaily above the stream and amongst the apple-blossom. Then, at dusk one day, leaving the orchard for his accustomed perch, a trifle late, a trifle weary, comes a rush of wings. A frightened trill ends in frantic, fearful, note, as steely claws bite into tender flesh—the round-eyed owl flies to the hollow tree, and tosses to her fluffy white young the bloody remnant of the largest chaffinch.

NONSENSE.

Do you ever wish that knowledge grew
On bushes, as the berries do;
That, sitting on the garden bench,
One could view the flowers of French,
Or go into the fields to pick
Great bushels of Arithmetic;
That in plantations in the towns,
Grew trees of verbs and proper nouns;
That in our gardens there should be
Great bushels of Geometry?
And, Oh, that one day we should see
A place that grew Geography!

JAY GEE.

COME TO BIRKENHEAD.

Dear Tourist,

I should be very pleased if you could spend a month's holiday here in August.

In the vicinity of Birkenhead, on the opposite bank of the Mersey, lies Liverpool, at which a Merchant Fleet arrives daily. Seven miles of docks provide berths for the numerous ships. The Liverpool Museum and Walker Art Gallery are well-known, as the former has a valuable collection of Ancient Egyptian mummies and earthenware, and the latter has a number of famous pictures. There are many factories in this district where soap, candles, margarine, biscuits, sweets, flour, jam, toys, floor-polish, and aluminium goods are manufactured.

Port Sunlight is only three miles away, and I am certain a visit there will interest you. The boiling of soap is the first process in view. The soap boils in a sixty-ton pan for one week, and then it is run in troughs to moulds where it sets. Men next divide the blocks into bars, which, after being stamped, are despatched in crates to towns all over the world. I have not described in detail but just given a brief account of the manufacture of the well-known, red, "Lifebuoy" soap.

The countryside here is extremely picturesque. There is Raby Mere with its charming lake and woods, and Thurston Hill from which the whole Wirral peninsula may be observed on a clear day. In Wales there are both mountains

and seaside within easy reach, and few districts supply such a variety of scenery.

On Bidston Hill the Observatory is a conspicuous building. It may surprise you that this observatory is the chief centre of the whole British Empire for predicting tides. The depth at high-tide and low-tide, and the exact time at which it will occur at any place for many years hence may be read on an indicator placed on an intricate and delicate machine. There are two telescopes, one of which can be looked through only on twelve nights a year, because no other nights are absolutely clear. An instrument recording the speed and direction of the wind is situated on the summit of a dome, and four rain measures stand in the garden which surrounds the buildings.

Within fifteen miles of Birkenhead the ancient City of Chester with its majestic cathedral and Roman Walls is well worth a visit. Along some streets, shops above street level, attract many purchasers. On the wide River Dee many people go boating.

I have only mentioned half the delights of this district, but, all things considered, shipping is the chief interest. I hope I have said sufficient to make you want to come.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

A Native of Birkenhead,

J. MAYO, IIa.

A DAY IN THE WEST AFRICAN TRADE.

On the south side of the Bight of Biafra lies the sleepy Spanish territory of Rio Muni, bounded on one side by the progressive French Mandated Cameroons, and on the other by the no less progressive French Middle Congo. Both Rio Muni and the adjacent island of Fernando Poo were at one time British, but were exchanged for Trinidad in the early 19th century, and there can be no doubt that the exchange was favourable to us. Nevertheless for some years later we maintained a garrison and squadron headquarters for the purpose of suppressing slavery in S. W. Africa. Rio Muni produces sufficient cocoa, palm oil, and ground nuts to meet the demands of the English and German traders, the Spaniards being too lethargic to take part in much trading.

The few roads that so far have been constructed are frankly bad, and most of the country is in its original condition of dense bush and jungle down to the coast. Vast quantities of mahogany grow in these forests, but lack of roads and transport facilities together with the Spanish disinclination for work render its transport and shipment unprofitable and almost impossible.

There is good hunting for almost any kind of game within about thirty miles of the coast, and the sea and rivers abound with fish. The natives are semi-civilised and cunning, being endowed with rather more than the average African's tendency to thieve.

Bata, the principal town, lies at the head of a bay, and here the Governor's residence is situated, although the province is under the jurisdiction of the Governor of Fernando Poo.

As we approached in the grey dawn of the rapidly awakening tropical day we wondered whether this was Bata. If so, where was the lighthouse with a visibility of ten miles which was marked on the charts? However, on closer inspection we discovered that the lighthouse had disappeared and that the leading marks were now a large solitary cotton tree in line with the red roof of the Custom House. Approaching dead slow, for caution is necessary in navigating these shallow and little frequented waters, we dropped anchor in five fathoms. The charts of this coast are old and have not been corrected or revised for many years, being mainly compiled from data gathered by officers of the naval squadron which patrolled these parts in the middle of the 19th century for the purpose of preventing 'blackbirding.'

Soon after our arrival a surf boat, in which were seated the Doctor and the Customs Officer, put off from the beach and came alongside. After the Purser had surrendered the necessary documents to enter the ship and to show that we had no case of bubonic plague or other contagious disease aboard, and when these had been examined by the two unwashed and unshaven officials, permission was granted for work to commence, and the surf-boats and the launch which tows them to the edge of the beach were lowered into the water. Each of these boats holds some three tons of cargo, mostly consisting of tobacco, rice, gin, matches, and the like. As soon as the boat were loaded, I entered the "Mammy Chair," and was hoisted up and out over the ship's side, and swung high in

the air before being slowly lowered into one of them. The mammy chair somewhat resembles a small swing-boat, with a seat each end, and just holds four persons. It is used for lowering people into the boats at ports where the heavy swell renders the use of the gangway impossible.

The crew of each surf-boat consists of ten boys and a bo's'un who stands in the stern sheets and steers with a short broad oar, while five boys sit on each gunwale and paddle. The launch towed us to about a mile and a half from the beach, and then the launch skipper shouted "Let go," the tow ropes were slipped, and the bo's'uns took charge of their respective boats. No attempt was made to pull for the shore, the boys merely paddling gently to keep the boats stern-on to the swell and conserving their enèrgy for the last few moments when the boats are in the surf. As soon as we reached broken water, the bo's'un shouted an order in Kroo, the boys paddled their hardest, and the first breaker took the boat, lifting the stern high and driving the boat forward at a great rate. At such a moment it is imperative that the boat shall meet the wave stern first, otherwise she would be swung broadside-on to the sea and rolled over, losing the cargo and leaving the occupants to swim for the beach or another boat. As we neared the shore, the waves became higher, and it seemed inevitable that each overtaking breaker should swamp us as it towered over the stern, but in a miraculous way it slipped under the boat, tilting the stern high in the air and driving us forward with the speed of an express train.

At last, after what seemed an age in the seething water, the boat bumped on the sand, and the cases and I were thrown to the bottom, much to the amusement of the crew. As the water receded, they jumped out and pulled the boat broadside-on to the sea, so that the next wave carried her well up the beach and almost clear of the water, where four of the boys held on to the painters while the remaining seven commenced to unload the cargo and carry it up the beach, having first carried me shoulder high to dry land.

Soon the sand was covered with cargo, and the shore gang, mostly negroes (generally known as "mammies") began to carry the cases on their heads to the trader's warehouse. Women do all kinds of manual labour in the French and Spanish colonies, being paid the equivalent of about fourpence per day, but most of this they have to pass on to the chief of the tribe from which the labour is hired or con-

scripted. After a look round I stumbled up the beach, (for it was riddled with the holes of land crabs and lizards), handed the tally sheet to the native clerk and then thanked Heaven that I had not got to work in this place, for, with the crabs, lizards, and outsize mosquitoes in addition to the hot moist climate, things were not particularly pleasant. However, I mopped my brow, adjusted my topee, and proceeded up the red earth road towards the Agent's. Here, as I expected, I was immediately greeted with a request for ice if we had any on board to spare; I promised to send a note off to the ship, and he invited me into his bungalow and offered me such cold liquid hospitality as was procurable in Bata. Ice, of course, is unobtainable in the town and is one of the luxuries eagerly looked forward to by the traders.

We soon dropped into conversation, for a stranger is something of a rarity in Bata, where there are only some twenty Europeans, of whom two are British and four German, and the remainder Spaniards, with whom the Anglo Saxons have little in common. The Agent, himself a German, told me that he had been three and a half years in the district and hoped to go home to Bavaria shortly. After discussing various topics, while the little green lizards ran about the walls and ceiling hunting for flies, I suggested that we should return to the beach to see how work was progressing, so he got up, and we went down to the beach together. Here we found that all the cargo had been landed and the ship was flying the signal to show she had finished discharging, so we went towards the Custom House to obtain the ship's clearance papers and bill of health. This was a two-story stucco building with a red moss-grown roof and a general air of mustiness and decay. Inside we found an untidy-looking individual who on investigation proved to be a customs official; we awoke this gentleman from his siesta and explained our requirements to him. After much searching in drawers and apparently laborious work with a pen the requisite documents were completed and handed to me, so after bidding the Agent farewell I went down to the boats and boarded the last one. This the boys pushed and dragged as far as possible into the water and then scrambled aboard and paddled towards the ship. As the first breakers struck us, it appeared that we should be driven back to the shore, but after a hard struggle we got clear of the surf and then returned to the ship with little difficulty. Here the boats and the launch were hoisted aboard, the anchor weighed and we steamed away to the next port.

J. BELLIS, M. V. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE.

In Memoriam.

PETER W. ATKIN, Esq., O.B.E., J.P.

We regret to announce the death of Peter W. Atkin, Esq., O.B.E., J.P., Recorder of Salford. A son of one of the founders of the Birkenhead Institute, he was among the original Governors and later succeeded his father as their Chairman. He always took a keen interest in the School, to which, as recently as last year, with William Jackson, Esq., he presented two Atkin Scholarships.

By his death the School has lost a good friend.

C. D. HALL.

It is with deepest regret that we record the death of C. D. Hall. A member of the Birkenhead Institute from 1920-1926, he gained his Higher School Certificate before leaving, and, obtaining a Bartlett Scholarship in Engineering, began a study of that subject at Liverpool University. Here he won many successes, including the David Inglis Dawbarn Prize, the Salomon Scholarship of the Institute of Electrical Engineering, the Liverpool University Graduate Scholarship, the David Rew Memorial Scholarship (for two years), and the Degree of B. Eng. with Honours, School of Electrical Engineering, Class I. With the best of his life still before him, he had already achieved distinction rare in one of his years, and his death, at the opening of a career so rich in promise, is a heavier loss than we can tell.

VARIA.

We extend a hearty welcome to Miss Cooper, who took over the position of Secretary at the beginning of this term.

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It is generally known that a Rambling Club is to be formed in the Summer Term, and is to be divided into three sections:—Natural History, Photographic, and Sketching. All boys interested in any one of these three subjects (all know how to ramble, of course) should join the Club, which is to be under the direction of Mr. Paice.

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The School has fared badly in the Shield Competitions this year, but perhaps this was to be expected, as we had only a few of last year's players left.

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The School was again fortunate in having a visit from Dr. Weekes, who this time lectured on "The Effect of Alcohol on the Brain." As before he made his lecture most interesting and instructive. Some of us might even have some idea, as a result of the lecture, of what happens in our brain when we think.

* * * *

All those who attended "The Sport of Kings," given by the Old Boys' Dramatic Society, enjoyed the play immensely. Moral.—Be careful when ordering Kitchen Nuts.

This play was the first venture of the Old Boys' Dramatic Section and was certainly a great success. We wish them all good progress in the future.

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The few that were brave enough to go to Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas" were glad (?) of the opportunity of seeing this opéra. It was rather unfortunate that, during the performance, two actors were suddenly taken ill and the lights fused twice.

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Half-term, this time, strange to relate, came near the middle of the term, and, although the time was rather short, one record was broken—we had fine weather.

* * * *

The attendances at football matches this term have been very disappointing. We should hate to have to ask the Plaza to close on a Wednesday afternoon, but . . .

The wailings and moanings of the School Orchestra still continue to echo and re-echo through the lofty halls after hours. We hope to have an item from our musicians on Speech Day or at some other function soon.

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A new Fire Extinguisher has been placed outside the Physics Lab., probably to quell the ire of the Lab. boys when they see some youth playing with their favourite piece of apparatus.

* * * *

The School seems to have taken a liking for tragedy. Both Hamlet and Macbeth were attended by parties from the Sixth forms. We hope they enjoyed the performances. They will at least find them useful when they come to toil under the cruel sun in July in the Gymnasium.

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We are still hoping to have a School complete in all its essentials, but unless we get our Assembly Hall and some new classrooms, this hope will not be realised.

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A demonstration of the Kodascope was given to the Scientific Society soon after half-term, when two films were shown, the operator being an Old Boy. This machine would be of great educational value in School but here again proper accommodation is lacking.

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We should like to take this opportunity of congratulating L. B. Wood on obtaining the Bartlett Entrance Scholarship to Liverpool University for Engineering, value £100 per annum for three years.

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Heartiest congratulations also to Currie and Minns on obtaining their Football Colours.

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We are sorry to hear that Mr. Deakin has had to go to hospital, and all wish him the speediest possible recovery.

* * * *

Speech Day is on March 23rd, and we hope the function will be remembered by all, especially the prize winners.

We are very grateful to two members of the Staff for giving us the benefit of their powers as public lecturers. Mr. F. W. Jones gave a Lantern Lecture on Lorna Doone to the Fifth and Sixth Remove Forms, and Mr. Watts gave a Public Lecture to the Secondary Schools of Birkenhead on "The Romance of Modern Astronomy."

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The School is at present being honoured by a visit from four student teachers from Liverpool University. We hope that they have received a good impression of B.I.

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The best thanks of *The Visor* Committee are due to J. G. Keates and F. L. Miller, who both came forward with advertisements for the magazine.

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We beg to acknowledge receipt of the following magazines:—The Trumpeter, Holt School Magazine, Wallaceyan, Nautilus Esmaduna, Oultonian, Quest, The Towers, Caldeian, Cowleian, The Lion.

ATKIN HOUSE NOTES.

Success has certainly not attended our steps this term; we have gained no laurels and have done nothing to bring honour to the House; nothing that will be handed down to posterity "for a remembrance;" nothing that will still be stimulating our great-grandchildren to exhibitions of their prowess when we are feeding worms and pushing up daisies. In fact we have only just managed to acquit ourselves without loss of honour and reputation.

In the three-weekly mark sheets we have been bottom both times this term, and we invariably have the greatest number of detentions. There are in the House several individuals who seem to make a hobby of collecting detentions, and, unless this is speedily remedied, drastic steps will be taken to put it right. As most of the offenders are either footballers or harriers, this will tell pretty heavily on them. Why should the efforts of all the rest of the House be defeated by a few detention-hogs?

At football we have done no better than last term, and the results, except in the case of the Juniors, are certainly nothing to brag about. Since the beginning of the season our Seniors have played four matches and lost every one; our Inters. have played five and won two. Shipley and Powl are

regular players in the 1st XI., and Robinson, our House-Captain, who usually plays for the 2nd XI., made two or three appearances in the first School team. Smith (VIa.) also plays for the 2nd XI., Smith and Jones of IVb., and Ramsden of Vb. represented the House in the Junior Shield Team, and Shipley and Powl, in the Senior.

A pleasing feature is the keenness of the Junior members of the House in all School activities. They have lost only one game this term and have gained eight points for the House. If they took as little interest in, and were as weak at, football as the Seniors, we should have only four points now instead of twelve. Several of the Juniors are also enthusiastic harriers, and Todd (IVr.) and Meneely (IIIb.) have both arrived home first in cross-country runs. Everyone must have heard by this time about the Inter-House Cross-country run, which will be held at the end of this term. Last year, Atkin was unable to turn out the full quota in the Senior Pack. Let us hope that will not be the case this year.

However, with next term comes Cricket in which we hope (and not without some foundation) to do well. We have two or three "certains" for the first team and several star Junior players. Everyone should be starting training for the Sports soon, if we are to do well. G.R.

STITT HOUSE NOTES.

Stitt are still heading towards that much-coveted goal—the winning of the House Football Championship.

Although football matches have been few this term, owing chiefly to Shield matches and the state of the pitches, six matches have been played since the last report appeared in the "Visor."

In a Senior House match we defeated Westminster by 9 goals to 2, and thus brought nearer the achieving of our aim. This was a particularly fine performance, since we had previously been defeated by Westminster by 4 goals to 2.

We still remain invincible in the Intermediate House Matches, having defeated Atkin by 11 goals to 1, and Westminster by 7 goals to 5. Although nearly all of the present Senior House Team will have said "Adieu" before next football season, I think the House will be able to field a fairly strong team, judging by the results in this department.

After losing rather heavily to Atkin by 4 goals to 1, and to Tate by 6 goals to 4, the Juniors won their match against Westminster by 2 goals to 0, for which achievement they must be congratulated.

The table of matches played up to the time of going to press is as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Seniors	4	3	1	0	29	9	6
Inters.	5	5	0	0	36	17	10
Juniors	5	1	3	1	14	24	3

We must heartily congratulate our House Captain, C. R. Currie, on being presented with his School colours.

Besides excelling in football, we can claim to be premier House in running. In the Harriers' Club, which is captained by our crack speed merchant, G. W. Shaw, we have six members who run for the School regularly. These are Christian, Lees, Shaw, Smith, Sutcliffe, and Wood. Of course, we hope to repeat last year's achievement in winning the Inter-House Cross-country run.

The House is not very strong in Chess this year. Greaves is our only member in the School Chess team.

From winter activities our thoughts turn at this time of the year to the Cricket season and its prospects. We hope to do fairly well at Cricket, but, even if we do not win all our matches, we can say that every Stittite will do his best for his house.

W.S.J.

TATE HOUSE NOTES.

The shortness of this term, coupled with the major attraction of the Shield matches, has not allowed time for any events of particular interest to the House.

Two Football matches played at the end of last term resulted in the Intermediates losing by 7 goals to 3, to Westminster, whose Juniors we defeated by 6 goals to 3. Tate has shown some improvement since Christmas, but it is now too late to entertain hopes for the Championship. The Seniors won their only match, against Atkin, by 4 goals to nil, while the Intermediates enjoyed a 4—1 victory over the same House.

Tate Juniors were defeated by Atkin by the narrow score of 2 goals to 1, but we atoned for this reverse by a 6—4

success against Stitt. This department has undoubtedly had a more successful season than have our other teams.

The table of results to date is as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Seniors	4	2	2	0	19	22	4
Inters.	5	2	3	0	24	26	4
Juniors	5	4	1	0	29	19	8

We must all join in congratulating Minns on being awarded his Football Colours, which he certainly deserves.

Tate's representatives in the Harriers' club continue to do good work, and we are hoping for success in the coming Inter-House run.

The House has many good Chess players, Halliday and Pritchard being particularly prominent.

It is unfortunate that Tate cannot come out top in the Mark Sheet, but last time we were a close second to Westminster.

We are now looking forward to the Cricket Season, when we hope to continue our previous successes in this game.

R.B.L.

WESTMINSTER HOUSE NOTES.

As this term has been so short only four Inter-house matches have been played; two, however, which were played after the publication of last term's issue are included in this report.

The Seniors have been beaten by Stitt, 9—2, their only loss this season. The Intermediates beat Tate 8—3, but lost to Stitt 7—5. The Juniors are rather weak and have lost all their matches, being beaten by Tate 6—3, Stitt 2—0, and Atkin 7—5. They should remember that they will one day constitute the Intermediate and Senior house teams, and that, while they are in the Junior section, they are laying the foundation of the Westminster of the future.

The table for the season is as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Seniors	4	3	1	0	19	20	6
Intermediates	5	1	4	0	24	32	2
Juniors	5	0	4	1	19	30	1

We are represented in the 1st XI. by Andrews and Kirchin, and in the 2nd XI. by Barker, Roberts, Rice, and

Miller. Kirchin and Andrews played in the Senior Shield team, and Ames, Holme, Roberts, and Wylie in the Junior Shield team.

Our School team Chess representatives are Jellicoe, Marsh, and Sarginson.

We have lost Horne this term, who was captain of the Harriers, and a prominent member of the House. Horne, Rice, and Ward, from Westminster, run in the School team.

As usual, we have occupied the top position on the two occasions of the publication of the mark sheets. It is to be hoped that this standard will be maintained. D.M.

LIBRARY NOTES.

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! Be it known that, by a Royal Decree, dated this 7th of March, in the year of Grace, 1931, entrance to and use of that sacred province of our Sovereign Lord, known to all and sundry as the Library (Incorporated by Royal Charter, circa 1900), is now confined to the inhabitants and dwellers therein. Wherefore, whereas hitherto certain wretches have made free with their use of the aforesaid library, henceforth they must take warning, and remain without, that that which is within may not be contaminated.

Well, that's that! Or should I say "the aforesaid's the aforesaid"? And now, what has happened this term; First of all, our tame professor has added to his already considerable reputation for eccentricity by marching through the play ground bearing proudly aloft a banner with a strange device— Oh no! I'm wandering; it was only an umbrella, yet it was nevertheless appreciated by the cheering which greeted it. It is rumoured amongst the initiated that this is a spectacular move in his dress reform campaign, which he has been conducting and demonstrating personally for so long. Secondly, the advent of Spring, (Ha! Joke!) has so disturbed and excited certain of the more animal spirits that they are no longer happy except when they are striving among themselves, or with any other unfortunate who is fool enough to put on the gloves.

As a result of this, noses have assumed shapes never designed for them by Nature, and eyes, encircled by multi-coloured rings, have the appearance of ultra-futuristic sunsets. Our saxophonists and "Al Jolsons" have stopped their nerve-racking efforts, and the only sounds, apart from the usual

noise, are the rhythmic thud of the glove, occasional syncopated punch systems, and the fortissimo of the stricken victim. The saxophone, by the way, was maliciously attacked by some person or persons unmusical, with intent to smash, and, as they succeeded in their dastardly attempt, it is no more. Our strong man recently created a record by raising and lowering two French dictionaries forty times, without pausing, and he appears to have set a fashion, for, soon after, the Library was transformed into a room of wildly waving volumes. This was good and healthy, until these books began to detach themselves from the gymnast, and drop (by accident, of course), upon his panting neighbour, who was struggling to raise the Latin dictionary for the 39th time. Apart from these interesting, muscle-building volumes, the Library is filled, in the main, by books belonging to the geography students and it is pleasing to see that they are reading widely, as instructed. During the recent snow, a party from the Library ascended to the flat roof, and gave battle to all comers, as no doubt most of the school saw and felt. This adventure was unfortunately marred by the decease of two windows.

Horne has left us to take up a position in the Health Office, and we wish him success in his new sphere. And so, fare thee well, gentle reader! I'll see thee anon! D.M.

FORM NOTES.

Senior Sixth.

At the close of last term, our sorely taxed brains found relaxation in a great bun-fight, vulgarly known as a banquet, and the accomplished Form Orchestra, with G. W. Smitherewski at the piano, gave delightful renderings of such musical gems as "When it's Springtime in the Rockies."

Having re-assembled this term, however, we have endured unutterably profound grief at the absence of Woodhead, who, I believe, has gone to sea. His place has been adequately filled by Miller, who has staged a dramatic "come-back."

As reported in the last issue of the "Visor," we are still well represented in the teams, though nowadays Powl is seen gracing the ranks of the 1st XI. more often than those of the 2nd. Also Ashton has added to our Chess successes by being appointed to play 7th board in the School team.

With regard to mark sheets, L*x*m's citadel is often attacked, but never succumbs to the combined onslaught of the brains of the Form—he's a black magician, that's what he is.

Altogether, things run smoothly enough, and, although most of our time is occupied by a studious perusal of great works, the sunshine occasionally bursts through the clouds, as, for instance, when Mac***-lane got his tongue tied up and read us a passage from the Scriptures about "righteous snakes," or when Edmund Spenser tells us about "huge greate gyants, horrible and hye."

Thus we plod along.

W.H.M.

Via.

Owing to the Shield matches, all our games were postponed, with the exception of one against the Advanced, which we naturally won by five goals to two.

Nevertheless, we are not devoid of footballers. Neil and Shipley have represented the form in the 1st XI. and the Senior Shield team, while Barker and Smith have also played for the 2nd XI.

We number among our ranks several prominent Harriers, namely: Shaw, Christian, and Lees, all of whom have distinguished themselves in the field.

Of course, no form notes would be complete without some mention of those gentlemen with protruding forehead and glittering eye, the Chess Club members. These are K. Rice, Welch, Smith, H. Barker, R. H. Jones, Christian, and Bird.

Although the world may not realise it, our studies are progressing favourably. In spite of trade depressions, unemployment, and Philip Snowden, we are assured by the famous statistician, Prof. H. Angelman, that never has the standard of intelligence in Via. been so high since 1815. This is obvious, for the fellows who, a fortnight ago, would have rendered "des animaux étrangers" as "lively strangers," have now so far advanced as to translate "feu ma tante" as "fire on my aunt." There is much wit in the form. For instance, during a lesson in which we were drawing a stool, H. B. was informed that his legs weren't thick enough at the bottom, to which he retorted: "They keep me off the ground, anyhow!"

We regard as a serious menace the "dumping," by a Foreign Power (dinner-boys), of large quantities of cheap

paper in our territory, which is temporarily evacuated at dinner-time. We are only waiting to capture one of the Power's agents at work, and we shall dump him—out of the window.

Our other great danger is a feared outbreak, with the approach of exams., of "fièvre d'école," of which several members display symptoms.

R.F.B.

Vib.

We have had no football matches this term. The general explanation is that the form is far too interested in its studies to bother about football. The Harriers are represented by a few boys, of whom R. Sutcliffe is the most prominent.

Great things are expected of our form in the scientific line, for one youth can actually split up an element into two other elements and calls the process *dissociation*. French, also, is a speciality, and one boy can even translate "he made a good meal" by "il fit une bonne farine," whilst another translates "he fell down" by "il tomba duvet."

The other evening, a party of about twenty-four went to see the performance of Macbeth given by Sir Frank Benson. Unfortunately, a number of these theatre-goers were unable to obtain seats, but they all agreed the next morning that the programme at the Palais de Luxe was really worth the seeing.

J.N.

Vir.

This term has been practically uneventful as far as we are concerned. Things stand the same as they did last term. A*d**ws is still our professional boxer, and Mr. Bloor our form master. A difference is that Rigby has now become the father of the form.

Humour is still present, although under the strict law of A**r**s. When a master was reading that part of "She stoops to Conquer" where Tony asks Hastings what it is that goes round and round the house without touching it, one bright youth blurted out "a garden wall."

In the exams., another youth wrote, "Napoleon dispersed the Paris mob with a whiff of grapefruit." In these exams., Seville rose to first place, while Coglán descended to second. Another promotion is that of T**o**s W**l**ms, Esq., from Scrap book keeper to Lost Property Officer, and he now has in his possession a valuable antique half razor strop. (All claimants apply to the aforesaid). F.L.M.

Va.

We have had a very successful and progressive term. This is shown by the fact that Mr. Bloor has already started next year's work with us. He introduced us to the great "Surd" mystery, but was rather disappointed to find that we were not in possession of next year's text-books.

I am very sorry to announce that Taylor, our football captain and one of our best gymnasts, has left us and gone to Waterloo, probably, as stated by some of the masters, to dig up the remains of the battle.

Our matches against other forms have been very satisfactory, even if they have not all been won.

It is pleasing to notice that several boys of our form are receiving prizes at the forthcoming prize-giving; among them are Evans, Weston, Miller, Moughtin, Davies, and Penlington.

I must mention the fact that Robinson, however much he may talk to himself, has really distinguished himself in Chess. He has won a tournament, much to the pleasure of Mr. Moat and his own form companions.

Vb.

Stamp collecting is once again the craze, and H^{*ws*n} is one of the most enthusiastic collectors in the form. M^{*k*n} and M^{*rsh} talk of nothing else but Wireless, and the mention of it is music to their ears.

Our chief Chess enthusiast is A. J. M^{*rsh}. He babbles Chess all day long, and, it is rumoured, during sleep as well. Great excitement was caused when H^{*ght*n} brought two white mice to School. Many detentions were handed out.

A. J. M^{*rsh}, when asked what he was getting out of his desk, replied "My English Literature," and forthwith produced two "twopenny Bloods." Alas! the fall thereof was great!

Vr.

Our form "feed" was held at the end of last term. After eagerly devouring the excellent tea provided by the Janitor we adjourned to the Gym, where a ping-pong tournament took place. This was won by Ames, who beat Quaile (who appeared to be suffering from stage fright) in the final. Mr. C. Lord, who kindly consented to be present, entertained us with several juggling feats. Now and again certain boys try to imitate him but without much success. We then concluded a very enjoyable evening with a lively sing-song.

There have been no form matches, but the form was represented in the Junior Shield Eleven by Roberts and Ames.

IVa.

"Hello, everybody! IVa. speaking!! Enjoyed this term?" "Yes, have you?" "You bet your life, we have."

Who said we could not play football? We beg to disagree. We have won every match played, but, as they were against third forms, it is not much to gloat over. Unfortunately the matches against the other fourths were scratched, and we were foiled of our opportunity of defeating them as well.

The next item on the programme will be a comedy in three acts, each of which is a choice example of the ingenuity of some members of IVa.

ACT I.

Master, remarking on a test paper:—"Luther was not a chemist, Pr*ngl*, in spite of his attempts to make oxo from a Papal Bull."

ACT II.

Question: "Give the names of some inventors connected with metal."

Answer: "Mussolini was a brass worker."

ACT III.

Master, explaining why Britain has cooler days, and warmer nights than some tropical countries, "That is why England has much warmer nights than 'er, say 'er, . . ."; boy interrupting, "The Arabian Nights."

CURTAIN.

Well, good-bye everybody. IVa. closing down, and smacking their lips in anticipation of the Easter holidays.

C. ALLDIS.

IVb.

We have had only one football match this term, owing to several games being cancelled. This game was against IV. Remove and resulted in our winning by nine goals to nil.

We still have with us our old friend P. C. Bridge.

M*****s has given up the detention craze, and has actually had a free Wednesday.

We have had a few howlers too. B**n**t says that a tram driver steers the tram with the brake wheel. S*****n thought he was absent when he handed in his homework, while one of our masters informed us that when a chicken hurries it uses both legs and feet.

IVr.

Marsh thoroughly agrees with Dr. Weekes when he says, "Have as much sleep as you can," but, owing to certain school regulations, he cannot obey. "T*#h" Rise is still wallowing in ink, and, unluckily, he was bagged, red-handed, as he soaked Trigg with the "abominable liquid."

The Form Cackle Championship is still held by Cumming, whose rather high-pitched "laugh" can be heard high above everybody else's.

When Trigg, once described as a little spot on the universe, was asked if he was going to roam the main when he left school, he replied: "No, sir, I'm going to roam the Dole Office." Rather a grown-up reply.

At the beginning of the term, a new idea was tried in English. This was the giving of five-minute lectures on any subject, and we have had some decent ones. Some of the subjects were:—"Modes of Travelling," "Parrots," "Rabbits," "Submarines," "Q. Ships," and "Aeroplanes." Some of these provided amusement, especially when Trigg said, "Now, what would a liner in distress do if it did not have a telephone?"

Certain members of our happy band are "toting" (according to the American talkies), the late contents of the lab. drawer, as Mr. Davies has been "spring cleaning." These trophies include a "silver" pencil (no leads), sundry pens, boxes, and a penknife (broken blades).

R. L. Davies represented us in the Junior Shield match, but did not have much luck. (Perhaps the fault of pancakes).

IIIa.

Our second term of Senior School life has, so far, been fairly uneventful, both in work and sport. The struggle for supremacy in the form still goes on, but only once has Wetherell failed to gain top place. However, there are plenty of boys willing to try to push him off his proud pedestal, and, with the dreaded exams. in the offing, we shall see if one of them will succeed. But he will certainly retain his position, unless we give some better answers than were given recently. One gem was that a collection of words describing a noun was an adverb, while another boy thought that the Great War was one of the Crusades.

In football, this term, we have played one match, against IVr., which we won by 5 goals to 3.

Two chess enthusiasts, Young and Wadlow, seem to be worthy exponents of the ancient game, and, young as they are, they hope to find a place in the School team soon.

IIIb.

We have not done so well at football this term, having lost 3 of 4 matches. IVb. and IVa. both beat us, as also did IIIj., but we had our revenge and beat them afterwards. Many boys have been successful with the harriers, and several times a boy out of the form has won the Junior run. In the mark sheets Bray, who was 1st last term, has been beaten twice by Blair, but has now got back to the top place.

We had a very enjoyable form tea on March 5th, at which we had the pleasure of the Headmaster's company. A ping-pong tournament was held, in which Watkins was the winner, and Barker runner-up. Watkins also won a jumbled word competition, the clues for which were hidden in various places in the gym. After that several boys played pianoforte solos.

Various round games were then played and the evening closed with the presentation of the prizes, and three cheers for the Janitor who gave us such a good tea. Buckwell set the form in an uproar one day by saying there was a substance called Iron Soapflakes.

We all wish to obtain first place in the exams., so everyone is busy revising earlier work. D.R.B.

IIIj.

IIIj. would fain have a form tea but as yet they are not considered good enough. Various important documents have been signed by the whole form with regard to this, all to no avail, but we still keep our spirits up; and, by the way, about that word "keep." In addition to a round keep and a square keep (which all learned youths know Norman castles had) S**** introduced a "please keep." He didn't know that those words had been put on the board to preserve some drawings of such keeps!

I am sorry to say that we came out bottom by rather a wide margin in the third form harriers' match, but we congratulate IIIb. on their good win, and especially Wheat, who came in first.

At football, we are as bad as we were last term. We have played 6 matches, beating IIIb. 7—2, IVb. 3—2, and losing

to IVa. 6—3 and 14—1, IVr. 3—1 and IVb. 14—0. We have now played ten matches, won two, lost seven, and drawn one. With 27 goals for, and 66 against, we have 5 points. Truly, it is not very enterprising. J.S.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NOTES.

At the end of the Christmas Term, the Junior School Annual Prizegiving was held in Beechcroft, the prizes being presented by Professor Barbara Foxley. It was followed by a dramatised version of Thackeray's "Rose and the Ring."

This year a change was made in the usual programme. Instead of separate items, all the "entertainment" was included in the play, a change which seemed to meet with the approval of the audience. Those "behind the scenes" will long remember the hours of toil needed to train the somewhat heavy-footed elves in the art of "one-two-three hopping," but the dancing and the songs certainly added interest to the play. The costumes were charming, especially that of the Princess who, owing to a mishap at the last moment, had to appear in a "creation" of paper.

Thanks are due to the many people who helped to make "The Rose and the Ring" the success it was, especially to Mr. Paice who provided us with the necessary stage properties, and to those seniors who struggled nobly throughout the play with unwieldy thrones, magic knockers, and "noises off."

The Cub pack is at present working at 1st and 2nd star tests. We commend the zeal of the 'tenderfoot' who at a recent meeting found himself without string for practising knots, and decided to use the ropes in the gym! Earlier in the term, the pack had a jolly party with the scouts, when after tea they enjoyed interesting competitions and games. After hours of preparation in the Chemistry Lab., two of the scouts entertained us for the space of three minutes with strange (if brief) tricks with coloured liquids; prizes were given for competitions, which included a treasure hunt.

Recently a junior, asked to give a definition of "a pair of socks," volunteered after much thought, "Two pieces of wool turned up at the ends, and you put your feet through the gap."

We do not know whether he recommends this cosy and protective wear while east winds are blowing! H.M.D.

THE CHESS CLUB.

As was expected, the Chess Club proved unsuccessful in the Wright Challenge Shield Competition this year, and, once again, the Shield passes to Liverpool Collegiate. We gained only $2\frac{1}{2}$ points out of a possible 8, but all of these were secured this term.

The School Team has usually been: Greaves (Capt.), Pritchard, Halliday, Jellicoe, Marsh, Sarginson, and the last board has been filled alternately by Ashton, Manley, Miller, F.K., and Miller, F. L. Out of the 25 games gained by the School, Halliday, Jellicoe, and Pritchard have each won $4\frac{1}{2}$, and Sarginson 4. The match results were:—

Birkenhead Institute	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Holt Secondary	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Birkenhead Institute	1	Wallasey Grammar	6
Birkenhead Institute	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Liverpool Collegiate	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Birkenhead Institute	3	Liverpool Institute	4
Birkenhead Institute	$4\frac{1}{2}$	Rock Ferry High School	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Birkenhead Institute	3	Merchant Taylors	4
Birkenhead Institute	$3\frac{1}{2}$	Oulton	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Birkenhead Institute	5	Oldershaw	2

The School Championship is not as yet decided. It lies, however, between Halliday, who has 5 points out of a possible 7, and Greaves, who has 4 points out of 6. Jellicoe is third with $4\frac{1}{2}$ points out of 7.

In the Senior Division, Welch and Hunt tied for first place with 8 points each out of 10. Hunt, however, won the play-off. This division will form the backbone of the School team next year, and the effacement of this year's failure rests mainly with them.

The Third Division tournament resulted in a victory for J. H. P. Young of IIIa., Barker of IVa. being the other finalist. The Fourth Division was won by J. N. Robinson.

Finally, we thank Mr. Moat for the time he has devoted to the Club throughout the session.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

With the approach of Easter we come to the close of another successful session. Last term we finished off with a debate upon the motion "That, in the opinion of this house, it is to be deplored that with so much Organisation the Individual is unduly lost sight of." This was proposed by Messrs. Greaves and Pritchard, and opposed by Messrs. Bird and Matthews, who gained the day.

This term we have had four debates, each of which has resulted in the defeat of the motion. The first, held on January 19th, "That Air Transport is a failure," was proposed by Messrs. Tweedie and Angelman, and opposed by Messrs. Welch and Greaves. This debate was the debut of several new speakers.

The next was held on February 2nd, on the motion "That, in the opinion of this house, the British Parliament is an inefficient institution." This was proposed by Messrs. Pritchard and Welch, and opposed by Messrs. Greaves and S. W. Jones. This was followed a fortnight later by a debate on "That it is a matter for congratulation that Ancient Traditions are dying out." The proposers were Messrs. Tweedie and Marsh, and the opposers Messrs. F. L. Miller and S. W. Jones.

The last debate was a Junior Debate, and was one of the most successful we have had. The motion was an old theme: "That Road Travel is of more value than is Rail Travel," but the speakers, who were fairly numerous, produced some pleasing variations in their ideas. The motion was proposed by Messrs. Alldis and Medcalf, and opposed by Messrs. Lunn and Boggie.

It is pleasing to know that we have so many promising speakers in the lower forms of the School, and we urge them to speak frequently, for with practice they will become proficient speakers. It is to them that we look to carry on the Society and its tradition in future years, and to make it a greater success every session.

In conclusion, we should like to express our thanks to Mr. Allison, our chairman. During the seven years of its existence the Society has been indebted to him for his encouragement and help, which have been greatly instrumental in making it the success it is. We hope that it may achieve even greater things under his guidance in years to come.

E.J.M.

THE HARRIERS' CLUB.

We have had a very successful term, numbers have increased at every turn-out, and many of last year's members are showing excellent form.

We have had only three fixtures this term, but five more are to follow. We lost the first, at home, against Liverpool University second team, by 58 to 30. The weather had been rather wet, making the course very muddy. Our team was inferior in point of size, but they put up a good performance. We fielded the following team:—Shaw (Capt.), Rigby, Rees, Sutcliffe, Christian, Wood, Cross.

Our second fixture was with the Liverpool Institute, who beat us last term. We ran on their road course (February 18th), at Fletcher's farm, Liverpool. The team consisted of Horne, Shaw, Rice, Rees, Sutcliffe, Wood, Lees, and Christian, and we managed to gain a victory by 30 points to 54, thus gaining our long awaited revenge.

The third fixture, with the Liverpool University second team, away, Saturday, February 28th, was cancelled owing to bad weather.

We are hoping for a continuation of this successful season. We have other fixtures with Oulton, Wallasey Grammar School, and Liverpool Institute. Our ordinary Wednesday runs from the School ground are still in progress, and we invite all who are interested to turn out.

D. RIGBY (Hon. Sec.)

NATIONAL SAVINGS SOCIETY.

This, the largest of the School Societies, has enjoyed an excellent year, despite the prevalent trade depression. The membership maintains its usual high average and stands now at 210, while investments are larger than ever. During the financial year which closes at the end of this month, we have saved £389 19s. 6d., our weekly collections averaging as high as £12 11s. 6d. Even in this short term we have collected in eight weeks the very creditable total of £110 15s. 6d.

We are pleased to see that more members are availing themselves of the facilities offered for the purchase of certificates outright, and during the year no less than 126 certificates, representing an investment of £100 16s. 0d., have been bought in this manner.

Our grand total is now £2,722 16s. od. saved in 7 years 3 months, and we are hoping to reach £3,000 before next Christmas.

If you are not already a member of this Society, the biggest Savings Association in Birkenhead, do not delay, join at once. R. HALL, Hon. Sec., J. W. HAIME, Hon. Treas.

THE ORCHESTRA.

Few may know that the School possesses an Orchestra which holds its meetings after School every Thursday.

We are pleased to report that rapid progress has been made since our performance at the end of last term. There are now ten budding musicians on the list, under the able direction of Mr. W. E. Williams, with the kind assistance of Mr. Dugdale, whose efforts on our behalf we appreciate very much. I am sure there are many more boys in the School who play instruments of one sort or another, and who would like to join the Orchestra. If so, will such please hand in their names either to Mr. Williams, or to me. No boy playing a jazz instrument need apply, however. J.G.K., Vlr.

THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

We are now reaching the end of a very successful winter session. At each of the meetings, now held on Tuesdays, a lecture has been given either by a member of the Society or by a member of the Staff. All these meetings have been well attended, though we should like to see more of the Fifth-Formers taking part in the discussions which follow the lectures. Each meeting, a different member takes the chair, and thus many are given a chance of occupying this important position.

Three further meetings were held last term; Williams speaking on "Evolution and Degeneration," Piggott on "Television," and Jenkins on "The Planet Mars." A large gathering of forty-six members was present, on December 15th, at the Tea which preceded Piggott's lecture.

This term we have had some very interesting lectures. Mr. D. J. Williams spoke on "Radio Activity," and Coughtrie on "Photography." The lecture on "The History and

Mystery of Colour," given by Mr. N. Williams, was admirably illustrated by a large number of lantern experiments by Mr. Dugdale.

On Tuesday, February 24th, a limited number of members were shown over the Observatory. We first went up to the roof, where we were shown the instruments for recording the direction and velocity of the wind, and also the recorder of ultra-violet radiation. We were then shown the Equatorial telescope, and the Transit telescope, which, before the days of wireless, was used for accurately determining the time. The clock by which the "1 o'clock gun" is fired interested us very much, as did the automatic recording barometer, and the tide-predicting machine. Visits to the seismograph, rain gauges, and thermometers concluded the afternoon.

The Society was very fortunate in being allowed to attend a special demonstration of a Kodascope on Friday, February 27th. We were shown the working of the Four-Stroke Cycle Gas Engine, and the principles of Einstein's Theory of Relativity. We hope that the School will soon have a Kodascope of its own.

There are still two meetings to be held this term, and next term we hope to visit several places of interest to scientific minds.

All thanks are due to Mr. Watts for his great help to and able guidance of the Society.

SCOUT NOTES.

We commenced this term's activities with a tea and social, in which we were joined by the Cubs. An excellent tea was provided by the Janitor, and, after doing full justice to this, we retired to the "gym" for games. Several guessing competitions were held, and a "hidden treasure" hunt around the School was a very successful feature. A table-tennis tournament for the Scouts brought to a conclusion a very enjoyable evening.

There have been a few more recruits this term, and the troop is now stronger in numbers than it has been for several years. Two inter-troop competitions have taken place during the term, but a handicraft exhibition, for which we are preparing, will be held during the holidays. Fewer badges than usual have been awarded this term. The reason for this seems to be that the older boys find their time rather full, while the younger boys work for their Second and First Class Badges before going on to Proficiency Badge work.

Next term we shall be very busy with preparations for our annual camp. The site of this camp has not yet been definitely fixed, but in all probability it will be "somewhere in Anglesey."

FOOTBALL.

First Eleven v. Alsop High School (Away)

Team:—Robinson; Powl, Currie; Jones, W. L., Neil, Allsopp; Andrews, Shipley, Smith, G. W., Harrison, Minns.

After playing against a very strong wind, the School did extremely well to lead by two goals to one at half-time. Alsop opened the score, but B.I. were not long in equalising through Minns, and before half-time, Shipley added another from Andrews's pass.

Although Alsop pressed hard in the second half, the School defence was always on top. After several unsuccessful raids, hampered by a strong wind, Smith headed into the net from a pass by Neil. Alsop failed to add to their score. A thin surface mud on the hard ground made play difficult.

Result: B. I. 3. Alsop High School 1.

First Eleven v. Waterloo Secondary School (Away).

Team:—Kirchin; Powl, Currie; Jones, Neil, Allsopp; Andrews, Hughes, Smith, Harrison, Minns.

Waterloo were very fortunate in forcing a draw on their own ground. In the first half, playing against both wind and slope, the School were complete masters. Currie gave B.I. the lead, scoring direct from a free kick. Later, after a scrim-

mage in the goalmouth, a combined effort by Smith and Minns resulted in the latter's scoring a second goal. The strong wind was responsible for much inaccurate passing.

The School team having completely fallen to pieces, Waterloo added two quick goals in the first five minutes of the second half. For the rest of the match, play was very poor and scrappy, although B.I. were generally on top.

Result: B. I. 2. Waterloo Secondary School 2.

First Eleven v. St. Francis Xaviers College.

Team:—Kirchin; Powl, Currie; Jones, Allsopp, Anderson; Andrew, Hughes, Smith, Neil, Minns.

The game was fast and vigorous throughout, and the margin of victory well represented the difference between the two sides. Playing up the slope in the first half, the School were given the lead by Shipley. Just before half-time, S.F.X., after many attempts, managed to equalise.

In the second half, B.I. went ahead, first through Smith, and, a little later, through Minns. S.F.X. replied with a second goal, and Shipley added another for the School. The visitors again retaliated with a third goal, and about ten minutes from time, Minns netted again. However, almost on time, the S.F.X. forwards broke away and scored. Thus ended a good game on a heavy ground.

Result: B.I. 5. St. Francis Xavier's 4.

Senior Shield Competition (First Round).

Versus: **Liscard High School.**

Team:—Kirchin; Powl, Currie; Anderson, Neil, Allsopp; Andrews, Shipley, Smith, Harrison, Minns.

The first round of the Senior Shield was played under bad conditions, the state of the ground especially hampering the forwards. Playing up the slope in the first half, the School soon showed their superiority, and, after 15 minutes,

Junior Shield Competition (Second Round).

Versus : **Liverpool Collegiate.**

Teams :—Davies ; Smith, Ames ; Tong, Roberts, Ramsden ; Wylie, Harrahill, Phoenix, Jones, Holme.

In the second round of the Junior Shield Competition we were defeated at home by Liverpool Collegiate by the big margin of 12 goals to 1. We were first to score, a fine centre by Wylie enabling Phoenix to drive into the net. Collegiate, however, were always on top, and at half-time they had scored six goals to our one.

We were completely overwhelmed in the second half, and, although the defence put up a fine fight, the Collegiate forwards added six more goals. We were beaten by a much heavier and better team.

First Eleven v. Quarry Bank Highfield.

Team :—Kirchin ; Powl, Currie ; Jones, Neil, Allsopp ; Andrews, Shipley, Smith, Harrison, Minns.

With the advantage of slope and wind, the School were soon seen to advantage, Smith taking a chance to score the first goal. Quarry Bank, however, kept the defence busy, and their inside-left headed a goal from a corner kick. Then Andrews put the School ahead, and Minns scored a third. Just before half-time, Quarry Bank scored two quick goals through a lapse on the part of the defence, but Shipley put the School ahead practically on half-time.

The second half was keenly contested, Quarry Bank exerting great pressure, and they levelled the scores very early. Smith scored another for the School, and Minns added a sixth direct from a corner-kick, while Quarry Bank reduced the arrears just before time. It was a well-fought game, with nothing to choose between the teams.

Result : B.I. 6. Quarry Bank High School 5.

Shipleigh opened the score. After Liscard had made many dangerous raids on the home goal, their efforts were at last rewarded by a goal direct from a free-kick. Just before half-time Harrison netted again.

In the second half, Smith was the first to score, and Harrison soon added another. The School then pressed very hard, and Andrews scored with a low drive. Liscard's right wing then broke away, and, taking the full-backs by surprise, gave Kirchin no chance. Shipleigh, however, made the issue certain, scoring a sixth goal.

Result: B.I. 6. Liscard High School 2.

Senior Shield Competition (Second Round).

Versus: **Prescot Grammar School.**

Team:—Kirchin; Powl, Currie; Anderson, Neil, Allsopp; Andrews, Shipleigh, Smith, Harrison, Minns.

A fair number of B.I. supporters saw the School just fail to open the score. The ball, however, was soon taken down to the other end, and after several unsuccessful attempts, the Prescot centre dribbled through to score. The School then rallied, keeping the Prescot defence busy, until Smith ran through to level the scores. The School forwards were slow, and the defence not up to standard, so that by half-time the opposing centre had increased the score.

The School were now playing down the slope, and it looked as though they would recover when Harrison reduced the lead. When, however, Currie missed a penalty, Prescot regained their dominance and scored two more goals in quick succession. Minns scored the School's third goal, only to be followed by Prescot's scoring their sixth goal, and so, for another year, hopes of appearing at Goodison Park have vanished.

THE OLD BOYS' SOCIETY.

We are now approaching the end of what is accepted as one of the most successful seasons that the Society has had. The last "Visor" contained a few brief lines on the Smoking Concert that was given in November, and, following closely on that enjoyable evening, came the Symphony Concert given by the Blenheim Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Sutcliffe, an Old Boy of the School. This event was held in the School Gym, and about 130 Old Boys and their friends were, I feel sure, pleasantly surprised. Several vocal items were rendered between the Orchestral selections, and were very well received. During a short interval light refreshments were served in the Dining Room and our President, Mr. E. Wynne Hughes, spoke a few words, thanking the artistes.

The Society Dance still ranks as one of "THE" Dances of the Town, and it was very well supported: (Mr. Russell, our now famous caterer has, I fancy, something to do with this). Limelight effects were used for the first time and proved very satisfactory.

By far the most important function of the season was the Presentation of a Comedy by Ian Hay, entitled "The Sport of Kings." Many of the schoolboys were present at the rehearsal and naturally have their own ideas as to the success or otherwise of the Play. The Society undertook a very big, expensive, and difficult proposition when it decided to stage this 3-act Comedy, and I think it has served as a very valuable advertisement. It is generally agreed that the Play, for a first attempt, was highly successful, and thanks are due to the many Members who helped in the very satisfactory management of this Production. Mention must be made of our capable Producer: Mr. F. Wm. Corlett, an Old Boy of the School, who so kindly came to our aid and took on the arduous task of producing for us.

It may be interesting to note that from this Production run by the Society an Old Boys' Dramatic Society has been formed and will now continue the good work commenced by the "Parent" Society. This is just an example of how the Old Boys' Society can help in the formation of any special Old Boys' organisation. Who knows, perhaps one day there

may be an Old Boys' Badminton Club, Bowling Club, Operatic Society, Cycling or Motor Cycling Club; it mainly rests with the "Old Boys" who are now at school, whether or not such things can ever happen. J. B. EVANS, Hon. Sec.

THE OLD BOYS' CHESS CLUB.

In a playing sense, the Old Boys' first team has not had a good season. Although they have lost only one match out of five (to Central 2nd by the narrow margin of 4 games to 3), two matches have been gained by default, a disappointing result to all concerned.

However, full advantage was taken of the latest fixture, with Cunard, and a handsome victory of $5\frac{1}{2}$ games to $1\frac{1}{2}$ recorded. In the Second Division the situation is altogether different, as our second team have just completed a highly successful season. Of the seven matches played, they have won six, and lost one.

Our younger members, ably captained by Mr. R. H. Dailey, have every reason to be proud of their successes, for, in their first year of Senior Chess, they appear certain to top their division and be eligible for promotion to the Second Division, where the first team are anxious to win their remaining two matches of this session, and so qualify for entry into the First Division.

THE OLD BOYS' DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

The above society will present "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep," a farcical comedy in three acts, by Ian Hay and P. G. Wodehouse, in the Beechcroft Little Theatre, on April 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th.

All profits will be handed to the Birkenhead General Hospital, and the committee hope that all boys will tell their friends and persuade them to come and see the play.

Further details will be posted in the School in due course.

C.D.G.

THE OLD BOYS' A.F.C.

At the commencement of the present season a vacancy unexpectedly arose in the second division of the I. Zingari League and our first team, by reason of its success in the third division, was duly promoted. We hoped, of course, that they would give a good account of themselves, but we certainly did not expect the success which has attended their efforts. At the time of going to press they stand third in the table with 21 points for 20 games played. There are five matches to go, of which four are at home. So the prospects are exceedingly bright.

Our second and third elevens continue to flourish in the first and second divisions of the Liverpool Old Boys' League. The second string is now third in Division 1, with 27 points for 20 games played, whilst the third team are runners up in Division 2, with 35 points for 24 encounters.

Our fourth team is particularly strong this season and has won twelve and drawn one of its eighteen fixtures, most of which have been against considerably older and heavier elevens.

It is interesting to note that in the 91 games played to date our men have found the net on no fewer than 390 occasions. These figures speak volumes.

Provided there is no falling off in form, the current season will rank as the most successful in the history of the club.

C.D.G.

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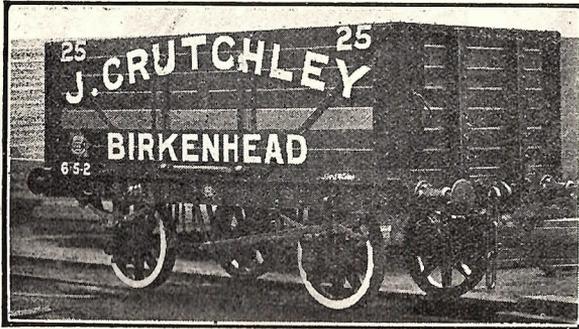
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