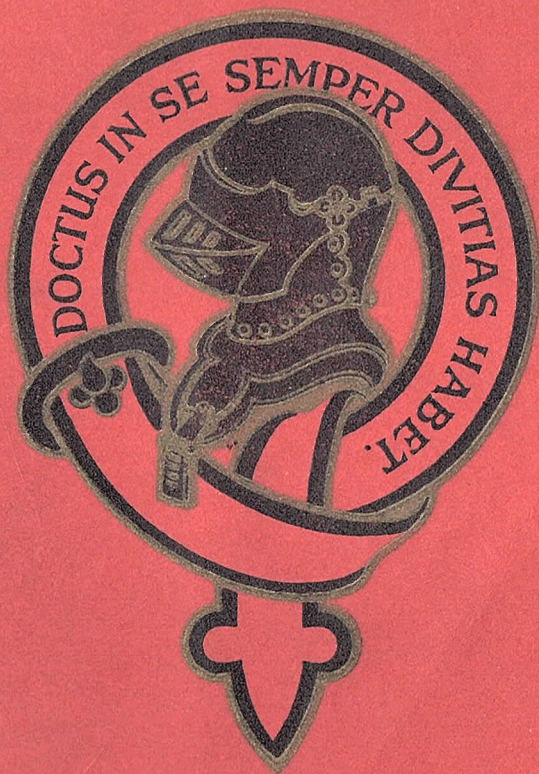


THE VISOR



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

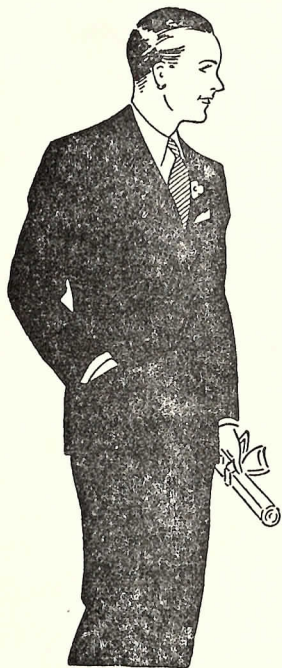
SUMMER, 1931.

X

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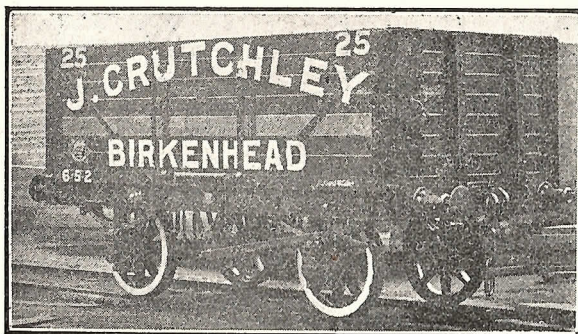
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ATHLETIC SPORTS, 1931.

THE VISOR

THE ORGAN OF THE BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE.

VOL. IV., No. 3.

SUMMER, 1931.

EDITORIAL.

We have read, somewhere or other, that "Reward sweetens toil," but we had never realised the full significance of this adage until last term's issue of *The Visor*. Then the reward amply compensated the labour expended in attaining it, for not only did we increase the size of the magazine by several pages, and the circulation by one hundred copies but also managed to sell out the five hundred copies ordered in two hours. We believe, however, in doing unto others as others do unto us, and have, as a result, extended this term's magazine by eight pages and included some of those much demanded photographs.

The photographs show various events in the Athletic Sports, which were held on the School ground on Saturday, June 6th. They were admirably carried out and a much more homely atmosphere was caught by the experiment of holding them on our own Ground. It seems a great pity that they should have been marred at the outset by unkind weather, but such a small setback in no way belittles a notable achievement. T. J. Andrews became Victor Ludorum for the third successive year. The points he obtained, moreover, were instrumental in gaining the fourth consecutive Championship for Westminster. Mrs. Solly, the wife of our Chairman, and an old friend of the School who has usually remained in the background, distributed the prizes.

The School Prizegiving, which was held too late last term to be included in our Easter number, is also reported in this term's issue. The prizes were distributed by the Rev. Canon Raven, who made a thoroughly interesting speech.

We wish Mr. Wood, who is leaving us at the end of this term, the best of luck in a retirement from which we hope he will often emerge to visit his Old School. We will not here sing the praises of our Senior Mathematics Master, but shall leave the acknowledgment he merits in more competent hands.

The support given to the literary side of the magazine this term has been rather disappointing. Despite the eight extra pages we are now adding, articles have been coming in very slowly. The standard of those submitted has, nevertheless, been quite high. Any boys who have a real interest in the School and its magazine might well rectify this state of affairs by jotting down notes on any places of interest visited during the holidays and writing an article from them at the beginning of next term.

This issue contains a further innovation. We are publishing a number of criticisms of the other School magazines that we have received. We do not wish to be too critical, but merely to recommend suitable innovations. Other Schools, by adopting this device, might help us in the same way.

This issue sees a great reduction in the number of Notes, and, while we have retained those essential for a School magazine, we have, at the same time, avoided too much repetition and the setting down of bare results. From the Cricket Results it will be seen that the School has done quite well in its fixtures, having won twelve and drawn one of the seventeen matches played.

It is usual to wish all candidates for the Matric. and H.S.C. the best of luck at this time of the year, but we are going to show ourselves so blatantly one-sided as to wish luck to those only who have responded to the natural urge to fill in their permanent order-forms for *The Visor*.

MR. WOOD'S RETIREMENT.

Colleagues and pupils are viewing with regret the prospect of the Birkenhead Institute without its Mr. Wood, for the two seem to have grown up together and to belong to one another.

The 'oldest inhabitant' cannot remember the School without its genial and popular Master of Mathematics. Thirty-two years is a big slice of a man's life and bulks large even in the life of a school. Born at Grimsby in Lincolnshire, Mr. Wood was educated partly there and partly in Manchester whither his family had repaired. Before joining the staff of the Birkenhead Institute, Mr. Wood spent some years as a Master at the County School, Wrexham.

No one coming into the Institute to-day can form any idea of what this school was like when Mr. Wood arrived, one dismal wet day in April, 1899, to interview the Headmaster, Mr. Connacher.

Its numerical strength at that time was not much more than that of our present sixth forms and a class of twenty boys was regarded as almost a state of overcrowding. The staff, instead of twenty-four, numbered six !

It may interest some of the readers of *The Visor* to try and form an idea of what the School premises consisted of in those days. I am talking now of thirty-three years ago. There was no gym, and no Woodwork Shop, and, of course, no Art Room. These strongholds stand on the site of what used to be the Headmaster's house, a substantial looking stone building with a dark basement kitchen and a reputation for making its inmates as uncomfortable as possible. It had one redeeming feature, a spacious drawing-room with a fine semi-circular window (none of your modern bay windows) overlooking what might have been a beautiful garden, had it been properly cared for, extending to Hollybank Road. All that remains of this garden is the ugly patch at the bottom of the playground and the two sentinel trees.

The house was entered from the school by a small room where the entrance hall now is and this room was devoted to the use (or otherwise) of the senior boys. There was no body of Prefects in those days, this blessing (or bane) being of comparatively recent date.

The whole of the present building extending from the North wall of the Chemical Laboratory and present Four Remove Classroom to the Gymnasium was added at a much later date.

When Mr. Wood took up his duties here there was not even a Physical Laboratory and no IVb. classroom.

The present store-room has been "pinched" from the two class-rooms on either side of it. These rooms were separated from each other by folding doors which could be slid back, thus making one large room which served as our Central Hall. Here prayers were read each morning from a desk in the present Vb. room. The entire school could be accommodated in this apartment with room to spare.

It must not be thought that Mr. Wood has devoted the whole of his long teaching career to the pursuit of the elusive x and to nothing else. In the bad old days, a specialist in any subject might find himself saddled with an assortment of subjects with which he had a more or less nodding acquaintance. Not only did Mr. Wood prove himself a first rate mathematical master, but he has served as classical tutor as well and for some years taught Greek to those who seemed to want it and Latin to all and sundry whether they wanted it or not.

Mr. Wood's kindly disposition and keen sense of humour won the affection and esteem of all who knew him. He has a great capacity for making and keeping friends. There are many among the old boys of the School who are proud to include their old master amongst their life-long friends.

In the name of the Staff and of the boys old and new, past and present, we extend to Mr. and Mrs. Wood our sincere regret at the severing of a life-long tie and our earnest wishes for continued health and happiness in their retirement.

“TELEVISOR.”

AN OLD BOY'S APPRECIATION OF Mr. WOOD.

An appreciation must necessarily involve one's personal feelings for the subject of one's discourse, but, having retained a constant interest in all Old Boys' affairs since leaving School, I may claim to write from the Old Boys' point of view.

To say that Mr. Wood is held in the highest esteem by all who have passed through his capable hands, is merely to state an irrefutable fact; my object is to try and find how he has created for himself such an enviable position at our Old School. Successful teaching, in itself, could not have accomplished it (although for one whose mental capacity for digesting algebraical equations must sorely have tried his patience, I have the happiest recollections of the efficiency of Mr. Wood's methods); neither am I sure that mere firmness in the handling of his classes alone compelled this admiration. Rather am I convinced that the secret lies in Mr. Wood's strength of character—a character which gives him a quality, which to my mind is of primary importance in his profession, a remarkable depth of understanding of a schoolboy's nature. To understand and appreciate the other fellow's point of view; to meet on equal terms, is to attain scrupulous fairness at all times; it is a quality bred by strength of character and personality, a quality which Mr. Wood possesses to a marked de-

gree. Always approachable, and at all times charming of manner, Mr. Wood has endeared himself to all—no wonder he remains such a firm favourite among all Old Boys.

Looking back over fourteen years to my schooldays I can find ample excuse for exasperation on the part of the Staff, yet at no time can I recall any irritability or ill temper on the part of Mr. Wood. Going further back to Mr. Wood's earlier association with the School I have ascertained the same—a master whose every action was marked by courtesy and kindness,—and who yet retained a firm control over his charges.

“ Spare the rod and spoil the child ” is an old maxim; corporal punishment must in many cases be necessary, but there can be few in the teaching profession who have gained the control over, and attention of, their pupils, and at the same time their real affection, as Mr. Wood through his genial temperament and wealth of understanding. H. A. WILMOT.

A SCHOOL BOY'S APPRECIATION OF Mr. WOOD.

School-boys are sometimes called “unappreciative idiots,” and, on calm reflection, we must admit that this description is frequently justified.

It is, therefore, obvious that, when writing an appreciation of this kind, a school-boy is labouring under considerable difficulty. Notwithstanding all this, however, we have no hesitation in saying that no one who has passed through the Birkenhead Institute can have failed to admire and respect Mr. Wood, who has been a master at the School for thirty-two years. Both for his teaching capabilities and for his good nature in the Form-room, Mr. Wood has been held in the highest esteem by all members of our School. It is a tribute to the excellence of his mathematical instruction that such consistently good results have been achieved by the boys of the Birkenhead Institute in the Matriculation examinations during past years.

As our second master, Mr. Wood has impressed his genial character on all the boys with whom he has come into contact. Boys working under him feel that they want to do well for his sake, and many develop a real liking for him—surely no schoolmaster can wish for more.

In conclusion, we would sincerely wish that Mr. Wood may long enjoy, during his retirement, the happiness and peace which he has so well earned. “ SCHOOLBOY,”

SPEECH DAY.

The School Speech Day was held in the Town Hall, on March 23rd, when the prizes and certificates were presented by the Rev. Canon Raven.

The Mayor, Councillor E. J. Hughes, J.P., opened the proceedings with a most interesting address, after which the Headmaster presented the Report on the work of the year 1929-1930.

Alderman G. A. Solly, J.P., Chairman of the Governors, suggested that the School should change from Soccer to Rugby Football, as the latter is played by most of the local schools, and, consequently, most of our fixtures at present must be made with schools on the other side of the Mersey.

Canon Raven then distributed the prizes, and addressed the meeting. He spoke of the value of continuing education after passing the Matriculation exam. .

Mr. Wm. Jackson proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Canon Raven, which was carried with loud applause.

We were pleased to see among those on the platform the Headmaster of the Birkenhead School.

Programme.

THE SCHOOL, "Worship" *Geoffrey Shaw.*

ADDRESS BY THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(COUNCILLOR E. J. HUGHES, J.P.)

LOWER SCHOOL, "Be Strong" *Alec Rowley.*

REPORT ON WORK OF THE YEAR 1929-30.

THE HEADMASTER.

E. Wynne Hughes, M.A. (Cantab), M.Sc. (Wales).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNORS.

Alderman G. A. Solly, J.P.

CHOIR "The Shining Stars" *George Rathbone.*

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES

AND

ADDRESS BY THE REV. CANON CHARLES E. RAVEN, M.A., D.D.

LOWER SCHOOL, "March Weather" *Alec Rowley.*

THE SCHOOL, "England Arise" *Arthur S. Warrell.*

VOTE OF THANKS.

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

THE SPORTS.

June 6th, 1931, has become a red-letter day in the annals of the School owing to the fact that on that day the Sports were held for the first time at the School Ground. For the past ten years the Sports have been held regularly at the Port Sunlight Recreation Ground, but, trying the experiment this year, we have discovered that our own ground is more suitable in many ways. It was rather unlucky that the day turned out wet, but it tested the excellent arrangements which had been made by the Staff, and, thanks to them, everything went off well. At 2-30 p.m. it was still undecided whether or not the proceedings should be postponed, and perhaps the deciding factor was the bursting into music of the band playing "Laughing at the rain." At any rate it started to clear up a few minutes after we started, and later a fine, sunny June day set in.

Owing to the state of the ground we could hardly expect any records to be broken, although G. W. Smith finished the mile in five minutes and half a second, whereas the previous record was five minutes ten and four-fifth seconds.

T. J. Andrews is to be congratulated on being the first to be Victor Ludorum for three successive years.

A surprising number of visitors turned up, considering the weather, and plenty of seating accommodation was available for them.

The prizes were distributed at the end of the afternoon by Mrs. Godfrey A. Solly.

RESULTS.

100 YARDS:

Open—Andrews (W.), Dunning (A.), Shaw, G. W. (S.),
11-1/5 seconds.

Under 15—Jones, J. O. (A.), Ramsden (A.), Colenso (S.),
12 seconds.

Under 14—Milligan (S.), Wheat (T.), Tong (T.),
13 seconds.

Under 13—Winter, H. T. (A.), Wheat (T.), Watkins (T.),
13 seconds.

220 YARDS:

Over 15 (H'cap)—Shaw, G. W. (S.), Andrews (W.), Dunning (A.)

Under 15 (H'cap)—Jones, J.O. (A.), Colenso (S.), Ramsden (A.)

Under 13 (H'cap)—Barker, D.R. (W.), Taylor, J.A. (W.),
Davies, H. (W.)

Old Boys' Race—Carter, 26-3/5 seconds.

LONG JUMPS:

Open—Andrews (W.), Keates (W.) 17 ft. 5 ins.

Under 14—Wheat (T.), Milligan (S.) 15 ft. 3 ins.

HIGH JUMPS:

Open—Keates (W.), Rice (W.) 4 ft. 10 ins.

Under 14—Milligan (S.), Tong (T.) 3 ft. 11 ins.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL:

Open—Allsop (T.), Andrews (W.)

Under 14—Wheat (T.), Tong (T.)

OBSTACLE RACES:

Over 14—Shipley (A.), Gaulter (A.), Wallace (S.)

Under 14—Todd (A.), Quaile (W.), Phoenix (S.)

RELAY RACES:

Senior House—(1) Stitt, (2) Atkin, (3) Westminster.

Inter-House—(1) Atkin, (2) Westminster, (3) Stitt.

Junior House—(1) Westminster, (2) Tate, (3) Atkin.

Open—(1) Morris's Team, (2) Shipley's Team.

TUG-OF-WAR CONTESTS:

House Tug—(1) Westminster, (2) Stitt.

Open Tug—(1) W. S. Jones' Team, (2) G. Richardson's Team.

880 YARDS (H'cap) : Shaw, G.W. (S.), Winter, H.E. (A.),
Williams, G. (T.)

440 YARDS (H'cap) : Smith, G.W. (S.), Williams, G. (T.),
Andrews (W.)

ONE MILE (Open) : Smith, G. W. (S.), Shaw, G. W. (S.),
Sutcliffe (S.), 5 minutes and a ½ second*.

THREE-LEGGED (H'cap) : (1) Allen, W. G. and Jones,
R. M., (2) Mackintosh and Hely, (3) Wadlow and
Phoenix, F. D.

80 YARDS (Jun. Sch. H'cap) : Taylor (W.), Bawden (S.),
Allen (W.)

CONSOLATION RACE (under 14) : Jones, P.O., Moss, R.,
Moss, N.

CONSOLATION RACE (over 14) : Lord, Pott, Campbell.

VICTOR LUDORUM : T. J. Andrews (for third year in suc-
cession).

CHAMPION HOUSE : Westminster 51½ pts.; Runner-up,
Stitt 44½ pts.

*School Record. Previous Record 5 minutes 10-4/5 seconds.

SALVETE.

IVr.—Tate :—Perry, W.

Lr. Prep.—Stitt :—Seed, A. ; **Westminster :—**Clarke, D.

VALETE.

Upper VI.—Tate :—Lockey, R. B. (1924-31), *Matric.*, 1929, *Prefect, House Representative on "Visor" Committee*; Rigby, D. (1925-31), *Matric.*, 1929, *Prefect, Captain of Harriers*, 1929-30. **Westminster :—**Grundy, W. G.

Vib.—Atkin :—Allan, J. W., Williams, R. T. **Tate :—**Fryer, E. A. **Westminster :—**Rogers, J. F., Waterhouse, N.

IVr.—Tate :—Davies, R. L.

IIIa.—Tate :—Mason, R.

IIb.—Stitt :—Sidwell, G.

Up. Prep.—Westminster :—Simms, R.

A VISIT TO A PAPER MILL.

Once, during a cycle visit to North Wales, we spent an interesting and instructive morning inspecting the Abbey paper mill at Greenfield, near Flint.

Under the personal guidance of the manager we went first to the boiler house, with its fiery furnaces, where the steam is generated for boiling esparto grass. We were informed that the steam is first passed through a large turbine, and converted into electricity, thus providing sufficient power and light for the whole mill.

We were next shown bundles of esparto grass, which is the chief constituent of paper. The grass has first to be beaten to extract all dust which, we were interested to note, is not wasted but is used in the manufacture of gramophone records. The bruised grass is then boiled for several hours in a strong solution of caustic soda, and afterwards this semi-pulp is reboiled with bleaching matter. It then appears as a milk-like solution and is passed on to an endless tray of shaking wire gauze by means of which the water is strained off. To remove all traces of water the stiff pulp then passes over suction boxes, and on through drying rollers. Up to this part the pulp is like blotting paper, or rough cardboard,

and at this stage it is torn up by revolving knives and re-boiled. The necessary colouring matter is then added, and also size, to stiffen and harden it and so make it fit for writing purposes. Before entering the paper-making machine, the mixture flows over an endless tray of wire-gauze which allows the water to drain away. On leaving the tray it is passed beneath a "dandy-roller"—a skeleton roller covered with wire gauze, upon which is woven in wire the desired water-mark. Next it passes between chilled steel rollers, which give it a smooth finish. It is then dried and calendered by a succession of steam-heated rollers.

As the closing time of the mill was now approaching, we were prevented from seeing the machine which cuts the finished paper into the size required. The manager very kindly gave us samples of paper in different stages of completion, and, after thanking him, we proceeded on our way.

W.J.W.

ICHABOD.

How are the mighty fallen,—how, alas!
 Doth sudden shame o’ertake the favoured class!
 How long ago?—but yesterday, meseems,
 That leisure we enjoyed beyond our dreams;
 And now!—Alas! that I should have to say,
 “From Israel the glory’s passed away!”
 For we, while sporting in the dinner-hour,
 Were quickly seized of a deadly stowre,
 (A word I took from Spenser—Capital!)
 But to my tale, and now to crown it all,
 Behold us sporting, as I said before.
 As the board-duster skims across the floor,
 A Prefect enters; lowering his brow,
 And stern his eye. He speaks; “Descend, you, now,
 And in the yard report yourselves, you curs.”
 With like strong words the loiterers he spurs.—
 My tale is told—But if at ‘break’ you see
 A VIa. boy devoid of usual glee,
 Be sure, if you should ask him why he pines,
 He’ll sadly answer, “VIa. are on lines!”

R.F.B., VIa.

13 OR 12.

I feel sure that we have all heard rumours to the effect that the year is to be divided up into thirteen months of equal length, instead of the twelve calendar months. I wonder how many of us actually know how far this rumour is true, or when this is going to take place.

To commence with, let us see how the year is to be split up. Each of the thirteen months will consist of twenty-eight days, making a total of three hundred and sixty four days, with an extra day to be included. This extra day will come immediately after December 28th, and will be called "Year Day." Like "Leap Day," which is to come after June 28th, every four years, "Year Day" will have no specific date and will be a public holiday, a decided change for the better. The extra month is to be called "Sol" and will come directly after June (June, Sol, July).

Nearly a year ago, this proposition was brought before the notice of the League of Nations, who, thinking the idea a good one, sent an invitation to the thirty-six main World Powers, asking each of them to form an internal committee to investigate and discuss the proposition. This has been done, and representatives of each of the thirty-six Powers are to meet an Executive Committee of the League of Nations on June 15th. . The fate of the year will be in the hands of this Committee, and, if they decide in favour of the innovation, it will, in all probability, come into force the year commencing January 1st, 1934.

I do not think that there is any need for me to dwell upon the advantages of this new year, but it will be a great asset in the business world, whilst we shall know the date of every Wednesday and Saturday half-holiday throughout the year.

F. W. MILLER, VIs.

THE DEBT.**(With Apologies to Coleridge).**

It was a pursuing master,
 And he stoppeth one of three.
 "By thy flowing gown and slender cane,
 Now wherefore stop'st thou me?"

'My impot book is opened wide,
 And you are on the list;
 Thou art a very silly ass:
 Did'st think thou would'st be missed?'

He holds him with his flashing eyes,
 'I want it now,' quoth he.
 The boy he doth keep silence:—
 'Ah! Wilt not answer me?'

But still he doth keep silent:
 The impot is not done.
 The master he doth get his cane,
 'Now bend thee down, my son!'

The boy, he bendeth o'er a desk,
 The cane is raised on high,
 Then down it comes with sudden thwack,
 The boy begins to cry.

He went like one that hath been caned,
 And is of sense forlorn.
 A sadder and a wiser boy,
 He rose the morrow morn.

A. J. MARSH.

SHOTWICK ESTATE MINUS A GAMEKEEPER.

About a mile from Saughall is Shotwick estate, an area of two square miles, consisting of three large farms together with a willow plantation, and two fifty-acre woods.

The estate used to be strictly guarded by the gamekeeper, who was known by a very uncomplimentary name amongst the boys of the neighbourhood. There were plenty of partridges and pheasants in the two woods, and plenty of fish and water-fowl in the eight large ponds.

Up to last Easter, the area was closed to us (except on Chester cup day), since the gamekeeper would never let any-

one go on the estate whatever the pretext might be. Moreover, he had an unpleasant habit of setting his dog on you, and the dog had a most uncanine fancy for trouser-seats (I speak from experience). At Easter, however, when I met some of the boys, they were full of the news that the gamekeeper was leaving, because the estate had been bought by the Cheshire County Council to be split up into small farms. We found, by discreet enquiries, the exact date of his departure, and on the night he left, we made a tour of inspection round the estate.

First, we visited the "old covert," a wood of sycamores, willows, and many brambles. There were two very large ponds in it, and they simply swarmed with fish and ducks, but, as we found no eggs, I suspect the keeper took them before he went. There was, however, a rook's nest up a remarkably easy tree for rooks, and, for the first time, I managed to get up to it. There were two fawnish eggs, with green blotches. Of course, we left them.

Later, we went to the new covert, a dense pine wood, through which led several tunnel-like passages, almost dark, and devoid of undergrowth. So long as we made no noise, not a bird stirred, but, as soon as a branch cracked, the numerous pigeons in the tree-tops rose with loud cooings. We thanked our lucky stars that the gamekeeper was not there to receive the warning.

Continuing from the new covert, we found, in the middle of a field, a rabbit's nest (down a hole) with seven tiny young ones in, very pretty, funny creatures.

In the middle of the next field, there was a pond from which rose a single wild duck. As the drake was not with her, we suspected eggs, and, upon searching, found a nest with ten in. My word, they did make a good breakfast!

A little further on was a pit, into which had been thrown a galvanised iron sheet, so, making use of this, I tried to paddle out to the coot's nest which was made very near the middle of the pit. The sheet must have been pivoted on a submerged bough, like a seesaw, and just as I got within reach of the nest, the sheet tipped up on end and acted as a ducking stool. Drenched to the skin, I had to go home, where with numerous excuses, I persuaded my people that it was a pure accident, and that I wouldn't dream of paddling after coot eggs.

A.H.W., Up. VIb,

BALLAD.

The scholar stood at the form room door
 (Algebra, French, both death by degrees),
 A thing he had frequently done before;
 But his books weighed him down on his bare bony knees.

The teacher, he taught in a class close by,
 (Algebra, French, both death by degrees),
 Till some started fainting and others to cry,
 While many did nothing but fiddle with keys.

A monitor wiped at the white, chalky board,
 (Algebra, French, both death by degrees),
 The lessons had filled him with knowledge abhorred
 When he might have been sitting at home well at ease.

The pupils played in the large, roomy yard,
 (Algebra, French, both death by degrees),
 While their hands and brains were both working hard
 But certainly not upon things such as these.

J.N., VIb.

A THIRD-FORMER'S IMPRESSION OF CASTOR OIL.

Dear Eddittor,

I no you are a good sort, so I hoap you wil print this.
 a dokter has said that castor oyl is danjru—dainger—danejr
 —wel, you no what I mean—not safe to give to kids who have
 panes in the tummy. He said it was murdres—murduress—
 mirdress—murd—wel, you no, it mite kil them, wich is not
 aloud.

I hoap all pairents wil reed this becos they ort to no
 about it. they dont like it themselves and yet they give it to
 us, wich is roten. When they get panes in there tummys
 they take a wiskey and soder becos it is good for the livver
 or sumpthink, but they give us castor oyl wich is like
 swallow—swallowink—swaller—O bust it, you no—drink-
 ing down moter oyl only wurse; but I say boys livvers are
 the same as mans livvers and if not they ort to be. what are
 dokters for ennyway. But I am glad to sea won of them has
 some scents, so I hoap you wil print this.

Yours trooly,

ARCHIBALD SMITH.

REGDOT, Va.

SCHOOL DAYS—MIXED SCHOOL.

I used to wonder why young Jack
 Was always bottom of his class;
 But now I know; when teacher's back
 Was turned, the sly young dog would pass
 A note across (as he was able)
 By way of other boys, to Mabel.

'This little minx, but twelve years old,
 Had lots and lots of girlish charms;
 She'd hair that shone like burnished gold
 And ruby lips and dimpled arms;
 So poor young Jack, unhappily,
 Could not do sums or geography.

Now he's attained to man's degree,
 I'm glad he flirted hard in school;
 For he's a film star now, you see,
 And makes screen love as cool as cool:
 The only sums he has to do
 Are adding noughts on to his "screw."

REGDOT, VA.

SCHOOLBOY'S LEXICON.

Algebra—A science devised by the Arabs, one night after
 Haroun-al-Boob had a big party.

Bacon—(a) Food from the flesh of pigs.

(b) A low fellow who imposes his private thoughts
 on long-suffering school-boys.

Chicago—The Mecca of the third forms. They hope to get
 a question on Al Capone in matric.

Cog—Ask anybody!

Detention—See "Secrets of the Inquisition." Leonardo da
 Vinci.

Deutsch—(a) A language known only to a few initiates.

(b) A book which makes good ammunition.

Electricity—See Littler or ask Mr. W*tt's.

Quota—Something without which the country could not
 exist. Ask Marsh VIs.

Rag—(a) A thing with which blackboards are cleaned.

(b) A favourite pastime in VIr.

School—See "Crime" Vol. XIV. P.322 Chap. XIII. on
 "Penal Settlements."

Z—'Nuff Z!'

R.F.B., VIa.

EPITAPHS.

Here lies a boy who made a noise,
 A louder one than other boys;
 A master he did step along—
 Hence the need for this funeral song!

Here lies a boy who was always fooling,
 He did not care about his schooling;
 One day he got too much of the stick,
 And death did overtake him quick!

M. BENNETT, Form IIa.

THE FEVER.

I must go down to the woodwork room, to the room at the end
 of the school,
 And all I ask is a sturdy bench, a bench, and a handy tool;
 With the chisel's snip, and the saw's song, and the wooden
 chips a-flying,

While to make that "useful model" we all are vainly trying.

I must go down to the gymn. again to the stalls and the
 vaulting box,

Where we exercise our muscles, and emerge as strong as an
 ox;

And all I ask is a jolly game, an occasional swing at the bar,
 A little bout of wrestling, (only a friendly spar).

I must go down to the field again, to the lonely pitch and the
 sky,

And all I ask is a full-blown ball, and boots to kick it by
 And there I'll stay until I'm sure the goalie I can beat,
 Until I learn to kick the ball without falling off my feet.

A. QUAILE, F. TWEEDLE, IIa.

THE SCHOOL TROPHIES.

Probably the most attractive feature in the entrance hall
 of our School is the Trophy Cupboard, with its valuable con-
 tents of solid Silver Cups.

The cupboard itself is of oak, with a glass front, sur-
 mounted by a carving of the Visor and School motto. It con-
 tains altogether eleven trophies, while the House Champion-
 ship Shield stands near by.

The most interesting cup, the oldest silver cup in the school, is the Blake-Campbell Challenge Cup, which is awarded annually to the best all-round athlete. It has inscribed on the base, "Presented by St. John Frank Blake-Campbell of the 1st Royal Cheshire Engineers." The list of names dates back to the year 1891. This cup is naturally one of our most cherished possessions.

Next in the chronological order is the cup presented by Samuel Stitt, Esq., for the best all-round Junior athlete each year. The donor's name, crest, and Latin motto, "Dum Spiro, Spero" (While I breathe, I hope), are inscribed on the bowl, which also contains a list of winners for the past twenty-six years.

The Cricket Cup, which, incidentally, is our first House Trophy, is inscribed "Presented by the Boys of the Farm Camp, 1918." The Farm Camp was held during the summer of 1918 at Tilston Fearnal (mid-Cheshire), in order that the boys of the Institute might do war-work for the farmers, who were, of course, very short-handed at the time. Along with the Football Cup, which is of similar design, and was purchased with the Victor Ludorum Cup in 1922, the Cricket Cup is awarded each season to the House which gains highest points in inter-House matches.

To these cups were added in 1930, the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior House Relay Cups, presented by the Junior Staff, the Headmaster, and the Senior Staff respectively. They vary in design, but all three are inscribed with the events for which they are given, the names of their donors, and the School crest and motto.

The House Championship Trophy is a large silver Shield handsomely engraved with the Visor and School motto, to the design of Mr. Paice, on an ornamental background, on an oak panel. It was purchased in 1929 out of School funds.

In addition to these nine School trophies, the Scout Troop at present holds the Brewster Challenge Shield for Swimming, and the Walter Harding Challenge Cup, awarded at the Scout Sports.

This concludes a very brief account of the School's most treasured possessions, valuable not only for their intrinsic worth, but as reminders of the traditions of athletics and good sportsmanship which our School holds.

G.N.J.

GOING DOWN A COAL MINE.

Recently I visited a coal mine at Haydock colliery. We were each given a safety lamp, which seemed quite dull in daylight. The stage for the "cage" was elevated, so making an incline for the laden trucks to run down. The cage itself was made of iron, and had two floors, carrying twenty men or two trucks. The pit is 400 yards deep, and, when we were half way down, we were travelling at 40 miles per hour; when the brakes were applied, we had the strange sensation of ascending instead of descending.

In the passage-ways at the bottom of the pit were fixed electric lamps. There we saw a machine for winding the ropes which pull the tubs, (trucks running from the coal seams). We walked along a passage of 200 yards, reaching the end of a tunnel through solid rock, which led to a coal seam. Here fifteen men drive compressed air drills into the rock to a depth of three feet, and an explosive is placed in each hole, which is then stopped with clay. An operator fires the explosive, the rock crumbles and is then transported to the shaft.

In earlier times doors were used for keeping back the air, but now sacking replaces them. We went along another passage to the actual coal face, and saw a coal-cutter at work.

The men are divided into "shifts," the first obtaining the coal, the second shovelling it on to travelling belt conveyors which move the coal into the "tubs." When returning we noticed that pit props are being replaced by iron girders. Our guide rang a bell down below, transmitting a signal to the engineroom, which we visited when we arrived on the surface. Here are three gigantic engines, one of them winding the pithead gear, another making compressed air, and a third driving a tremendous fan, which hurls all the bad air up a chimney. The coal, of which more than 600 tons is brought to the surface daily, is sorted out in various grades, and dispatched all over the world.

One never realises the vast upkeep of a coal mine, nor the improvements which have been introduced on the old methods. The air is pure and there are fewer dangers to the miner. Electricity has revolutionised the workings of a mine, numerous engines being employed underground for pulling the "tubs."

J. MAYO, IIA.

BORGEN MACHT SORGEN.

"Ye have cogged," said he, "ye are naughty and don't attend;
'Take your ill-done homework and go to the Head;
'This will be the last time that you'll offend."
"Sez you!" the whole class said.

A. JACKSON, VIA.

With apologies to Henry Newbolt.

SUN SET.

Way o'er the western hills, the day is dying;
The silv'ry moon already doth appear;
Out on the misty moor, the snipe is crying,
And the bittern booms from out the reedy mere.

The grey gull wavers by on outstretched wing;
Across the sky, the ragged storm-clouds flee;
The sun one last defiant ray doth fling,
And darkness falls across the heaving sea.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor of the "Visor,"

Dear Sir,

As you are no doubt aware, the next school function of note is the Swimming Gala. I should like to point out that in past years the House Championship has been won on one event only, namely the House Squadron Race. The School Championship has been awarded in a similar fashion. I suggest that it would be an improvement if points were allocated to all principal events, as is done at the Athletic Sports.

Yours truly,

G.S.N., L.VIA.

VARIA.

“ Good luck ” to all H.S.C. and Matric. candidates. The School looks to them to keep up its good examination records.

And “ Farewell ” to all those who are leaving this term and best wishes for their future.

* * * *

In opposition to certain members of VIb. who attempted to start a dress reform by wearing plus-fours, VIr. are thinking of wearing kilts and Glengarry caps. False noses will naturally follow.

* * * *

The photographs of the Annual Sports reproduced in this issue were taken by E. J. Matthews of Upper VIa.

* * * *

The only way in which we can hope to have our Assembly Hall seems to be to raise money by auctioning the lost property that is collected from School and from the playing field.

* * * *

The School is now well equipped with Fire Extinguishers, which are periodically inspected by an august member of the Birkenhead Fire Brigade. The only thing needed now, according to one bright spark from the Fourth Form, is for the whole School to practise Fire Drill (instead of French, no doubt).

* * * *

Mr. Allison is taking a party from the Fifths and Sixths to Belgium this year, and, if the tour is as successful as last year's, the boys who go will have all the enjoyment they want.

* * * *

It has been mentioned that, apart from the Medici prints and the paintings in the Art Room, there are very few good pictures in the School. Many of them are faded photographs, of no use and of little artistic merit. The latter fault can be excused in the case of maps and diagrams, but neither fault can be excused in pictures.

Moreover, the best of the good pictures are hung in out-of-the-way spots, where they are seldom seen and appreciated. Could not a selection committee be formed which would scrap worthless pictures and re-hang the better ones in suitable places?

We were sorry to lose Mr. Wood from School for a fortnight this term, owing to illness, but we are glad to find him back with us, and we are sure all wish him continued good health during his retirement.

* * * *

The usual effect of a bell which announces the end of a period is of a soothing nature. That statement, however, only applies to normal bells. Our bells are not normal. Varying in note from a ghostly clatter to a tremendous buzz, they wake all sleepers, stop all masters talking, to the delight of the Third Forms, and give some people a help towards a nervous breakdown. Some forms, such as IVb., have bells which do not ring at all (this does not mean that IVb. work overtime). Why cannot the School be equipped with bells which give a pleasant, soft ring, that will soothe us to sleep?

* * * *

Any one interested will have noticed that, instead of cultivating Mustard seed at the playing field, a change has been adopted. One solitary, red rose now holds a position of prominence in the flower-beds.

* * * *

The Inspectors have come and gone, and we hope they enjoyed their visit. After weeks of excited anticipation the actual event fell rather flat. A slight nervousness on the part of Va. was noticed at first, but it soon wore off, and by the end they were extending to His Majesty's representatives the same easy tolerance with which they view the staff.

* * * *

But all was not well. Justice was not dealt out in fair and equal portions. To put it bluntly, IVb. have a grievance. Only *one* out of the five inspectors present paid them the compliment of a call. And he only for one brief visit lasting two minutes. He came in, glanced at two books in the front row, closed his eyes, and silently groped for the door.

* * * *

Great disappointment was felt in the ranks of the geographers, whose diagrams, maps and photographs of 'furrin' parts adorn the walls of every form-room, on learning that none of the inspectors was sufficiently well up in the subject to appreciate the mysteries of the craft.

The Junior School looked on the whole business of the inspection with nonchalant disdain. We learn that one rash official ventured through the Door in the Wall, but was shortly afterwards reported to have retired crestfallen. The Junior School had expressed their disapproval, and the attempt was not repeated.

* * * *

The Sports this year were a great success. We should like to assure all runners that next year we intend to arrange for the rain to be turned off earlier.

* * * *

The Scouts are going to Silverdale for their annual camp. All wish them "Dry camping."

* * * *

We are pleased to report that we were able to send £2 to the Summer Camp that has been organised for the poorer boys of Birkenhead. At the moment of writing we are collecting articles that will be of use to them in camp.

* * * *

The University examination lists just out contain the usual list of Old Boys' successes.

* * * *

Only one Form in the School has not joined in with our penny-per-week scheme for buying magazines. VIs. evidently think that the idea is below them, and scorn it after the manner of the lordly rich.

* * * *

We congratulate Mr. Griffiths on obtaining his Doctor of Music degree. This means, we suppose, that he is now fully qualified to teach young musicians their scales.

* * * *

Congratulations also to Mr. and Mrs. Allison, and we trust that they will not be unduly worried by the musical attainments of the new addition to their home.

* * * *

The Old Boys v. School Cricket Match was favoured with moderately fine weather, and it is to be hoped that the spectators present spent an enjoyable afternoon.

* * * *

We wish to extend our hearty congratulations to Mr. R. F. Wood, B.Sc.—one of our Old Boys—on his appointment as Resident Tutor at Borough Road Training College, London. What a pleasant task he has—to teach teachers!

We were glad to see several Old Boys visiting us in School this term.

* * * *

The recent tropical weather having induced a neighbouring canary to leave its usual habitation of wire and wood, and to perch precariously on the front wall, it was gallantly rescued by a Librarian who spied it from Olympian heights, and temporarily lodged it in the Physics Lab.

* * * *

The *Visor* Committee thanks Gill and Enescott for kindly doing posters for the magazine.

* * * *

The Committee acknowledges receipt of The Inkwell, The Liscardian, The Log, The Towers, Esmeduna, The Quarry, The Quill and Scroll, St. Edward's Magazine.

THE SIXTH FORM'S VISIT TO CHESTER.

Outside Chester Cathedral, on Wednesday, July 1st, a party of sixth form boys met, in order to study architecture for their approaching exam. . The Cathedral provides some good examples of "Decorated" work, the period of architecture which boys taking Matriculation this year have to study.

The tour of inspection was started by a visit to the Nave, which dates as far back as 1349, and which incorporates Decorated, Perpendicular, and Tudor periods. Among its main attractions were its fine capitals and pillars.

The Choir, which is 125 feet in length, was the part of great interest, and contains carved stalls of the late fourteenth century, which are among the most beautiful features of the building.

A perfect specimen of Early English work was to be found in the Lady Chapel, and here also stands the restored shrine of St. Werburgh.

The cool cloisters and well-kept garth, with its pool of gold-fish, offered a soothing sanctuary from the heat of the day, especially to those who had come on bicycles. After we had visited these and other places of interest, a welcome tea was served in the Refectory. The Head Master and Mrs. Wynne Hughes, together with Mr. and Mrs. Paice, honoured us with their presence during the enjoyable afternoon. The party is much indebted to Mr. Paice for the trouble he had taken in arranging the expedition.

J.N. and F.E.T., V.Ib.

OTHERS AS WE SEE THEM.

(EDITORIAL NOTE: A school magazine from the United States. of which we receive occasional copies in exchange for *The Visor*, finds fault with us for not offering a criticism of each issue. We would remind our dashing contemporary that it is not usual in this country to do more than publish the names of school magazines received in exchange.

But we are always open to consider new ideas, and as an experiment we are printing under this heading short notices of some of the exchanges we receive. Possibly the practice may spread, in which case we hope to benefit by the knowledge of what others think of us).

* * * *

The Towers (Overbrook High School, Philadelphia, Pa., May, 1931). The cause of all the trouble. It comes tripping out three times a term, nearly every time in a fresh cover, with fifty pages of beautiful printing liberally bedecked with black and white cuts. In its opulent double-column quarto pages misprints are not found. On its title-page are the proud blazons of the press associations of which it is an honoured member, and the multitudinous list of its editorial and managerial staff. It provides stories as modern, if not as tall, as the Empire State Building; verse as free and as varied as the gifts in a coupon scheme; humour as original as sin, but innocent withal. It reviews plays and novels impartially and from a great height, and confidently directs the heavy fire of its editorials on the most stubborn problems of the universe.

The trouble is that they want to know in Philadelphia, Pa. what we think about them in Birkenhead, Eng.; and it is very hard to say.

Between *The Towers* and an English school magazine lies the gulf between the Old World and the New. Our magazines are, to an outsider, stodgy and uninteresting; our lay-out is plain and unadorned: theirs are expensive examples of the printer's craft, arrayed in the finery of commercial journalism. Ours could not be more clearly labelled for what they are if the word SCHOOL were stamped across every page. Theirs have successfully disguised their scholastic identity and present, to the casual reader at any rate, the bold front of the grown-up society monthly.

And here, if we must find fault among so much that is excellent, is our main criticism of *The Towers*. When we have read its stories, its jokes and its psychological studies, we know next to nothing about Overbrook High School. A little about its games, perhaps,—baseball, track, tennis and the rest; but about the school itself, its individuality, the something that makes it different from other schools—just nothing at all. And this, we think, is a pity.

* * * *

The Wallaseyan (Wallasey Grammar, March, 1931), leads off with a list of the school governors, prefects and sixth form under the heading 'Notes and Queries.' With this exception, humour seems to have been strictly excluded from this number which is distinctly highbrow. The word 'humourous' (*sic*) occurs, however, in an article by one too high up to be mentioned; but for that we must blame the printer. 'O de Ar' is happier in his sonnet, 'The Immortal Quest,' than in his sermon on the 'pictures.'

* * * *

Oulton are to be congratulated on the anniversary number of *Oultonion* (March, 1931). The contributions reprinted from earlier issues shew that a high level has been maintained. It seems a pity that the lino-cuts were not designed as headings illustrative of the letterpress, rather than to fill odd spaces at the foot of a page. Has the cover design any symbolic meaning?

* * * *

The first number of the new *Liscardian* (March, 1931), appears in a neatly designed cover. We hope its name and fame will soon be such as to make the inverted commas unnecessary. The contents are good and varied. (Is all the humour in 'Odds and Ends' original?) The School Calendar might surely have contained more entries, but the idea is excellent. *Visor*, please copy.

* * * *

Full of beautifully composed reports of school and house events—and very little else—is *Esmeduna* (Liverpool Collegiate, March, 1931). A very dignified production, edited by the Sixth for the Sixth.

The Inkwell (Chester City and County, Spring, 1931), is in some respects the most remarkable school magazine we have met. It runs to some 75 pages of unusually small type, contains almost exactly twice as much reading matter as *The Visor*, and is sold at sixpence.

At this point that unimportant but loud-voiced fraction of the School, which does not buy its own copy, but borrows one from its neighbour and grouses about that, wants to know why we have to pay eightpence for a magazine half the size. This highly intelligent question arose also in the mind of the reviewer, who pays for his copy, and through the courtesy of those responsible for *The Inkwell* he is able to answer it.

Chester City and County School is smaller than The Institute, but *The Inkwell* has nearly three times the circulation of *The Visor*, and its revenue from advertisements is greater in the same proportion. A large and interesting magazine must have many contributors and very many subscribers: the enquirers mentioned above are found in neither class.

Twenty pages of *The Inkwell* are filled with Form Notes, a delightful medley of prose and verse, bristling with personalities and bubbling with wit. 'Shining Lights,' a sparkling *Who's Who* of school notables is another feature of undoubted popularity. Serious contributions are not lacking either, and the whole production is admirable.

* * * *

From Hobart High School, Tasmania, comes *The Log* (December, 1930), with much of the superior get-up, printing and illustration found in its American cousins, but with more of the familiar apparatus of House Notes (though they call them Groups), and accounts of school football and cricket matches. The Old Hobartians Association, a flourishing concern, which 'donates' prizes to the school every year—a thoroughly sound notion—has several pages to itself, with original contributions in addition to reports of its many activities (B.I.O.B., please note!)

The amount of material contributed is amazing,—forty-four signed items in prose or verse—and their quality is mainly good. Yet an editorial note complains that 'much to our regret, the contributions sent in by some classes were so few in number and of so low a standard' that not every class in the school is represented. They are ambitious in Tasmania.

ANOTHER CONTEMPORARY.

Among the periodicals we have *not* received in exchange for *The Visor* is an all-talking effort which is in every way a model of what a school magazine should be. Some clippings from this 100 per cent. scholastic hair-raiser are appended. It is entitled:

THE WHEEZER.

The Harmonium of the (very) High School, Broken Neck,
Wis.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Thank you *so* much for sending *The Weezer*: I always read it straight through from cover to cover, *especially* the advertisements. Such a *nice* magazine, I always think, so full of *uplift*, so . . . something one cannot express in print!

Your school must be a beautiful place. I do so love reading about your cupboards full of cups—so *homely*, don't you think?

Your devoted admirer,

Tabitha Dropstitch.

P.S. I always send my copy, when read, to our Dumb Friends League: others may be glad of the suggestion.

DELIRIA.

Great hopes were raised earlier in the term that the long-expected magic lantern would at last be installed. Since this was promised some thirty years ago, the school has been on the tip-toe of excited anticipation.

* * * *

A new knob has been fitted to the staff-room door, probably to facilitate its opening and closing.

* * * *

A surprisingly large number of boys have carelessly left articles of property at the Pavilion this term. These include broken boot-laces, old exam.papers, used tram and bus tickets, discarded neckwear, portions of sock suspenders and collar studs and torn hymn-sheets. Unless these are claimed immediately, they will have to be destroyed.

We hear that, contrary to custom, half-term will occur this term just after the term is over, the time thus saved this term being added on to the term after next. This makes it difficult to say when the next issue of *The Wheezer* will appear, and, furthermore, will constitute a record.

* * * *

Hearty commiserations with the members of the Nuts-in-May team on losing their seventeenth consecutive league match this season. We are glad, however, to be able to say that this also constitutes a record.

* * * *

Gloom.

* * * *

Deep grief is filling the hearts of all now that the close season for warbling has begun. The Warblers' Club, in enthusiasm and numbers the strongest in the school, with its three sub-sections—Nature's Minstrelsy, Cacophonic and Screeching, has long afforded ample outlet for devotees of this form of sport. It is regrettable that the law of the land curtails their activities between Swithin and Martinmas.

* * * *

The founding of the French Cricket Club makes the 333rd society to be included in Our School Activities, of which long accounts, full of vain repetitions, will be found in this (or any) number of *The Wheezer*.

POETRY OR WORSE.

There was a young fellow of Cutch.
 (I know there is no place called such;
 But I must have a rhyme
 For my first and last line,
 And I like writing Limericks so much).

There was an old lady of Nout.
 (Whether atlases show it I doubt;
 It'll do for *The Wheezer*—
 Those editor guys are
 So hard up they daren't leave it out).

ATKIN HOUSE NOTES.

Cricket has demanded a great deal of our time and energy this term, and, so far, we have won three matches out of four. Our Juniors have shown as much promise at cricket as they did at football last season. They have beaten Stitt, by 25 runs to 16, and Tate, by 35 runs for six wickets to 30 runs. Our Inters. beat Stitt (42—26) in the one match they have played. Our Seniors lost their first match against Stitt in spite of the fact that we have several representatives in the School Elevens, namely: Robinson, Shipley, and Smith, J.A., in the First, and Hall, Todd, Walker, and Powl in the Second—and consequently have a strong Senior team. As matters stand at present, we have an excellent chance of winning the House Championship.

We finished up third at the Sports with 34 points—not a glorious achievement. Hats off to Westminster for being Champion House for the fourth year in succession. However, we managed to win one cup, namely that for the Intermediate House Relay Race, which was won by the following team:—Jones, J. O., Davies, C. E., Ramsden, and Parry. Our Senior team, composed of Walker, Jones, J. O., Dunning, and Smith, J. A., arrived home second. Our Juniors arrived home third. Our tug-of-war team was pulled out in the first round by a heavy Westminster team which won the final. Amongst those who gained points for the House at the Sports are the following:—Jones, J. O., who gained 6 points, and Dunning, Ramsden, and Winter, H. T. (Jun.), who each gained 3 points.

We finished up at football last term with 14 points out of a possible 36, and of these our Juniors won ten, and our Seniors none. Out of six games played, our Inters. won two. Out of the same number our Juniors *won* five and our Seniors *lost* six. Here is a complete table of results for the football season:—

		GOALS.							
		P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.	
Seniors	6	...	0	...	6	...	0	...
Inters.	6	...	2	...	4	...	0	...
Juniors	6	...	5	...	1	...	0	...
Total		18	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	...	7	...	11	...	0	...
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
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The results in the Cross Country Run at the end of last term were disappointing, due mainly to the fact that many boys who could have saved points for the House were too lazy to run. Many of the Seniors considered it below their dignity to do so. We did better in the Junior Race, of course, than in the Senior.

Our Juniors deserve mention for the splendid way in which they have upheld House traditions (which are, by the way, rather too heavy for the Seniors to bear) during this year, in every sporting activity. They lost only one match at football last season, and that only by one goal. They formed the greater part of the Novices at the Gala; and so far they have progressed very favourably at cricket. If they continue in this way, Atkin should be "Cock House" in a few years, when they attain to the dignity of the Sixth Form, so long as it is not the misguided dignity at present rife amongst the greater part of our this year's Sixth Formers.

In concluding, we should like to bid farewell to Mr. Wood and to thank him for the excellent services he has rendered the House, as a House-Master. G.R.

STITT HOUSE NOTES.

Stitt House has every reason to be extremely proud of itself this year, having already gained two Championships, and been runner-up in a third, whilst a fourth is not yet out of its grasp.

The House easily carried off the Football Championship with a fine total of 27 points, Tate, our nearest rivals, gaining only 16. In the last two Senior House matches we scored 21 goals against 3, defeating Atkin by 12 goals to 2, and Tate by 9 goals to 1. By scoring 50 goals in Senior House games, we set up a record which may not be equalled for many years.

In the Intermediate section we just maintained our unbeaten record of many seasons' standing by defeating Tate by 4 goals to 3.

The Juniors are to be congratulated on maintaining the improvement shown in the latter part of the season. We defeated Tate by 8 goals to 1 in the last match. Keep up the improvement, Juniors! The final table of all matches played during the season is as follows:—

GOALS.									
...	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.		
Seniors	6	...	5	...	1	...	0	...	50 ... 12 ... 10
Inters.	6	...	6	...	0	...	0	...	40 ... 21 ... 12
Juniors	6	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	22 ... 25 ... 5
	—		—		—		—		—
Total	18	...	13	...	4	...	1	...	112 ... 58 ... 27
	—		—		—		—		—

The second title which we have won this year is the Cross Country Championship, thus repeating last year's success. Stitt placed the largest number of runners in the field, 22 running in the Senior race, and 18 in the Junior. The Senior race was won quite easily. Smith, J. W., was first man home for Stitt, and second in the race. Then followed Shaw, G. W. (3), Sutcliffe (4), Christian (6), Roscoe (10), Jones, W. S. (11), Lees (13), Cumming (14), Williams (15), and Wallace (17).

The Juniors had to be content with second place. Boulton (10) was Stitt's best runner, being closely followed by Iveson (13), Williamson (19), Hewson (21), Jones, T. (22), Simms (23), and Milligan (24).

All the members of Birkenhead Institute who "have worn or now wear the green" must be proud of themselves when they cast their thoughts back a few years, and note the steady improvement in the Athletic side of the House. We repeated last year's performance by occupying second place in the Championship, but having a much larger number of points this year, 44½. For this highly satisfactory total we are indebted to all who entered for the various events, and especially to Milligan, who gained 10 points, Shaw, G. W. (9 points), Smith, G. W. (6 points), and Stitt's mile runners who gained all three places. We should also like to congratulate the Senior Relay team on their excellent success. The team was, Anderson, Pott, Shaw, G. W., and Smith, G. W. The Intermediate Relay team did not do quite so well, being only third. This team was Colenso, Milligan, Phoenix, and Simms. We were rather unfortunate in being defeated by Westminster in the final of the tug-of-war by 2 pulls to 1, having already defeated Tate also by 2 pulls to 1. The team was composed of the following:—Campbell, S., Colenso, Currie, Henderson, Jones, W. S., McKenzie, Smith, G. W., and Williams.

I am afraid that Cricket has not yet reached the high standard for which the House had hoped. There is room for improvement in all branches, especially in the Junior department.

The first Senior House match which Stitt played was won rather easily, Atkin being defeated by 52 runs. Stitt knocked up 75 runs, of which total Smith, G. W., claimed 16. Atkin, however, were soon disposed of for 23, Currie taking 6 wickets for 8 runs, and Smith 2 for 10.

Stitt Seniors also defeated Westminster in a very exciting match, by 14 runs. A very fine innings by Smith, G. W., who scored 52, enabled us to declare with the total at 139 for 8 wickets. At one time Westminster looked like winning the game easily, but a sensational collapse before the bowling of Currie and Jones, W. S., enabled us to dispose of our opponents for 125. Jones, W. S., took 4 wickets for 25 runs, and Currie 4 for 48.

Despite good bowling by Shaw, G. W., who took 8 wickets for 11 runs, Atkin, in an Intermediate House match made 42 runs. Stitt's batsmen failed, and were all dismissed for 26. Against Westminster, however, Stitt managed to win by 2 wickets. Westminster made 38 runs for 6 wickets, and then declared. Stitt passed this total with 2 wickets in hand, chiefly owing to a fine partnership between Roscoe and Phoenix. Stitt would not have scored this win had it not been for the sporting action of Ames, the Westminster captain, who allowed play to continue when Stitt were within 3 runs of victory.

Good bowling by Simms and Iveson enabled Stitt Juniors to dispose of Atkin for 26 runs; but we failed to win a low scoring game by 11 runs.

Our representatives in the School Cricket Elevens number 7. These are:—1st XI.: Currie, Neil, Pott, and Smith, G. W.; 2nd XI.: Anderson, Jones, W. S., Silcock.

Another branch of the House's activities in which we do not excel is Chess. Having only one member in the School team, we were naturally not up to the standard of Westminster, who defeated us by 5 games to 2.

In conclusion I think everyone can claim that this year has been a very eventful one for Stitt. It is with regret that

we say "Au revoir" to many of our Seniors at this time of the year, but we hope that those who take their places will carry on the good work and keep up the high traditions of the House. Play up, Stitt, and play the game! W.S.J.

TATE HOUSE NOTES.

The success which has attended our activities in the cricket field during the last two years appears to have been completely lost this season, if one can judge by the few results so far. But we feel sure that, with a little more interest on the part of Senior boys, the House could regain its former position.

The House finished 2nd in the final table in football last term, due mainly to the points gained by the Junior team. The results of the three teams were as follows:—

GOALS.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.				
Senior	6	...	2	...	4	...	0	...	4
Inter.	6	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	5
Junior	6	...	3	...	3	...	0	...	6

Our first cricket match this term was a Senior game against Westminster. We batted first, but failed to run up a big score. Our total was only 68, of which Minns scored 25 and Cross 10. Our bowlers were not at all successful, with the result that Westminster scored 96 for 6 wickets. Shaw took 2 for 10, Jones 2 for 26, and Cross 2 for 27.

Only time saved our Junior team in the first match against Westminster. Westminster batted first making 57. Tong taking 5 wickets for 7 runs. Tate failed with the bat, however, only Tong showing any defence to the bowling. He was run out after making 12. At the end Tate had made 36 for 9 wickets. The second Junior House match was played against Atkin, and the result was very disappointing. We batted first, and made only 31, so that Atkin easily knocked up the required total for the loss of two wickets.

We are glad to see that the Juniors are very keen, and with a little more experience and coaching, they should improve their standard considerably.

The House is represented in the 1st XI. by Minns and T. A. Jones, and in the 2nd XI. by Allsop, S. C. Andrews, Cross, and C. A. Shaw.

Although we again finished last in the Athletic Sports, we have every reason to expect a return to success in the near

future, as our Junior runners did extremely well, gaining the majority of our points. Places were gained by Wheat, Tong, and Watkins. The Seniors did very badly, Allsopp being the only one to gain points, by winning the Senior Cricket Ball. We finished fourth in both the Senior and Intermediate Relay Races. We were represented in the Senior Relay by Shaw (1st, 100 yds.), Minns (2nd, 100 yds.), Watkins (220 yds.), and Cross (440 yds.) In the Intermediate Relay we were represented by Sutton, Watkins, Mason and Tong. It was unfortunate that Wheat should go sick just before the Relay and we congratulate Sutton on taking his place in such a difficult position. In the Junior School Relay we finished a very close second.

We were beaten by Stitt in the Tug-of-War, by two pulls to one, after gaining a surprise victory on the first pull. Our team was by far the lightest and consisted of:—Allsopp, Cross, Stanley, Niblock, Shaw, Minns, Andrews and Ramsay.

We must congratulate the Chess team on winning the Chess Championship for the second year in succession. We defeated Westminster in the final by five games to two. Our representatives were:—Halliday (capt.), Pritchard, Welch, Miller, Clarkson, Wadlow.

Only three matches have been played in the House Cricket Competition, so we can hardly judge our prospects. As we have only drawn one out of these three games, it would seem that we have little hope, but we feel sure, if every member will put everything into his efforts, that we can finish fairly high in the final table.

M.A.M.

WESTMINSTER HOUSE NOTES.

The outstanding feature of the Summer Term was, of course, the Athletic Sports. We are jubilant about the results, for we hold the House Championship for the fourth consecutive year, while our House Captain, T. J. Andrews, is Victor Ludorum for the third time. Both achievements are unique in the annals of the School. The House had a total of 51½ points, and of these 11 were gained by Andrews, who won the 100 yards and the Long Jump, was second in the 220 yards handicap and the Cricket Ball, and third in the 440 yards handicap; he is greatly to be congratulated on his achievement.

In the Inter. House Cross Country, Horne was first home in the Senior pack, in which Westminster were second; while in the Junior run, which Westminster won, J. Barker was first, A. J. Marsh second, and H. D. Jones third.

At the end of the football season our Junior team had won none of the six matches they had played, and had drawn only one; the Intermediates had won only two; so that despite the high standard of the Seniors we were only third in the Championship. The final tabulated results were as follows:—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Seniors	6	...	5	...	1	...	0 ... 30 ... 21 ... 10
Inters.	6	...	2	...	4	...	0 ... 30 ... 33 ... 4
Juniors	6	...	0	...	5	...	1 ... 24 ... 38 ... 1

At Cricket, the Juniors have drawn both games they have played, one against Tate, the other against Atkin. The Inters. lost to Stitt, and won their match against Atkin by five wickets. The Seniors won against Tate by four wickets, and lost to Stitt, making 125 to Stitt's 139 for 8. So far we have gained 6 points in all.

We should like to extend a hearty welcome to Mr. White who came at the beginning of the term, and we bid farewell and good-luck to all who are leaving this mid-summer.

LIBRARY NOTES.

And so, reader, we meet again! The Library is much the same—no changes to chronicle there, but that, at such rare moments as the fogs, mists, and smoke clouds of Birkenhead are temporarily dispelled, the view from our windows is brightened by the leafy boughs of the school's embryo forest. For summer is here, and this vision of green so stimulates the otherwise depressed H.S.C. candidates that their thoughts fly to holidays and quiet summer evenings and such restful times, until they almost scent the new-mown hay and the rich odour of a flower-garden. But alas! this peaceful vision is rudely shattered as an inconsiderate whiff of H₂S. steals in from the chemy. lab., and the subdued murmur of Nature is replaced by the nerve-racking staccato of some antiquated vehicle changing gear on the hill. Then once more the mists close over the trees, the groans and protests of the lorry die away in the distance, and the Library is quiet save for the "Cum haec cognovisset, Cæsar. . ." of the faltering Latin scholar.

Such is the Library in these dark days before the H.S.C., which naturally occupies too large a part of our thoughts to leave room for much that is bright and cheerful, but once again our indefatigable artists have come to the rescue. Having discovered a box of coloured chalk, they threw themselves so whole-heartedly into Art that the resultant monsters and gargoyle-like creations leave the much discussed Genesis an also-ran. (Neither looks as though it could run much, I know, but my words must be taken metaphorically). The efforts of several dusters are needed to remove the results, and these, when fully charged with chalk-dust of varied hues, bright purples and reds predominating, make effective and much-used missiles, flashing through the air like bright comets or meteors from some polychromatic universe unprovided for even by the comprehensive if incomprehensible Einstein. Our thanks are due, also, to certain histrionically-minded Librarians who, on two occasions, have delighted and amused us with two charming play-readings, showing unexpected talent for reproducing realistically the characteristic sounds of sheep and wolves.

Now, strange as it may seem in this world of paradoxes, there really is a library in the Library. This has recently been set in order and catalogued, each book being duly labelled and numbered, but unfortunately the bookcases are kept locked, and the keys are difficult to trace. Yet that is not the chief difficulty, for there are nine cupboards, four kinds of locks, and seven keys on one string, each like the other. To one who never could do even the simplest arithmetic, the number of combinations appears limitless, but, at any rate, it is a nice little problem for the mathematically minded.

Congratulations to Pritchard and Coughtrie, who did so well in the recent Civil Service examination.

And now the summer days are here, the Library is much in evidence at the Field. One division may be seen esconced behind the barrier of the Pavilion kitchen, serving out bilious and emaciated buns to all who are sufficiently temerarious to consume them. Others may be seen performing at the nets, bowling wildly, and frequently alarming their neighbours in the next net by a "bolt from the blue."

And that is the summer term, the last term for many who leave us for various destinations and occupations. And from them and from myself—"Cheerio!" D.M.

FORM NOTES.**Senior Sixth.**

“ No time to think, but only cram
The stuff we need for our exam.”

(Apologies, etc.)

The tropical sun of Sixseniorland blazes down fiercely on the scholarly celebrities who ply their pens vigorously in time with the drip of the rain outside and the hum of swarms of flies and mosquitoes within.

Fortunately, the placid atmosphere in which we labour day and night is interrupted only by the distant swish of a birch and a howl of anguish, or a muffled voice, “ Wotcher get for number three ? ” “ 999.9999 ” is the reply, and the voice drifts off into the infinities of fractional mathematics. This scene of intense concentration and profound sagacity greets any admiring observer, and, if he keeps his eyes open, he will observe a weedy youth who pays great attention to an eloquent neighbour. Presently, he leans back with a chuckle, “ Oh ! that’s a good one.”

This is Todd, who, despite shortcomings many and various, is the best bowler in the Form Cricket Team. On two occasions, he has played for the School First Eleven, but his usual quarters are in the Second Eleven with S. Andrews, Powl and Walker.

To the right of Todd sits Currie (I believe he was put down in Saint Peter’s book as Charles Robinson Currie, but that’s a mere digression). He belongs to a strict religious sect known as the Prefects, and his eagle eye is a blessed nuisance. But one redeeming feature saves his soul from the “ everlasting bonfire,” as Shakespeare has it. He is captain of the School First Cricket Eleven, his three followers in that field of activity being Smith, Robinson and T. J. Andrews. This latter, by the way, is a great lad, for although one would not expect such things from a prefect, the wretch has actually, for the third year in succession, carried off the laurels of “ Victor Ludorum ” at the Sports. After the victory, he said, “ Give the glory, all the glory, to “ Aspro ; ” they banish rheumatism.”

Our other notable sports success was attained by G. W. Smith, who won the mile in record time.

Our four form-matches have resulted in a draw with the Advanced, a loss to VIb., a draw with VIa., and a victory over the Advanced. Currie, Andrews and Robinson do not play for the form, to give opportunities to others. Apart from cricket, most other form activities are overshadowed by our apprehensions of the Matric ogre, though at least 99 per cent. of our form should matriculate.

Finally, on behalf of the form, I should like to thank the masters who have worked so hard to get us fellows thro' Matric. We all appreciate Mr. White's successful continuation of our French course during Mr. Deakin's absence, and the guidance of Mr. Wood, our form-master. We wish him all the best during his retirement after 32 years' work.

W. H. MARSH.

VIa.

Here we are, all alive and full of beans. Of course, the main topic at present is that unspeakable "Matric." But occasionally we snatch a moment from our scholastic pursuits and divert the "heat oppressed brain" with a little of that sparkling wit for which the form is famous. I think the gem of the term is A*t'n's—"Henri IV était un cheval qui prise." ("priser," by the way, means "to take snuff") which is, being interpreted, "Henry IV. had a horse which he prized" (loud cheers!)

As a form we are not superstitious (although for a time fetish-worship was prevalent among some of us). During French the other day, however, a spider was seen to leave "terra firma" and mount laboriously, by an invisible thread, to the ceiling. Alas! Ere he reached his goal, his thread collapsed! Need I say more? Is it an omen? Our minds flew at once to a certain Scots gentleman, who was interested in the study of spiders. The parallel is obvious. "If at first—!" But we have christened him Stephen, so he may bring us luck.

At the beginning of term, we were in the throes of a gang warfare more fierce than ever Chicago knew. We were ready any morning to pick up "R.H's" riddled corpse, or find that "G.W.S." has been "bumped off!" But in view of Matric a temporary armistice has been signed, and we breathe freely (for how long??)

It may astonish our readers to hear that we have a detention sheet. It is not often used, and when in demand, has often to be extracted from the chimney, or other unlikely spots, where it has been placed for safety by Sammy! (Sam will be pleased to see himself in print even in the Juvenile Criminal List!)

Nor let it be thought that among these numerous pursuits we have lost sight of games. We have Rice, Shipley, Smith, T. A. Jones and Neil (who is a fine mascot) in the 1st XI. We have played four matches, won two, drawn one, and lost one. The last match was cancelled owing to the ground being unfit. Rice has scored 23 not out; Neil 55 not out (you see, he is a good mascot), and in the last match, which we lost by two runs, Bird distinguished himself by a score of 18. Rice and Shipley have been our most successful bowlers.

In the sports (or was it the Swimming Gala?) Shaw came first in the 220 yards, 2nd in the mile, 3rd in the 100 yards open, and 1st in the 880; Shipley was first in the obstacle, Rice 2nd in the high jump, and Smith 3rd in the long jump—Au revoir!

R.F.B., VIa.

Vib.

The outstanding feature of this term has been, perhaps, the School Sports. In these our most prominent competitor was L. E. Dunning, who came in 2nd in the 100 yards open, and 3rd in the 220 yards over 15. Another success was the gaining of a position in the mile. This was obtained by R. J. Sutcliffe, who came in 3rd. The other prize-winners were S. E. Anderson, who ran for Stitt relay team. and last, but not least, S. Campbell, who won third place in the Consolation Race.

One morning, on entering from the "Chemy Lab.," we wondered where a negro, and a very lively one at that, had sprung from, but on seeing him wash we discovered that it was M*rr*s, disguised as a particle of manganese dioxide.

This term's cricket began, from our point of view, rather weakly, for in the first match, against VIa., we were badly beaten. In our next match, however, we won by a very narrow margin against VIs., only to be beaten later by the Advanced. The succeeding match with VIa., was more satisfactory, for after a very close game we won by two runs.

It is to be hoped that D*nn*ng has not become worn out in the course of the year for in most of our Physics problems concerning falling bodies his is invariably the body. J.N.

VIr.

VIr. calling.

Here is the weather forecast for the term. The depression which has settled over the other sixes has not affected us; further outlook fine.

Before the news this term we have an S.O.S. to broadcast. Found on the 10th May, 1931, one valuable shirt button, wearing blue socks, white hat, green suit, may be suffering from loss of memory. All claimants should apply: Th*m*s W*ll**ms, Esq., Lost Property Officer, VIr.

Here is the General News Bulletin (Copyright by Reuter, Press Association, Exchange Telegraph, Central News). We have great regret in announcing the retirement of Stephens, Hughes, A., Hughes, R., and Thomas Williams, L.P.O., VIr. A retiring fund for the aforesaid has been launched. All suitable contributions will be gladly received by Andrews (anything from pen-nibs to jam-jars will be welcome).

At the sports this term we won only two medals, and both of these went to G. Keates.

We have had a very successful cricket season. The team under the captaincy of Shaw has played six matches, won five, and drawn one. Shaw heads the batting.

That is all the news this term, so Goodnight, everybody—Goodnight.

Va.

I am sure that every member of our form will agree that the present term has been quite satisfactory and encouraging.

We have not always won our cricket matches, although we have made the highest score in the Fifts. Out of six matches played, we have won two, and lost four. Martin, our Captain, hopes that the remaining matches may be yet more successful.

A great disturbance has lately been caused by our "Cherub," who, by his "early-closing hours," has incurred the jealousy of the other boys. I cannot tell what would happen if we all decided to follow "Oscar" Wylde's example.

There has been established in our form, by the kindly assistance of Mr. Moat, a French correspondence system.

Mr. Allison has been generous in supplying us with large pictures for the room, and also with a series of addresses at which may be obtained foreign travel information. I am of the opinion that this means of acquiring knowledge will improve a great number of sketch maps and other geographical exercises.

A.C.

Vr.

We of the cubby hole have been rather lucky in cricket of late. Out of five matches we have won three, lost one, and drawn one. One of our professionals is still keeping poultry, or perhaps I should say "ducks."

In the sports our athletes managed to obtain six prizes; whether these were obtained by fair means or foul (sh——sh).

Our lessons are still progressing and one of our members has started a campaign in which all parts of a Physics Lab. must wear a uniform. Our well-known geographical maniac, in other words A***s, has found out that in the Alps exists a Kyber pass. The form is astounded at this marvellous discovery and is waiting for him to find us a land flowing with ice cream and chocolate.

IVa.

Up to the present our cricket has not been very successful. At the beginning of the season, Iveson was voted captain and Jones vice-captain. We have played 6 matches, won 2, lost 3, and drawn 1. We have beaten IVr. twice. In the first match we dismissed them for 7 (Milburn 7—4), and then scored 75—3 (Boggie 27 not out, Powell 25 not out). IVb. have beaten us twice. At present Powell heads the batting averages with 15.2 runs, and Boggie is second with 7.

There are still humorists in the form. For instance in Geography one day Mr. Al**so* was saying, "From rice we obtain paper—"; "And rice pudding," butted in Pri***e. The same boy on being asked by Mr. D*v***s why he was not in the choir, answered, "I fell over and broke my voice, sir!"

Swimming on Monday morning is very popular, and there are only a few in the form who cannot swim. We are expecting great things from some of our experts in the next Gala.

The Inspection of the form proved satisfactory, I think, although while we were singing, "Summer is icumen in" to the Inspector, it began to thunder!

D.B.

IVb.

Amongst our activities this term, two societies have been formed—one, the Band of Hope, an angling association, and the other known as the Homework Syndicate. M*ttl*ws, to the surprise of everyone, cleaned out and repaired his store-house, i.e. desk, and is preparing to auction its many treasures (chiefly imposition paper). We suffered a severe loss in the theft of our calendar, and, while we strongly suspect Br*dg*, we have no definite proof of the villain's identity.

Owing presumably to the failure of the printing press, Messrs. H*ll*nd and D*b**s have not produced our promised form magazine, "The Herald," and we are still looking forward anxiously to its publication.

Among our famous cricketers Hall has made 85, and Smith 54. Out of six matches we have won three, lost one, and drawn two, with a total score of 318. I.S.M.

IVr.

When we came back at the beginning of the term, we were all very sorry to find that R. L. Davies had left the School.

At the beginning of the term Dewhirst did precious little work, as he hurt his hand with a cricket ball (?), and couldn't write.

Cumming still continues laughing, and Trigg still tries to drown himself at the baths. 'Tich' Rise still trades "Skippers" and "Rovers" with his neighbours, and he got quite a surprise when Mr. D*v**s hauled a handful of them out of his pocket. Gould must be getting quite an invalid, if one takes into account his many absences. Our little "Toddler" is still as inky as ever.

We have in the form a new boy, Perry. He should make a good full-back next season, being the heaviest chap in the form.

In cricket, we drew with IVb., beat IVa. and IVb., and were beaten by IVb. and IVa. Todd was the only one who distinguished himself in the Sports, coming in first in the obstacle race. Parry has been voted cricket captain, and Simms vice-captain. S.H.

IIIa.

We are certainly having a good term at cricket. Out of nine matches, we have won seven and lost one, one being abandoned. Our best all-round player is Tong, whose feats include 43 not out, 6 wickets for 1 run, and 62 in a friendly match versus IIIj., whom we dismissed for 7 runs.

We were not so successful in the Sports, only Tong, Phoenix, and Wadlow winning prizes, but in spite of this we all enjoyed them.

In School we are entertained by a youth named S—, who rears racing caterpillars and white mice. Once, when relating the tale of Cinderella, he said that the Prince picked up Cinderella's glass slipper and vowed that he would marry everybody whom the slipper would fit. He must have been after a harem!

IIIb.

The work of the form has been on the whole quite satisfactory. This term, in the three weekly mark sheets, underlinings have diminished considerably, and stars have taken root and are flourishing well.

Gloom is now settling over the form, for our great enemies, exams., are advancing with all their weapons of torture. Many wise ones are arming themselves with knowledge to face them. It is not the exams. which worry us; it is the results which follow. Nevertheless we hope to do well and beat the other thirds.

The form can be proud of the fact that it made ninety entries for the sports, an average of three events per boy. K. Wheat, our athletic hope, distinguished himself by winning five prizes. Other winners were Barker, Winter, and Watkins.

Cricket has been only fairly successful. We have won four matches and lost four. However, we hope to win our remaining matches, and have more wins than losses. D.B.

IIIj.

It seems that III. Junior are no better at cricket than at football, for, out of six matches, we have lost four and drawn two. While hoping for better results in the remaining matches, we regret that some of our more accomplished cricketers are not very enthusiastic.

In the Sports we had only one prize-winner, in Dalziel, who was in the winning tug-of-war team. The others, presumably unable to find a better excuse, say that they stuck in the mud.

The craze for keeping pets has suddenly started in our form, the pe(s)ts being those horrible and bad-mannered grubs, caterpillars.

These pets are shaken unceremoniously from a certain bush in the school ground, and are kept in desks, matchboxes, or pockets, until there is no master present, when they are taken from their prisons and allowed to run free, until circumstances necessitate their being hidden once more; and they have even been popped down the necks of unwary devotees of the open shirt-collar. Unless determined steps are taken, these vile and venomous vermin will soon be over-running the school, where they will, no doubt, thrive splendidly on the paper, ink, and chewed pens which come their way.

Many of us are still struggling valiantly to swim, four or five only having managed to accomplish this great and glorious feat.

J.G.S.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NOTES.

The usual signs of the summer term are evident in the Junior School. Pond life is the prevailing interest, and boys are to be seen affectionately clasping jam-jars in which languish strange beasts, later to be transferred to the aquarium. One form has fixed a bird table outside the window; here, hungry for crumbs and knowledge, blue tits and sparrows perch during lessons, apparently absorbed in the mysteries of English Grammar and the multiplication table!

As usual, the Juniors showed keen enthusiasm in the School Sports. The entries for the races reached a high total, and even the drenching rain did not damp the spirit of the competitors. It is perhaps worthy of note that a Junior was one of the winning team in the Open Relay Race, and that in the 400 yards Handicap, a Form I. boy ran valiantly among Vith. formers. The Junior School Relay Race was won by Westminster, with Tate close on their heels.

The Cub pack for the third year in succession carried off the Sports Shield. At our recent meetings we have been busily rehearsing items to be presented at a "jamborette" which will be held at Port Sunlight on Saturday, June 27th. Some of the pack again hope to join the Scouts' camp, which this year is to be held at Silverdale.

Powl (IIa.) is to be congratulated on winning a scholarship to the Senior School; we were surprised and disappointed that some of the other candidates who entered were not successful.

In spite of the trials of a general inspection which, moreover, is not yet completed in the Junior School, we are still very much alive and are looking forward to the summer holidays.

H.M.D.

NATIONAL SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

Prosperity continues to attend this Society. During the first nine weeks of the term the sum of £149 10s. od. was invested, the average of well over £16 a week being the highest yet attained. The tightening of the screw on the Income-tax payer does not worry our members, as their savings are exempt.

R. HALL, J. W. HAIME.

SCOUT NOTES.

During this term there has been a further increase in the numbers of the troop. We are very pleased to welcome Russell (IIIj.), Ellis (IVb.), and Moffatt (IVb.), to the School troop.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining a good camping site, we have not held the usual week-end camps this term. However, at half-term several of the very energetic scouts cycled to North Wales where they spent a very enjoyable time under canvas.

The annual summer camp will be held at Silverdale from July 29th to August 12th inclusive. So far twenty-six boys have given in their names for this camp, which will probably be the largest we have held. The geography specialists tell us we are asking for trouble in selecting a district where the rainfall is usually heavy, but we are hoping for the best! Among our excursions from the camp we are including a circular tour by rail, road, and streams in the Windermere and Coniston district. Silverdale is an ideal centre for rambles, as there are numerous walks in this locality, which is famous for its beautiful scenery.

We were very pleased to see a good number of Scouts appearing amongst the competitors at the School Sports. We must congratulate Keates, Milligan, Barker, D.R., Tong, and Wadlow, on also appearing amongst the prize-winners.

A team of six boys has been learning to use a cycle-stretcher in readiness for the ambulance display at the Local Jamboree. The patient seemed to be the most fortunate member of the team until one of the cyclists took the wrong turning! We are hoping to have a good 'turn-out' for the march past.

We shall be very sorry to lose from the School at the end of this term such good scouts as Coughtrie, W.D., Halliday, and Bird. However, we hope they will return next year as Rovers and continue to help the younger boys with the same enthusiasm and success as they have shown in the past. Whenever they go, and in whatever walks of life, may they always have 'Good Scouting.'

CRICKET, 1931.

Although it is rather early in the season to attempt an accurate criticism of the elevens, 9 matches only having been played by the 1st XI., of which 4 have been won, 4 lost, and 1 drawn, yet we may safely say, that the School is on the whole maintaining its high traditions among the Schools of the district.

The batting of the 1st XI. has been steady in most matches, with occasional flashes of brilliance, such as Roberts' 50 not out against Waterloo, and Currie's 48 not out against Holt, while Smith's solid defence has been invaluable on several occasions. Minns and Rice have also played useful innings. A refreshing feature of the batting this year has been the way in which most of the team have really hit the ball hard whenever the opportunity came their way, and there has been an absence of the tedious pottering about which we have witnessed in previous seasons, with one or two exceptions, of course.

In bowling, we have lacked the services of a real fast bowler, though T. A. Jones has done his best to remedy this defect, and has bowled very well on occasions. He must, however, be careful not to sacrifice length for speed. Currie, Robinson and Rice have, with Jones, shared the brunt of the attack, and, on the wicket which suited them, performed very creditably, Robinson's 7 for 18 against Conway being an outstanding achievement.

The fielding of the XI. has not been quite up to the high standard of previous years, the chief fault being a tendency on the part of several players either to show a disinclination to get down to the ball or to refuse to face it squarely. To vary the old adage:—" 'Tis better to have tried and missed than never to have tried at all." Some good catches have, however, been well held, and the work of Pott at point calls for special mention. Minns has kept wicket in a smart and stylish manner, and has a future before him in this particular line.

The 2nd XI. has had a very successful season, having so far won 8 out of 9 matches and lost 1. The honours in batting have been shared by W. S. Jones, Cross, and S. C. Andrews, while the outstanding bowlers have been Todd and Shaw. To have beaten such teams as the Collegiate, St. Edward's and Conway, has been no mean feat.

The captains of the 1st and 2nd XI.s, C. R. Currie and W. S. Jones, have filled their positions with much credit, and by their keenness and enthusiasm have done much to ensure the success which the School has undoubtedly achieved this season.

We cannot conclude these notes without congratulating the veteran of the 1st XI., T. J. Andrews, on completing his 50th game for the School on Wednesday last. His achievement, is, we believe, a record in the history of the School's cricket.

Meanwhile, the rest of the School shows its cricketing skill in the House and Form Games. The former have unfortunately been rather spoilt by rain, but it is hoped to arrive at a definite result before the season is over. At the time of going to press Atkin are leading, but anything may happen before the season is over as the Houses are more evenly matched this year than they have been for some time.

The Form Games have been keenly enjoyed, and there have been several surprising results. One of the features of these games has been the enthusiasm shown by the Upper Vith, some of the members of which have made up by their keenness what they have lacked in natural ability for the game. In this respect they have shown an example which many in the lower part of the School would do well to copy.

In the 5th Form, VI Remove head the list, in the 4th Form, IVb, and in the 3rd Form, IIIa. The innovation of a Games Period in the time table has helped materially in this department of our cricket activities.

In conclusion, we should like to thank the willing helpers in the canteen, who, under the care of the Captain of the School, have ministered to our inner wants in the shape of tea, buns and lemonade. In spite of much adverse, though good-natured criticism, they have performed their parts manfully, and, if the goods they have sold have not always come up to expectations, the blame must be attached to the makers thereof, and not to those who have so willingly dispensed them. "They also serve who only stand and wait."

1st XI Results.

School v. Rock Ferry High School. Away. School 74; Rock Ferry 55 (Currie 4 for 13).

School v. St. Edward's College. Away. School 64; St. Edward's College 67 for 6 wickets (Currie 4 for 27).

School v. Holt Secondary School. Home. School 96 (Currie 48 not out); Holt 109 (Jones, T.A., 5 for 25; Robinson 4 for 23).

School v. Waterloo Secondary School. Away. School 129 for 8 (Roberts 50 not out, Neil 21, Rice 19); Waterloo 30 (Jones 3 for 4, Robinson 3 for 10, Currie 2 for 12, Rice 1 for 1).

School v. Bootle Secondary School. Home. School 85 for 7 (Smith 30); Bootle 102 (Currie 3 for 21, Shipley 3 for 10).

School v. Oulton Secondary School. Away. School 64 (Currie 19); Oulton 46 (Jones 6 for 9).

School v. Liverpool Collegiate. Home. School 57 (Rice 22); Liverpool Collegiate 72 (Currie 6 for 15, Rice 2 for 7).

School v. Ship Conway. Away. School 66 (Smith 25 not out); Conway 33 (Robinson 7 for 18, Jones 3 for 7).

School v. Liverpool Collegiate. Away. School 75 (Minns 24); Liverpool Collegiate 78 for 8 (Rice 3 for 15, Jones 2 for 12).

School v. St. Edward's College. Home. School 74 (Minns 24; Andrews, T. J., 17); St. Edward's 73 for 8 (Jones 6 for 24).

2nd XI Results.

School v. Rock Ferry High School. Home. School 108 (Sarginson 32, Powl 27) ; Rock Ferry 19 (Jones 6 for 7, Shaw 2 for 1).

School v. St. Edward's College. Home. School 123 for 8 (Jones, W. S., 38, Powl 36) ; St. Edward's 91 for 9 declared. (Todd 4 for 19).

School v. Holt Secondary School. Away. School 15 (Anderson 8) ; Holt 33 (Todd 5 for 5, Shaw 2 for 0).

School v. Waterloo Secondary School. Home. School 77 (Cross 42) ; Waterloo 37 (Todd 5 for 11, Shaw 4 for 23).

School v. Oulton Secondary School. Home. School 47 (Cross 19) ; Oulton 35 (Todd 3 for 13, Cross 5 for 6, Shaw 2 for 14).

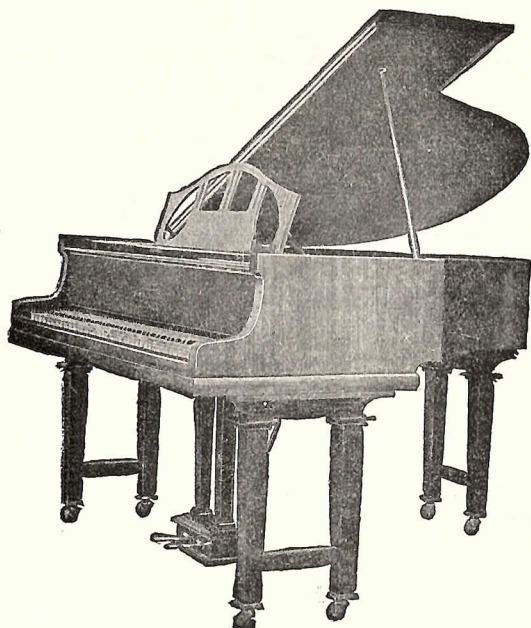
School v. Liverpool Collegiate. Away. School 32 for 6 ; Collegiate 31 (Todd 6 for 14, Shaw 3 for 8).

School v. School Ship Conway. Home. School 57 (Andrews, S. C., 30) ; Conway 41 (Todd 4 for 24, Shaw 2 for 9, Cross 2 for 2).

School v. Liverpool Collegiate. Home. School 28 ; Liverpool Collegiate 18 (Todd 6 for 11, Shaw 3 for 7).

School v. St. Edward's College. Away. School 64 for 7 (Allsopp 29 not out) ; St. Edward's College 21 (Todd 6 for 11).

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