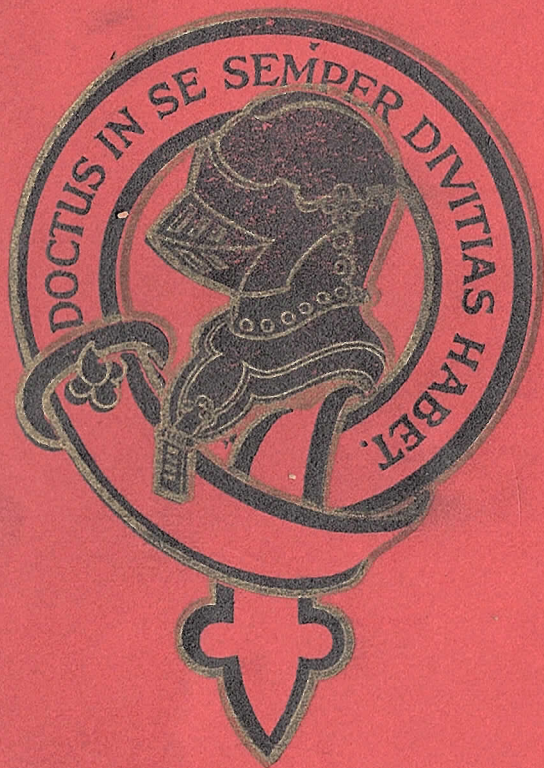


THE VISOR



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

SUMMER, 1932.

" T H E V I S O R "

Owing to a mishap, some of our regular features have been omitted from this number. Any material omissions will be made good in next term's issue.

We do specially wish to mention the following :-

We have received from our friends the Atkin family another Silver Challenge Cup. We wish to thank them for their great kindness and their continued interest in the School.

.

We heartily congratulate Jellicoe on gaining the Tate Exhibition of £90. a year at Oxford University.

.

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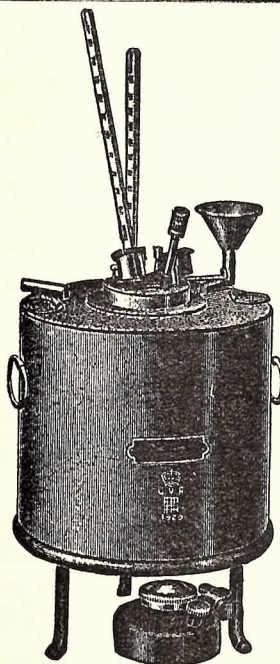
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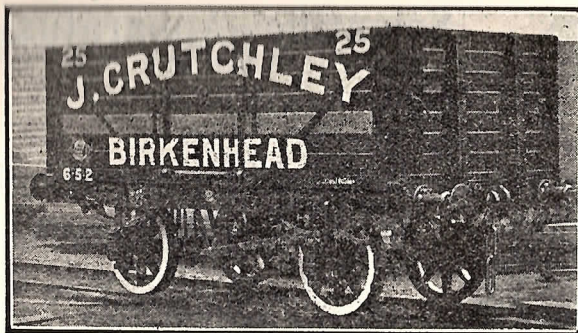
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From a woodcut.

The JUNIOR SCHOOL.

THE VISOR

THE ORGAN OF THE BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE.

VOL. V., No. 3.

SUMMER, 1932.

EDITORIAL.

The approaching examinations, together with the Athletic Sports and the fine weather, have once again prevented our producing a respectable summer issue. Few articles have been sent in, while the general standard of these has been so low as to admit of little variety in the too few pages of original contributions we have been able to include. May we repeat, we hope for the last time, that the success of a magazine depends almost entirely upon the number of articles from which the Editors can finally make their selection.

The Old Boys seem even busier at this time of the year. Or are they merely self-conscious? Whatever the cause, they have not as yet accepted the offer we made last term to print in an Old Boys' Section any articles we received from them. The Sixth Formers who leave at the end of the term might bear this fact in mind. For such an addition will not only make *The Visor* of more interest for them but will, in time, form a definite link between all old members of the School.

Of the Notes, we say little. The Editorial campaign of abbreviating and excluding all unnecessary details and repetitions has had its effect, and this, combined with the general scarcity of "copy," has limited Notes to fewer pages than ever.

We can but repeat: if only there had been a sufficient number of suitable articles to fill the pages thus vacated . . . !

However, we desire to thank all who did contribute, and hope, if for some reason certain articles were not included, the contributors will not be discouraged, but rather spurred on to greater efforts.

THE ATHLETIC SPORTS.

Never has the School field presented so gay and animated an appearance as on Saturday, June 18th, when the annual Sports were held there. As a result of our urgent request to the B.B.C., a fine day was arranged to coincide with this important function, and this phenomenon drew an even larger gathering of interested spectators than might otherwise have been expected. The flagstaff was gay with bunting, and from it fluttered, at intervals during the afternoon, the flag of the House which at that time was leading. An object in the centre of the field, which was at first thought to be a 'tote,' turned out to be the telegraph board, which, under the able management of one of the senior boys, communicated the results of each race to the spectators with really very little delay. The large refreshment marquee added to the attractiveness of the occasion, at least for the younger people present.

It may have been the general feeling that summer was ieumen in, but, at any rate, our usually quietly-clad Staff burst forth into the most exquisite creations, thus toning beautifully with the surroundings!

Despite the heat, two School records were broken, while Smith was only one-fifth of a second behind his own last year's record for the Mile. All the races went off quickly and smoothly, and, thanks to those masters and senior boys who so willingly gave their time and labour to make the occasion a success, there was no hitch in the proceedings.

After a short speech by the Mayor, Alderman F. Tweedle, who was present both in his official capacity and as parent of one of the boys, the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Tweedle, and the proceedings closed with the National Anthem, played by the band, who had delighted our ears at intervals during the afternoon.

Results :

100 Yards :

Open.—Jones, J. O. (A.), Rice (W.), Keates (W.), 11 secs.

Under 15.—Boyce (A.), Wheat (T.), Winter (A.), 12 1/5 secs.

Under 14.—Wheat (T.), Watkins (T.), Barker, D. W. (W.), 12 1/5 secs.

Under 13.—Ruegg (A.), Hardie (T.), Stelfox, G. H. (T.), 13 4/5 secs.

220 Yards :

Open.—Rice (W.), Shaw, G. W. (S.), Jones, J. O. (A.),
21 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs.

Over 15.—Ramsden (A.), Smith, R. (A.), Milligan (S.),
27 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.

Under 15.—Wheat (T.), Watkins, R. V. (T.), Robey (A.),
29 $\frac{4}{5}$ secs.

Under 13.—Hardie (T.), Bell (S.), Kay (W.), 33 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.

• Old Boys' Race—Carter, T.

Long Jumps :

Open.—Keates (W.), Rice (W.), 18ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.

Under 14.—Wheat (T.), Barker, D. R. (W.), 13ft. 6ins.

High Jumps :

*Open.—Keates (W.), Rice (W.), 5ft rin.

Under 14.—Barker, D. R. (W.), Wheat (T.), 4ft. 2ins.

Throwing the Cricket Ball :

Open.—Smith, G. W. (S.), Smith, J. A. A. (A.)

Under 14.—Wheat (T.), Entwistle (A.), Burrell (T.)

Obstacle Races :

Over 14.—Collinson (W.), Gaulter (A.), Barker, H. B. (W.)

Under 14.—Evans, H. B. (W.), Quaile, A. J. (W.), Entwistle (A.)

Relay Races :

Senior House.—(1) Stitt; (2) Westminster; (3) Atkin,
1min. 53secs.

Inter-House.—(1) Westminster; (2) Tate; (3) Atkin,
58 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.

Junior House.—(1) Westminster; (2) Tate; (3) Atkin,
59 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.

Open.—(1) Rice's team; (2) Craig's team, 53 $\frac{3}{5}$ secs.

Tug-of-War Contests :

House Tug.—(1) Westminster; (2) Tate.

Open Tug.—(1) A. H. Williams' team; (2) Wood's team.

880 Yards :

(Handicap) : Winter (A.), Williams, A. H. (S.), Tweedle (T.), 2min. 20secs.

440 Yards :

*Open.—Rice (W.), Shaw, G. W. (S.), Smith, G. W. (S.),
57secs.

Handicap.—Milligan (S.), Winter (A.), Roycastle (W.),
58 $\frac{2}{5}$ secs.

One Mile :

Open.—Smith, G. W. (S.), Shaw, G. W. (S.), Williams, A. H. (S.), 5mins. 2/5secs.

Three-Legged (Handicap) :

Senior.—(1) Wadlow and Phoenix, F. D.; (2) Makin and Tweedle; (3) Black and Astley.

Junior.—(1) Beckett and Proudman; (2) Allen and Jones, R. M.; (3) Aiken and Smith, J. N.

80 Yards :

(Junior School Handicap) : Taylor (W.), Proudman (T.), Beer (S.), 9 4/5 secs.

Consolation Races :

Over 14.—Davies, G. E., Simms, Hamilton.

Under 14.—King, Davies, H. E., Lowson.

Hurdles (120 Yards) :

Open.—Rice (W.), Smith, G. W. (S.), Keates (W.), 20secs.

Under 15.—Roylance (W.), Evans, R. H. (W.), John (A.), 20 1/5 secs.

Sack Race (60 yards Handicap) :

Hirat (A.), Jones, R. M. (T.), Adams (A.)

Victor Ludorum :

Rice, K. J. (W.), 15pts; Runner-up: Smith, G. W. (S.), 9pts.

Champion House :

Westminster; Runners-up: Tate.

* School Records.

Previous Records :

440 yards—59 2/5secs.

High Jump—5ft.

SALVETE.

Upper Prep.—Atkin :—Thompson, L. H.; **Westminster** :—Ashlin.

Lower Prep.—Atkin :—Anderson, G., Kenworthy, W.; **Stitt** :—Bragger, P.; **Tate** :—Jones, H. E.; **Westminster** :—Abbott, R. H., Ashlin, Beacall, I.

VALETE.

Upper VI.—Atkin:—Brecknell, W. A. (1922 — 1932), *Matric.*, 1930. **Stitt:**—Hirst, J. E. (1929—1932), *Matric.*, 1931. Neil, G. S. (1926—1932), *Matric.*, 1931, *Member of Football Selection Committee, Football Colours.*

Vir.—Westminster:—Quaile, J. A., Williams, H.

Yb.—Stitt:—Owen, D., Rennie, W. N.; **Westminster:**—Barnett, T. W.

IVa.—Atkin:—Andrews, P. H.; **Tate:**—Tong, H.

Upper Prep.—Westminster:—Weir, C.

FREE VERSE.

(In humble emulation of Our Brighter Contemporaries).

Across the page

Sprawling

In lines so ravishingly parallel,

Some long, some longer still, some *very* long, some short

Like this,

Sprawling

Adown the page.

Verse free as air, even as hot air,

Free as Gift Coupons or Advice on Baldness

(Send for Free Booklet).

Al, this is glorious Life and Truth and Beauty all in one,

And all in capitals,

To pour upon the snowy whiteness of a virgin page

The maudlin twaddle of a half-baked soul,

To drivel maunderingly without a care

For rhyme,

Still less for reason;

But to write unthinkingly, unblushingly,

Unmeaningly,

Or simply un—;

Mouthing unwieldy adverbs,

Repeating, when poor inspiration fails,

The chosen parrot-word, thus:

Sprawling

(See above).

THE SCARECROW.

It is winter. I am standing in a barren, desolate field. The sky is black ; the wind is whistling round me, the thunder is crashing, and the hedges are bare. But gradually the sky becomes bluer, the wind caresses me with soft west breezes, the thunder is gone, the hedges are alive with green shoots—for it is spring ! Summer comes. My rags, which once were blowing madly about, now hang loosely at my sides. The sun glares down on the ripening ears of corn. I listen gladly to the merry shout of children through the long summer days, and in the starry nights of June, nightingales sing for me alone. Now it is autumn. Man, my master, strides across the field, and the shining mass falls limply under the strokes of the reaper. I see the farmer cart to his barns the rich harvest of wheat whose growth I have watched. Away fly the swallows and other migrant birds. Again it is winter, cold, bleak winter. I am helpless in the grip of the hard white frost. The north-east winds make their unwelcome appearance : I brace my wretched frame against their cruel onslaught, and dream of spring.

R. B., Form I.

MARKS.

Rummaging one day in the waste-paper basket in VIr. for some notes accidentally thrown away with a bundle of rubbish, I was distracted a moment from my search by some words on a torn half-sheet of school paper. I read to the end of the fragment, and looking again in the basket, found the other half-sheet. The writing was careful but not good,—the sort a master could not call untidy, and cause to be rewritten, yet having that about it which showed that the writer took no pride in his work, but pushed steadily and resentfully on with it until the end of the appointed time. In short, it did not need a Sexton Blake to see that it was a piece of work set to be done during one of those periods after school hours when,

in a place apart,
The chosen gather, and apply themselves
To tasks not of their choosing

The interest of this document, however, lay not in the writing, but in what was written, and therefore I have set it

down with these words of explanation, altering nothing but the spelling (which was not good) and the punctuation (which hardly was at all). The title of this unfinished masterpiece was MARKS. Possibly it had some connection with the offence; perhaps it was set by a master with theories of his own on the subject, who wished to obtain at first hand another point of view. Here it is.

Marks.

Marks are of many different kinds: one is the thing you aim at, like the pit of the stomach in boxing; another is the impression left on your opponent in a scrap, e.g. a split ear. A mark is also when a person cannot write his name he puts a cross as a sign of ignorance. This is not the same as making one's mark, which is a sign of being plus a little something some others haven't got. If you are not up to the mark it means a bit under the weather owing to homework, detentions and exams., and you need a holiday.

A mark is a German coin, once worth a shilling; everybody got millions of them and they are worth nothing. Marks are also found in most large towns like Birkenhead and Bootle, joined to Spencer. These are very cheap too.

All these various kinds of marks are in some ways like the marks masters give, of which millions are given away every year, but we are told are no value except to those who give them; but if we do not get enough there is a row. For instance, they are something you aim at, they leave a nasty impression, they are often a sign of ignorance, and they are never sold for more than sixpence.

On the mark is a term used in sports before the start of a race. It is different from on the spot, as the revolver fires blank cartridge and is pointed upwards.

A SAND ARTIST.

On the sand, with the distant sea in the background, stands an old sand-artist, with a rusty knife in his withered hands. A beautiful picture of Cupid is wonderfully engraved in the soft sand which has been washed by the sea of centuries. On his left is a tattered table-cloth on which several coins are scattered, and as each additional coin clinks down, he gravely tugs his white forelock to the passer-by, murmuring his thanks almost inaudibly.

P. SIMPSON, Form IIa.

THE CHARM OF SUVA, FIJI.

The Fiji Islands are a British Crown Colony administered by the Colonial Office, London, through a Governor (Sir Arthur Murchison Fletcher, K.C.M.G.), assisted by an Executive and Legislative Council. It is an extraordinarily rich, very beautiful and remarkably healthy country, placed naturally at the "crossroads of the South Pacific," and, of all the Pacific territories, it probably has the greatest future.

The Colony comprises about 250 islands of varying sizes, ranging from the great island of Viti Levu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks a few yards in circumference. About 80 of the islands are inhabited.

Suva, the capital of the Colony on the island of Viti Levu, is cosily situated within the coral reef by which it is almost completely surrounded, and as the steamer passing through the deep water entrance approaches the wharf, the visitor is struck by the bright green appearance of the hill facing him, which slopes gently down to the bay, and amidst the glorious tropical foliage of which nestle the bungalows of the residents.

The air pulsates with warmth and colour, the palms wave in the breeze, and from afar off comes the dull booming of the surf on the reef. Here and there about the harbour, besides launches, lighters and schooners, are curious native boats with outriggers and strangely shaped sails, and as the steamer draws up to the wharf a crowd of Fijians, some all in white, some in brightly coloured sulus, meets the view.

The best introduction to native life is the open air bazaar across the road from the wharf, a visit to which should be made before any further excursion is taken. Here will be found sellers of fruit and sellers of coral, of fans, feather edged mats, necklaces of berries and sea-shells, whales' teeth and strangely carved implements, and all the other odds and ends of native commerce. Tall Fijians with enormous mops of hair offer finely polished walking sticks, Samoans display baskets of all sizes and woven into all sorts of colours, Tongan women roll out large sheets of tappa, beaten as fine as linen, which is their gala dress made out of the beaten bark of a local tree. The noise is as the noise of Babel!

Not many yards away is the native quarter, and, if the visitor is interested, a pleasant hour may be spent in exploring the mysteries of All Nations Street, famous all over the World.

If his desire to study native life is already sated by the scene in the bazaar, a motor car can be picked up from the long line of splendid cars on the roadside. The way, whether by car or on foot, will be to the right from the wharf, through the business portion of the town, past the Post Office and along Victoria Parade. This is faced on one side by shops, and on the other, along the immense harbour front, by a fine esplanade lined with beautiful weeping fig and rain trees (a species of acacia), the latter branching out over the whole roadway, forming a welcome shade from the blazing sun. The Parade leads on past the Cable Offices, Town Hall, world famous sea baths, Carnegie Library, Boys' Grammar School to the Grand Pacific Hotel, where excellent liquid refreshment can be enjoyed in the spacious and cool lounge. Continuing this drive for a short way we pass the beautiful and indescribable Botanical Gardens, Government House with its garden a blaze of vivid colour, to the little native village of Nasese.

One cannot fail to be impressed by the beauty of the trees and shrubs that line the roads or are enclosed in the little holdings of the settlers. Noticeable among the former is the spreading mango tree, with its dense foliage of lance-shaped leaves, making a favourable retreat for that noisy and impudent bird, the minah, which, however useful it may be in the destruction of grasshoppers in the country, is a great nuisance in the town.

Another run is along the Lami road, past the jail, the cemetery, and the native villages of Suvavou and Lami, to Vesari Bay, generally known as the "Bay of Islands." Here and there is passed a lofty tavola, the timber of which is largely used in making lalis, or native drums. These in the hands of a practised performer, are not unmusical, and in the olden days used to summon the warriors to war and cannibal feasts. Nowadays they are used for calling the natives to Church or other harmless gatherings. Everywhere is seen the coconut palm, with its graceful, feathery head—a tree which provides the native of the South Seas with food, drink, clothing and furniture.

There is much to be seen of interest while strolling about the town or on the hillsides. Take a seat under a spreading tree on Victoria Parade and watch the never-ending stream of

passing people—white, black, brown and yellow. See the young Fijian as he walks along barefoot with free, graceful strides and a carriage which a Guardsman would envy, his sulu and singlet showing up the athletic symmetry of his body, his good-humoured, smiling face crowned by his magnificent hair. Fijians are intensely proud of their big heads of hair, it is to them an indication of high rank. Then passes by a group of Samoans—big, powerful fellows, tall and handsome, who, one thinks, would make fine soldiers, but whose principal work is taking in washing!

Following them may be a number of Indian coolies and their womenkind—the men little slender fellows who look as if they could be knocked over with the proverbial feather, but who are nevertheless wonderful workers, the women a blaze of colour and gold and silver jewellery. Here come a few Solomon Islanders—smaller than the Fijian, but alert and workmanlike.

Intermingled with all these are the white men, following their business vocations, clad from head to foot in immaculate white, while passing and repassing in all kinds of vehicles and on foot are seen the European memsahibs doing their shopping or paying social calls. In contrast to these passes by a group of prisoners in charge of a portion of the armed constabulary, who look smart and soldierly in their uniforms—blue coats and white sulus vandyked round the edge.

Anyone spending a few days in Suva should not fail to visit Bau, a small island near the mouth of the Rewa River—the former native capital of Fiji, and the very hub of all that is high-bred and aristocratic in native Fiji life. Here lived, died and was buried Cakobau, the last of the great cannibal kings, whose grandson holds at the present time a good position in the Government service and is one of the finest cricketers in the Colony.

One could write pages and pages on the charm and beauty of this "paradise of the Pacific" as Fiji has so often been described by writer and traveller alike, but space is limited and I hope that this short essay will convey to you some of the features of Glorious Fiji.

J. GORDON BRADSHAW,

An Old Boy in Fiji.

EFFORT.

My fevered brain is racked with pain
I seek a rhyme, but all in vain,
This is a melancholy strain,
To help *The Visor* fill again.

The task is hard I will admit,
But I will try to do my bit,
These rhymes may have but little wit,
To help *The Visor* make a hit.

This task is such a dreadful bore.
I've never tried to write before.
Although my head is tired and sore,
This *Visor* effort's very poor!

B. HALLIDAY, Form IIa.

I.

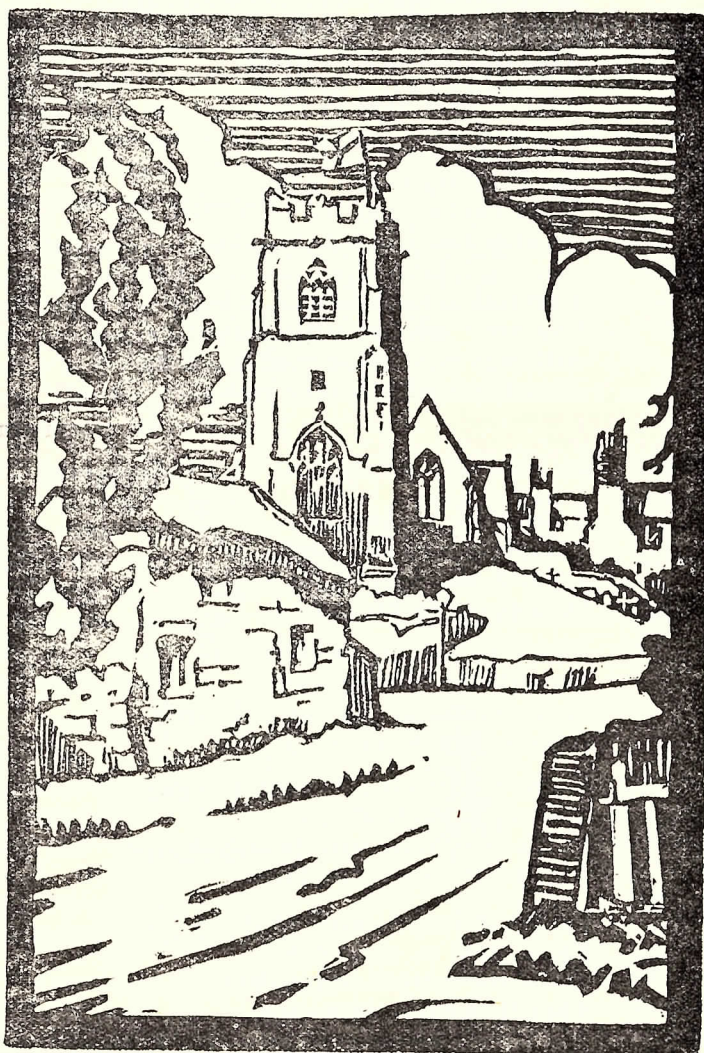
I like the little kangaroo
I think he's rather sweet,
I watch him balance on his tail
Or hopping on his feet.

I see him hopping on the veldt
Beneath the blazing sun
(I think that word is wrongly spelt—
I wonder how it's done?)

He feeds himself on grassy things
To keep himself alive
On cactus plants with prickly leaves
And yet he seems to thrive.

He has to keep himself alert
From quite an early age
For if the natives capture him
They'll put him in a cage.

But does it not seem rather sad
That when his days are done
He has to lay him down and die
Beneath the blazing sun?



From a linocut.

BIDSTON CHURCH.

II.

A lazy hippopotamus
Was basking in the sun
He never saw behind him
Three natives with a gun.
Alas—my story now must end
Poor hippo—he was dead
Those natives gave him from their gun
An overdose of lead !

Upper Prep.

BIDSTON CHURCH.

Bidston Church, overlooking the village with a paternal air, is one of the two churches of Wirral which have been dedicated to St. Oswald. His name was appended to the church on the strength of the tradition that one of the older bells bore upon it the words "Sancti Oswaldi." St. Oswald was the successor to King Edwin, slain by Penda in 636 and rightly deserves to have his name perpetuated, for he was one of our greatest and best kings.

The other church bearing his name is St. Oswald's, Backford, and it is a point of interest that these two churches are architecturally connected, both towers belonging to the Perpendicular period. The tower at Bidston bears the distinctive Perpendicular feature of a castellated parapet, that is, a design representing embattling.

The sculptured reredos became a common feature of the XIVth and XVth centuries and of this interior decoration we have a fine example at Bidston. The reredos here is worked in mosaic, a favourite medium because of its imperishable nature, and is the work of the inimitable Italians. The artist is Salviati and the representation Da Vinci's famous painting of "The Last Supper."

The village of Bidston, nestling under the hill, is rapidly being encroached upon by the spontaneous outburst of building of the last decade, and it is due to this that the old world hamlet has lost much of its former charm. The church will stand to posterity, however, not as a "soulless pile of mere hewn stone" but as a "fair thank-offering to God."

E.P.G.

PORT ERIN.

Nobody could spend a week in April at Port Erin without being inspired by its rugged coastline, its ever-changing skies, and the wonderfully clear waters which bathe its shores. April is the best month to stay there, for then everything seems filled with a new life, awakened by the fresh west wind, and the fragrance of the heather on the rough upland pastures.

We went to Port Erin to study zoology at the Marine Biological station, which is a fair sized building situated right out along the southern arm of the bay, only a stone's-throw from the lifeboat station. Zoology sounds rather like work, but though we learnt a great deal, we did so without the slightest feeling that we were working at all.

Each morning we used to go equipped with jars and nets from the Biological Station, and collect marine animals, either by digging in the sand, or by searching in the rock-pools at low tide. The old, ruined breakwater is an especially good place for the great prickly sea-urchins which anchor themselves to the rocks by numerous frail, thread-like tentacles.

We kept all our marine animals in large bowls of seawater, in our working cubicle, and watched their movements and feeding habits, making notes on anything peculiar about them. Two fairly good microscopes were provided for us, and with them we were able to see millions of tiny organisms which float about on the surface of the sea.

One day we went trawling with the research zoologist in a small boat called the 'Redwing.' When clear of the bay we lowered the dredge and tacked to and fro for an hour or so. Then we hauled the dredge on board, full of marine animals of all sizes, shapes and colours, from the brilliant hued starfishes to the ragged little spider crabs, whose legs break off if you

touch them. On our way back to Port Erin we saw a peregrine falcon flying with incredible swiftness after a fugitive pigeon. Whether the falcon caught the other bird, I do not know, for at that moment the sea demanded its toll of me, after which I felt better.

In the evening we used to wander over the hills towards the Sound, a narrow strip of water, which separates the main island from the Calf of Man. Looking southward from the top of the gaunt slate cliffs, the Calf of Man appeared at sunset as a precious stone set in a golden rather than in a silver sea. The sunsets are particularly grand in this district, and the whole setting conspires to produce that feeling of solitude and awe which seems to characterise Port Erin. A.H.W.

OTHERS AS WE SEE THEM.

Hearty congratulations to the brave souls of the Wirral County School, who started their magazine in the first term of the school's existence. (Vol. I, No. I, Dec., 1931). And none of your half-hardy annuals either, but a hundred per cent. honest-to-goodness termly issue.

A foreword is contributed by the Chairman of the Governors. Will *all* chairmen of governors kindly make a memo in their chairmanly diaries, 'Occasional contribution to School Magazine'?

There follows a talk by the Head Master to the Parents in the manner which all the best parents expect of a head master. Naturally most of this is mainly of interest to parents, but we note that the boys 'will be encouraged to throw themselves with energy into the tasks that lie ahead of them.' Encouraged? Yea, and more also. Have we not in our young lives already felt the warmth of that encouragement? We have. But it is comforting to feel that others are getting their share.

The thought that comes at once to the mind on reading this first number is that it is rather 'staffy.' But that is not a fair comment on the magazine of a school in its first year, whose upper forms can scarcely be at present more than skeletal outlines.

The poet who contributes *From the Balcony* compels us to ask what he means by a

'level beam, steeply athwart.'

In days when everything has to be 'modern' and 'practical' it is cheering to see a translation from Catullus by a fifth former, and other signs of a benign classical influence.

We wish the W.C.S. Magazine a long and successful life, abundance of contributions and an ever-increasing circle of readers.

* * * *

Our hearts go out in sympathy to the editor and assistant editor of *The Quarry* (Quarry Bank School, Mar., 1932), who seem to have been reduced to writing a large proportion of the Easter number themselves, not excepting reports of Shield matches and school societies.

Even moderate literary ability is not given to the many: the minority who have the gift are in duty bound to weigh in for the good of the school magazine. Does the cricketer refuse to play for his team? Does he begin to make excuse? Does he modestly hang back, and beg the selection committee to pick someone more suitable?

Great credit is due to the editors and their staff for having achieved publication under such difficulties. But they are made of stern stuff, and probably scorn our sympathy. Hear them on Sorley, a young war-time poet:

"He is, in his poetry, himself completely, the perfect fusion of unutterable beauty with naked truth."

The voice, undoubtedly, of one spilling the beans.

"Like any sane man he was an agnostic."

Stout fellow!

Elsewhere,

"The veil of smoke that hovers over all large cities is as beautiful as filigree silver-work before an altar."

This is evidently written from a great height. We read also that "Romantic and glamorous are two words which nowadays have fallen on evil times." More particularly, 'glamorous'!

Twelve months ago one wrote unkindly on this page of *Esmeduna* (Liverpool Collegiate, March, 1932) "A very dignified production, edited *by* the Sixth *for* the Sixth." The production is as dignified as ever, but the reproach has been removed. The contributed matter is good and varied, with a historical romance and a humorous 'detective' serial, as well as a page and a half devoted to the Preparatory School.

A purveyor of Free Verse is at large in *Esmeduna*: may we refer him to the 'Ode to a Manx Cat' on page 2—

So, from every composition,
Poets, cut the meretricious phrase,
And by such concise abscission,
Earn our praise.

Altogether an interesting and well-edited number.

* * * *

Congratulations to Higher Tranmere H.S. on the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary. The Jubilee number of their magazine (Vol. 10, 1932) is full of reminiscences of the early days. It also contains some good, if youthful, verse; and we note with satisfaction that the accounts now show a balance on the right side.

ROCK FERRY COUNCIL SCHOOL,
BOYS' DEPARTMENT,
BIRKENHEAD,
7/7/32.

Dear Sir,

Second-hand Clothing, etc.

I shall be glad if you will kindly convey to your boys our very deep appreciation of the truly magnificent gifts of second-hand clothing. Such generosity in these hard times makes our duty in providing a camping holiday for poor boys extremely light and pleasant.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TART.

ATKIN.

“ Success comes to those who wait.” The events of the last few weeks seem to have proved this maxim. At the beginning of the term Atkin did not hold a very high or enviable position in the School. But of late our presence has been more strongly felt. Gone is most of that pitiful antipathy towards the games, and welfare of the House in general. In fact this term has been characterised by the unbounded enthusiasm of the majority towards Cricket and Running. If such a spirit can but continue, we shall soon be the envy of our rivals. Keep it up, Atkin !

We have caused not a little surprise (and consternation) amongst the other Houses by our victories in the two Senior Cricket matches yet played. Tate, a strong bowling side, were beaten by 11 runs. Batting first they could only score 31 against the bowling of Smith and Todd. By steady batting we were able to compile 42. Stitt, rumoured to be invincible, were our next victims. They batted first, and were all out for 42, Smith taking the ‘ hat-trick.’ A first wicket stand of 42 by Hall and Walker ensured our victory, and of a final total of 84 for 4 wickets, Walker scored 35, Smith 16, and Hall 15. The Juniors however lost the only match they have yet played.

Further, the large number of Atkinites who trained so consistently for the sports is to be congratulated. If the House did not meet with conspicuous success, it was not for want of trying. Moreover we took the lead in arranging an evening when all the entrants could train together.

Yet it is not only in sport that we have distinguished ourselves this term. A mild sensation was caused when Atkin was announced top of the fortnightly mark sheets. This is the highest position we have held this year. Now we have set this standard we must maintain it.

An innovation, which we hope will improve the House Teams, is the appointing of a Committee which includes the House Prefects and Senior, Inter. and Junior Captains for the purpose of choosing the teams. The claims of every player are thus considered.

We shall of course be losing some of our members at the end of this term, including Bridge, who has been so successful during his short period as House Captain. To all of them we extend our best wishes. All those who will be back next year must do their share in making Atkin into a really good House.

K.W.

TATE HOUSE NOTES.

Yet again we have to look back on a term which has been far from successful, at least for the Seniors and Intermediates.

Congratulations to the Juniors on being the only Tate team to record a victory, so far. They defeated Atkin by 25 runs, and our success was due mainly to fine bowling by Burrell and Wheat. Tate made 40 against Atkin's 15.

The Intermediate team also disappointed us, for they could only make 35 runs after Venables and Brame had made 30 for the first wicket.

The Seniors, with what would seem a formidable bowling side, have been unable to field a batting side to ensure success in either of the two games. Westminster put us all out for only 23 runs and Atkin for 31 runs.

And so the championship is almost out of our reach. But, surely the name of Tate can be upheld by a supreme effort in the remaining matches?

From the point of view of being runners-up to Westminster, the Sports may be termed successful. But here again, the Seniors were completely vanquished. The tug-of-war produced the only points gained in Senior events. We must congratulate the Juniors on gaining so many successes for the House. Wheat, in particular, gained 16 points. Other successful runners were G. Hardie (5 pts.), R. V. Watkins (4 pts.), G. H. Stelfox and P. Burrell.

Although we were last in the Senior Relay we gained second place in both Intermediate and Junior.

And so we look forward to the day when those who were successful, will be able to carry off the coveted trophy for Tate.

And now, before closing these notes, we must wish all those who are leaving us the best of luck, and hope to see them, wherever Tate are out to claim distinction.

STITT HOUSE NOTES.

In Cricket, this term, we have played only three matches. The first our Seniors won against Westminster, which success we owe chiefly to G. W. Smith, whom we must congratulate upon his score of 77; the highest of the season. The second, also Senior, we lost to Atkin, while the third, which was an Intermediate, we won.

We won the Senior Inter-House Cross Country run at the end of the Easter term for the third year in succession, having also the first four men home: in the Junior event we took second place.

In the Sports, we were not particularly successful, but it is noteworthy that we took first three places in the mile and won the House Relay race as well as one or two other events.

Several members of our House were chosen to represent the School in the Inter School Sports, and all gave a good account of themselves, even if they were not favoured with success.

WESTMINSTER HOUSE NOTES.

Of course we did!—we had no choice. I mean, for the fifth successive year, Westminster has carried off the School championship in the annual Athletic Sports, and once again, the Victor Ludorum was a Westministerite,—this time, Rice. Keates, Gill and Jellicoe also gave good performances.

Indeed, Westminster is flaunting her colours everywhere.

Since the last issue of *The Visor* appeared, some astute mathematician has arrived at the conclusion that, for the first time for several years, Westminster has gained the Football Championship by a majority of one point over Stitt House.

As yet, little cricket has been played. The Seniors have won one match and lost one, while the Inters won the only one played. In the inter-House Chess matches, Westminster swept all before them, gaining easily a long-coveted first place.

Since he may be leaving us this July, the House takes this opportunity of thanking "Captain Rice" for his very efficient leadership during the past year, and also our Vice-Captain, Jellicoe, who is bound for Oxford, to taste the joys thereof.

W.H.M.

FORM NOTES.

Vis.

These notes are the last of a trilogy, the like of which *The Visor* will never see again (Editorial cheers !), therefore, all lovers of good literature should obtain a copy at once.

If there is one person we shall miss, it is our form-master. and we would take this opportunity of thanking him for his kind advice and services during the past year. We sincerely hope (although, we fear, in vain) that he will have the pleasure of teaching another form so obedient, intelligent and cultured.

There is no humour in these notes ;* as we are saving all the howlers for matric. A few days ago, we noticed a large pool of liquid on our floor. As the radiator was not leaking, we conclude that some poor soul has been shedding salt tears on the floor of the dear old room we are about to leave.

We would finally and officially deny that L*ll*y is the Boy King of China.

We were surprised the other morning to find the baths only half-full—is not this carrying ‘ the axe ’ too far ? Whilst dressing we were startled to see a lithe figure spring in and swim across the bath. It was at first rumoured that this was a mermaid, but further investigation disproved this theory. When we complained that the water was too muddy, B**t dipped in a glass and drew it out full of water as clear as crystal ; he was seen performing the same trick, however, at the Hippodrome !

Our Art room soireés are far too private for publication, and we can reveal nothing beyond the fact that we return every pencil and rubber used.

ANGELO.

* Candid ! [E.D.]

VIa.

In case of non-survival from matriculation, this is the last will and testament of Form VIa. We bequeath our detention sheet to the Advanced. The rest of our goods may be auctioned, but let our French dictionaries be interred with us. [No flowers, by request.]

Talking of detention sheets reminds us of the occasion when some frivolous humorist hoisted ours out of the window and left it fluttering triumphantly on the wireless aerial before all the small fry on lines.

During one English lesson, a discussion on convention arose. "Bluebell" remarked that a bowler hat is never worn with plus-fours, but our irrepressible haggis-hunter rumbled forth that suspenders are never worn with a kilt.

An interesting question was raised by Shaw, who asked if H₂O (water) were the formula for modern sunlight.

Now for the ordeal (let's hope we get a square deal). J.C.

Vib.

Most of the term has been taken up with Matric. work, but at the same time, the form has taken quite an interest in the lighter side of life. We are well represented in the cricket teams, and Pott and Colenso are to be congratulated on having been chosen to represent the School at the Inter-School Sports.

B**d, our champion swimmer, was rather insulted, when during a French conversation test, Mr. Morris asked him if he could swim a breadth. The Headmaster, on asking B**d what wage he expected to receive on starting office work, was rather surprised when the latter calmly replied, "Oh, about four or five pounds per week."

"Lashing-Len" is still alive and kicking, and a rumour has spread that he has actually refused a vacancy at Chester.

This is the last term for the present Vib. (the best Vib. ever known); we hope to have a social gathering before finally parting. We desire to thank Mr. Bloor, our form master, for the help and support he has given us throughout the year.

G. COLLINSON, Form Vib.

Vir.

Since the beginning of the year, our ranks have been depleted by the loss of Williams and Quaile, who, it is rumoured, are still going to sea. We wish a speedy recovery to Kendrick, who is at present in hospital.

After missing five games-days owing to the inclemency of the weather, we have had only one official match, in which Vib. defeated us by 65 runs to 25; we have, however, played a few 'friendlies,' against Va.

The term has been brightened by a few howlers. We were told that England has twelve months' winter and two months' summer. G**f***s was told he had not enough brains to know he had none. When asked why he had made a noise, C*w**l replied, "I didn't know you were listening, sir."

C*w**l spends much time making sketches of the Staff, and was very pleased when Mr. Lord accepted one. R.E.M.

Va.

We come into the form-room,
With a merry joke or jest,
We're so slick that when the bell rings
We're out before the rest.
Yo ho! we're out before the rest.

We're such a quiet crowd, that
When anyone comes in,
There are no detentions given,
There's never any din.
Oh no! There's never any din.

This is little me speaking from the Va. studio. That was our signature song, and now for the vaudeville. The artistes taking part are:—

The three fairies (Peck, Williams and Sammy), in a novelty step-dancing act "Silver Butterflies."

Abie Simpson in a laughable act, "If you want to serve your time, cheek a policeman," and lastly, we have been able to engage at tremendous expense, straight from his Argyle triumph, R. Pringle in a character study: "The Swot."

Oh, I'm very sorry, but since all the actors are confined to VIr. for various reasons, the show will have to be postponed. I will now read the News Bulletin. Weather! A depression hangs over Va. room, someone forgot his homework. News. In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Pringle, Communist, who introduced a Bill for Abolition of Detention, declared that the treatment of modern schoolboys was scandalous. He had even heard rumours of Welnesday afternoon detentions.

A novelty cricket match has been played, Va. Latins defeating Va. Germans heavily. Jones has carried his bat for 37; Peckham made 28 v. IVj. and Ward 26 v. VIr.

Since that ends the News, Peckham will render selections from Wagner. We regret to announce that the song of the nightingale will not be broadcast, since Janny's cat has just had supper.

L.W.

Vb.

We welcome into our midst T. M. Jones, who has already proved his worth in form cricket matches.

Our cricket this term has been of a high standard, as out of five games played we have won four, while the remaining one was lost to Vj. by the narrow margin of one run. We are well represented in the First Eleven by Hall, whose twenty-four not out helped to save the School from defeat, while in the Second Eleven we have Sampson.

We did well on Sports day, Milligan winning four prizes. J. O. Jones, after winning the 100 yards, unfortunately sprained his ankle, and was not able to compete further.

We desire to extend our sympathies to our two invalids, Thomas and Wilson, and hope they will be sufficiently recovered to return by September.

C.E.D.

Vj.

Well, folks, for the next few minutes you will be entertained by Vj. In spite of the fact that T. M. Jones has been sent to Vb., and that Bell threatens us with his resignation, the form has had rather an enjoyable term. The other day when Mr. Haime asked Roy why he must not use the verb "dono," the latter replied (much to the amusement of the form) "I dono, sir." When one worthy was told by a master that he had never encountered a really thick copse, the gentleman in question replied to the effect that he had seen several thick cops. That amusing little plaything the "Yo-Yo" appears to be wielded with great skill (?) by Bell. The form has had little cricket, but seems to be holding its own from a scholastic point of view.

S.H.

IVa.

When we reassembled in our form-room at the beginning of this term, we were all saddened by the news that we had lost three valuable men, namely, Tong, who has gone to a training-ship, and Kinnear and Evans, who have been removed to another form.

We have done fairly well at cricket this term, having won two matches, lost one, and drawn one, but the general opinion of the form is that we should have done a great deal better, had we not lost two of the above-mentioned three. We are represented in the Second Eleven by Wadlow.

While on the subject of "David and Goliath," our form-master asked, "If you were only five feet six inches and nine and a half stone, and a seven foot man, weighing fourteen stone, came charging at you, what would you do?" "Run between his legs, sir," answered a bright scholar.

A certain member of the staff has a habit of remarking, every time he enters our form-room, that he has been hearing things about us, while another member informs us, when he has his back to the form, that he has eyes at the back of his head, but we conclude that he can see our reflection in the picture on the front wall.

G.R.C.

IVb.

Mr. D——— has been very kind to us this term, for one day he surprised the form by telling us that a famous actor (well known to us on the screen) was present in our midst. We have since recognised the familiar features of Stanley Laurel in our friend F———. It was also during one of his lessons that K——— showed that he had not sunk into obscurity, for, when asked for the equation of the effect of heat on copper nitrate he wanted to know the formula for heat. As you may guess many heated words ensued!

We were very happy to congratulate Barker and Winter upon being chosen to represent the school in the Inter-School Sports.

In the School Sports we had over eighty entries, and out of these we obtained twelve prizes. Barker did exceptionally well by winning four prizes and Winter, Entwistle, and Roy-lance won two each.

We heartily welcome our two new members Kinnear and Evans who, although they have not been in the form very long, are competing keenly for the top places so far held by Blair, Wetherell, and Bray.

At Cricket we have not been very successful, having won only two matches, but we hope to do better later on. I.M.

IVj.

We have not done at all badly at cricket this season, having won three out of the five matches played. Incidentally all the wins were against IVb., the scores being 61—36, 29—9, and 36—29. The fact that we won these games was very greatly due to the brilliant bowling of McKinlay. In one match he took all ten wickets for 14 runs, and in another, 9 for 4 runs!

We heartily congratulate Wheat on being one of the few chosen to represent the School in the Inter School Sports.

It was voted rather a "sell" that Whit and half-term should come together, and, although, of course, we were glad of the holiday, we didn't exactly relish the idea of two and-a-half months' hard work afterwards without a break.

However, the monotony has been broken once or twice by some unintentional (and some intentional) witticisms.

One Monday, Mr. Hall came in as usual to take and store for us our hard-earned savings, and, reading out the list of names, he came to M*lv**e. Immediately came the bright answer: "Please sir, I'm absent!" According to McK*n**y, "la cour d'honneur" means "the back yard," while another bright youth, translating, said that John was "a lazy blighter!"

Stamp collecting is still going strong—and now, wherever you go, you see "Yo-yos"—the latest and the maddest craze of any.

IIIa.

This season's cricket has been most successful. At the beginning of the term Robey was voted Captain, and Duff Vice-Captain. Out of six matches we have won five and lost

one. The one lost was due to the fact that some of the team were playing in house matches.

Our entries for the sports were very good.

D**n continues to amuse us; he disgusted Mr. Williams by calling a capillary tube a caterpillar tube, and informed us that the Western Island of the British Isles was Wales.

R.M.B.

IIIb.

Hello everybody! IIIb. calling. We are still going strong and in the cricket matches we have won 2, drawn 1 and lost 1. In a home match against Wallasey Grammar School, we had five representatives, and we beat them by a clear 28 runs.

During our recent visit to VIa. room, a pen was found stuck in the rafters, and it formed a target for many caps and pellets.

Many type-written, threatening notes have been passed round our form lately, by members of secret societies, but, as far as we know, there is only one left, and notes have stopped circulating. We are all looking forward to the tests with fear, but even exams give promotion, and we shall probably write from the IVth. forms next year.

W.E.C., F.T.

IIIj.

IIIj. have had a rather uneventful term; nothing really exciting having happened.

One person said that the noun "toe" was of masculine gender; that, I believe, being due to too much 'gendering' in French. A boy weighing 7 stone, would, in France weigh 3 kilometres—one of the latest howlers of the term.

At cricket, IIIj. have lost both fixture matches, one v. IIIa. and the other v. the Juniors. In our games periods, however, we have defeated IIIb. and (at the time of writing) we have a good chance of beating IIIa. in the as yet uncompleted match.

G.E.P.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NOTES.

Now that we are at last enjoying summer weather, the Junior School garden is much appreciated. 'Al fresco' cub meetings are held, and recently there have been "fairies at the bottom of our garden"—seniors practising for the inter-school sports! It has been suggested that, during the summer term, impositions should take the form of uprooting daisies from the lawn, or picking dead leaves from the rhododendrons. 'A garden is a lovesome thing . . . !'

The Juniors showed their usual enthusiasm for the sports, and there was a record number of entries. Two second-formers competed against seniors in the final of the hurdles, and King (Iib.) finished fourth in the 880 yards. Westminster again won the House Relay, with Tate a close runner-up.

The Cub Pack is very active this term. It again won the Sports Shield, for the fourth year in succession, and many boys have obtained badges and second stars. They have managed to raise the money for two new tents for the Scout camp, which cubs and their officers are again joining. At the end of the term an entertainment is to be given, when a dramatised version of "Mowgli's Brothers" will be acted in the "jungle" provided by the holly bushes and undergrowth in the garden.

We are glad to record the fact that, as a result of the recent examinations, six scholarships to the Senior School were awarded to the Juniors. It was unfortunate, that after days of fine weather the "half-half holiday" we were granted to celebrate this distinction was wet and miserable.

In conclusion, we hope that Miss Booth has quite recovered from her illness, and we welcome her back after her long absence.

H.M.D.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

This term, the sixth-formers have been, or so they tell me, far too busily employed in preparing for Matric., and in other equally outlandish pastimes, to "come and jaw" at the debates—very polite chaps in the sixth—so that the third form has had it all its own way.

They were early clamouring for a meeting, desiring to discuss the topic, "That swimming is not nearly so beneficial a pastime as is generally supposed," but the swimmers swam away with it, defeating the motion by 23 votes to 3. Some of these boys, though so young, made surprisingly good speeches, apart from a certain amount of crudeness and personal insinuation, which furnished not a little comic relief.

But, no doubt, a little practice and encouragement will make good orators of these fellows, for their enthusiasm is practically unlimited. Already, even in the summer term, they have arranged another debate, on the Channel Tunnel Scheme.

If they retain their enthusiastic demeanour next year, when they will have been exalted to the noble rank of fourth formers, and if we get another Third-form like this one, our next session ought to be something of a success—let us hope so.

W.H.M.

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY.

The annual Inter-House cross-country run, which was too late to be reported in the Easter number of *The Visor*, was run in warm, sunny weather; conditions which were doubtless excellent from the spectators' point of view, but which made running too hot to be pleasant.

Considering this little jest on the part of our March weather, it is perhaps not surprising that no records were broken. The winning time for the senior course of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles was 36 minutes 7 seconds, put up by G. W. Smith (Stitt), and G. W. Shaw (Stitt), in a dead heat, which falls far short of A. C. Horne's record of 31 minutes 42 seconds. Third and fourth places also fell to Stitt, this lack of opposition to the leaders being perhaps partly responsible for the comparatively slow pace.

The Junior $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile course was covered in 27 minutes 2 seconds by Hamilton (Tate), the record for this course being 26 minutes 20 seconds.

The result, on points, counting the first ten men home in each House, was a win for Stitt in the senior, and for Westminster in the junior, the same two Houses also holding the second places.

J.W.

TABLE TENNIS CLUB.

The activities of this flourishing society are now necessarily terminated, owing to the imminence of the Matric., but in the past two terms the standard of play has risen considerably. The match results are really excellent, considering the status of some of the clubs against whom sets have been won, if not games.

In the matches, K. J. Rice and R. E. Lilley (Shanghai Gold Medallist) won 56% of the games, and with F. W. Miller they have remained consistently at the head of the championship table, with M. A. Minns and P. T. Richards as close runners-up.

The following are the match results (all away) :—

B.I. v. Christ Church	Lost	1—24
B.I. v. Mersey Railway	Lost	10—15
B.I. v. B.C.E.C. Social (1st Div. L.T.T.A.) ...	Lost	7—18
B.I. v. Mersey Railway	Lost	15—21*
B.I. v. Tranmere Wesley (2nd Div. L.T.T.A.) ..	Lost	7—18
B.I. "A" v. Scouts	Won	11—9
B.I. v. Birkenhead Elec. Social	Won	24—12*

* Six-a-Side.

P.T.R.

ROVER SCOUT NOTES.

Having at last started the Rover Scout Crew, we now have a full scout group in the School. We are fortunate in having Mr. Thacker as our leader, and the crew is very much indebted to him for accepting this position.

Owing to the fact that we have only been in existence as a crew just over a fortnight, there is very little to say with

regard to our activities. Merseyside Hospitals' Week came at a favourable time, however, for it gave us a good opportunity to introduce ourselves by assisting at various functions both in Birkenhead and at Thornton Manor.

Sometime next term, it is hoped to stage three one-act plays and we trust you will give us your whole-hearted support.

Lastly, any boy in the School over 17 years of age, desirous of joining the crew, may receive full particulars from Mr. Thacker. F.T.

SCOUT NOTES.

Scout activities this term have been mainly concerned with camping. During the Easter holidays a few very keen and hardy enthusiasts spent a few days 'under canvas' at Saughall Massie. Our sincerest thanks must be tendered to Tomlinson and Wetherell for literally scouring Wirral in search of a suitable week-end camp site, which they succeeded in finding at Five Lanes End. A large party of campers used the ground at Whitsuntide and spent four very enjoyable days there, and each week-end since then various boys have taken the opportunity of camping on our own ground. We are looking forward to the annual summer camp which is to be held this year at Stainforth in Yorkshire.

We extend a hearty welcome to Bell (IVb.), who is a newcomer to the troop. The Cubs have to be congratulated on winning the shield at the Inter-Pack Athletic Sports for the fourth year in succession.

The recently formed Rover Crew under the leadership of Mr. Thacker will be of no small help to the troop. It is hoped that all Scouts on attaining the age of 17 years will become Rovers. H.T.D.

CRICKET.

It seems quite a commonplace in these latter years to write of the success of the XIs. The achievements of the teams may be read in another column. Suffice it to say here that in batting, bowling and fielding, the school has worthily upheld the traditions of the past.

The 1st XI. started the season with the advantage of having six of last year's Colours in the team, but whether age has withered them or custom staled their infinite variety is not obvious; the fact remains that it is to the younger blood that success has largely been due. It is to be hoped that before the season is out some at least of last year's team will have "pulled something out of the bag."

In batting, Rice and Silcock are each to be congratulated on passing the half century, while in bowling, Todd and T. A. Jones have borne the brunt of the attack, and have bowled really well on occasions. The rest of the team have ably backed up their efforts.

For the second year in succession the Captain has set a worthy example to his team and has carried out his duties with zeal and enthusiasm.

OLD BOYS' SOCIETY.

I have been very pleased this season to see the boys who have left School during the terms making enquiries about the Old Boys' Society. As they get older they will realise and appreciate the opportunities they get in the various organisations of enjoying themselves among their old school friends.

As quite a number of boys will be leaving shortly I should like them all to ask the Headmaster for an application form to join the Society. The subscription during the first year, for new members who have just left school, is only 1/-, and 2/6 during the years following.

The Old Boys now have a Tie which has been patented and embodies the School crest in the stripes. It is sold only to members by our Outfitters, Messrs. Bibby & Perkin, and Messrs. Watson Prickard.

The Annual Cricket Match against the School will be played on Saturday, July 16th, and the Old Boys hope to repeat last year's performance.

J.B.E.

OLD BOYS' AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

I do not think that any Society could have established itself more firmly in twelve months than this newly born dramatic society. The recent production, the last of four in a year, "The Middle Watch," reached such a high standard, and was

witnessed by such large audiences, that the future should hold unbounded possibilities.

It is remarkable to note how the various organisations help to keep the Birkenhead Institute well in the public eye. Only a short while ago I received a letter from the Mold Dramatic Society making enquiries about our latest production. It means that the Old Boys must keep up the reputation of the School in all its undertakings.

Any boys who are at all interested in acting, stage carpentry, or stage management are invited to join this section, where I can assure them many a pleasant hour is spent at rehearsals.

J.B.E.

OLD BOYS' FOOTBALL CLUB NOTES.

Taken on the whole, the Old Boys did not have too successful a season, and it is obvious that the Club is beginning to feel the lack of support from neo-Old Boys of the School. During the last four seasons, hardly any old members of the School XIs. have joined up with the Football Club, and it is about time this state of affairs was remedied.

Last season's great achievement was the 1st team's success in the Old Boys' Senior Shield Competition. Few of those in the distinguished "gallery" (which included the Headmaster and Mrs. Wynne Hughes) at Goodison Park will readily forget the thrilling second half and extra time of the final. The Old Boys were down 2—0 to Old Xaverians with twenty minutes to go. A glorious rally brought the scores level, and right on time, W. J. Murphy netted with a fine shot, only to find that the final whistle had gone at the moment he kicked the ball. During extra time, the Old Boys piled on two more, and, at the end, despite Old Xavs. in a desperate rally scrambling another one through, B.I. finished victors by four goals to three.

The 1st team also had a successful season in the I Zingari League, Division 2, and were finally recorded fourth. The last ten games of the season were all won, and provided J.D.B. Thornton with ample opportunity to add to his goal "bag." His final total amounted to thirty-nine. The I Zingari League is the highest sphere of amateur football on Merseyside, and is

considered the equal of any other amateur league in the North. The Old Boys have every intention of entering the top flight, and next season will see a very strong bid for promotion to the 1st division.

Neither the 2nd (who were very unlucky in the I Zingari Combination) nor the 3rd team experienced a happy season, though the 4th were somewhat more successful. It would be an easy matter to make B.I.O.B. the strongest club represented in the various leagues should those boys who have an aptitude for the game associate themselves with the Old Boys on leaving school. Consequently, I earnestly request Old Boys and future Old Boys to join the Football Club. They can be assured of plenty of really enjoyable games.

In view of requests for more Bedtime Stories for Old Boys, I have searched the memory of our Oldest Player. He sucked his toothless gums with relish as he recalled the long, long ago, when the old B.I.O.B. team disported themselves on the Prenton Playing Fields; and pulled out his one remaining hair in excitement as he lived that distant incident once more. The Old Boys were engaged in a very important game, and required either to win or to draw (whether to get away from bottom of the league or stay on top the O.P. wasn't quite sure). The weather had been atrocious for weeks past, with the usual deleterious effect on the Playing Fields, which, at Prenton, meant six inches of mud over ruts and treacherous pot holes. One minute from time the score was nil—nil, and the Old Boys were happy. Thirty seconds from time, the opposing centre forward had broken away, rounded the goalkeeper, reached the goal line, and was poised on one leg, the other drawn back to kick the ball squarely into the back of the net—and the Old Boys were exceedingly miserable. But that poise proved the centre's undoing. The Playing Fields played up in grand style. The leg penetrated the six inches of mud, and then came upon a really deep pothole. For one awful moment that centreforward seemed to disappear into the bowels of the earth. The final whistle blew—and the pitch had saved the day.

Of course, as the O.P. states with ineffable scorn, this "glorious uncertainty of the game" is reduced to a minimum at Ingleborough Road.

Good holidays!

B.V.W.

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