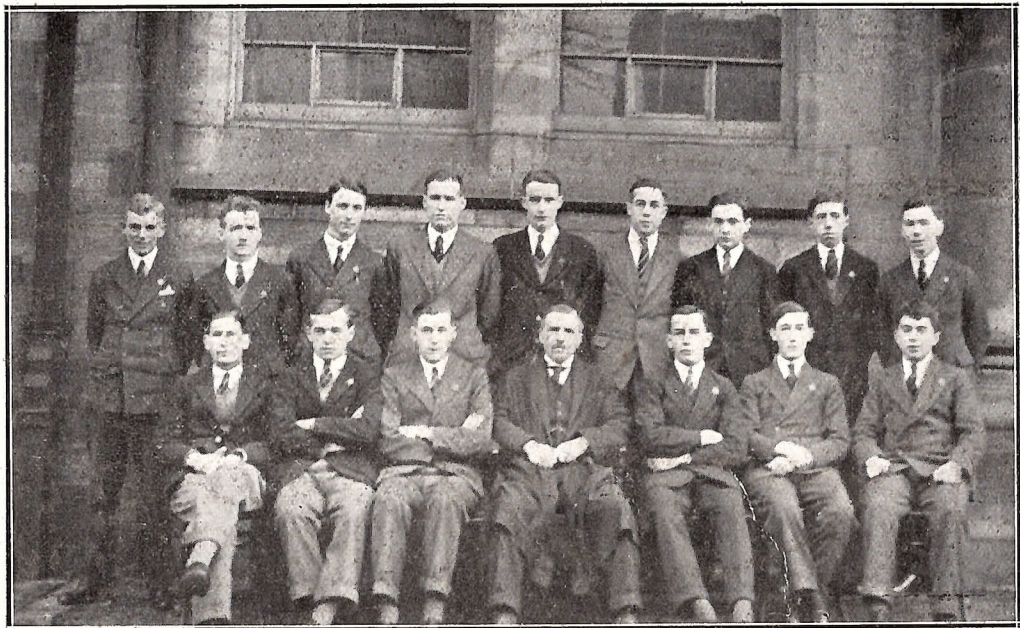


THE VISOR.



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

EASTER, 1933.



SCHOOL PREFECTS, 1931-32.



VOL. VI., No. 2.

EASTER, 1933.

School Calendar.

Easter Term ends	March 30th.
Summer Term begins	April 26th.
Athletic Sports	May 27th.
Halfterm	June 3rd—6th.
Term ends... ..	July 25th.

Editorial.

THE Easter term, though the shortest, is nevertheless often the busiest, and on reviewing the present term, we are led to conclude that it has proved no exception.

The Shield Competitions, both Senior and Junior, have proved rather a disappointment, especially after our good performance last year. It is no part of our duty here to go into the reasons for our failure; no doubt in our correspondence columns we shall have a little light thrown on the subject by experts. Whatever their verdict we can only hope that some improvement will follow next year.

Sunshine and the approach of spring have once more brought forth the cricketers from their hibernation, and prospects for the coming season are being freely discussed. We as a School can usually field a strong cricket XI., and "hope springs eternal."

Speech Day this term occurs too late to be reported in this issue, but a list of prize-winners is published, and no doubt the function will be the usual marked success. The other outstanding event of the term, the Cross Country Run, also comes too late to allow of any comment in our pages. We hope, how-

ever, that it will not be quite such a 'one-House' affair as in former years.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, this term has seen the completion of the tree-planting scheme which occasioned some little humour in our last issue, and still more in the current one. All the trees are carefully and firmly planted, and, by the summer season, we hope that Ingleborough Road will be blossoming as the rose.

The Editorial voice has once more been crying in the wilderness for contributions, and few there be that heard it. We hate to keep mentioning this vexed question, but must we conclude that our strong silent literary men really prefer the sort of material which is worked up in the 'office' at the last moment to their own hitherto unpublished masterpieces? We wonder!

Salvete.

IVa.—Atkin :—Martin, P. S.

IVb.—Westminster :—Henry, O.

IVj.—Westminster :—Jeffreys, E. H.

IIIa.—Atkin :—Faraday, W.

Ia.—Atkin :—Tarback, R. ; **Stitt :—**Carver, G. A.

Upper Prep.—Atkin :—Davies, W. G. ; **Stitt :—**Ander-
son, A. H.

Lower Prep.—Tate :—Dickie, W. J.

Valete.

Upper VIa.—Stitt :—Shaw, G. W. (1928—1933), *Prefect, Matric., 1931, Letter of Success, 1932, Captain of Harriers, 1931-1932. Tate :—*Minns, M. A. (1925—1933), *Headmaster's Prefect and Captain of Games, Matric., 1930, Letter of Success, 1931, Captain of House, Member of Football Selection Committee, Football and Cricket Colours, House Representative of Visor Committee.*

Upper VIb.—Atkin :—Benson, B. W. (1925—1933), *Matric., 1932. Brewster, E. W. G. (1923—1933), Matric., 1932. May, W. D. (1927—1933), Secretary of Table Tennis Club. Stitt :—*Green, J. G. (1926—1933). **Tate :—**Kelly, H. L. (1925—1933), *Matric., 1932. Lilley, R. E. (1931—1932). Westminster :—*Barker, H. (1922—1933), *Prefect, Matric.,*

1932, *Vice-Captain of House, Football Colours*. Barker, J. (1925—1933), *Matric.*, 1932, *Patrol Leader in School Scout Troop*.

VIs.—Stitt :—Arthur, N., Penlington, W.H., Silcock, F.

Vb.—Westminster :—Hollerhead, R. A.

Vj.—Westminster :—Smyth, C.

Ib.—Stitt :—Henry, R.

Speech Night.

WE shall be pleased to welcome on Speech Night (Monday, March 27th), Professor Abercrombie, of Liverpool University, who will preside, and Mrs. Abercrombie, who has kindly consented to present the prizes. The actual function is too late to be reported, but below is published a list of prize-winners :—

PRIZE LIST.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES.

Boys neither late nor absent for TWO YEARS.—H. B. Barker, J. F. R.

Evans, K. Evans, T. W. Goodwin, C. R. Martin, W. D. May, M. A.

Minns, J. Moore, H. Povall, D. A. Ramsden, J. D. Sampson, R. Smith,

A. S. Snelson, G. H. Stelfox, A. G. Theobald, F. H. Thomas, J. H. D.

Wetherell, H. Williams, H. E. Winter.

Boys neither late nor absent for THREE YEARS.—W. W. Aslett, G. G.

Bennett, D. Boggie, H. J. Bozier, G. Collinson, D. A. Cumming, W.

Cumming, W. J. Hayes, O. G. Hughes, W. L. Ince, J. G. Martin,

R. E. May, J. G. Ramsden, F. Silcock, D. L. Snell, C. G. Todd.

Boys neither late nor absent for FOUR YEARS.—T. Jackson, J. N. Robin-

son, R. R. Sarginson.

Boys neither late nor absent for FIVE YEARS.—L. Cogan, E. S. Craig,

L. Evans, F. E. Tomlinson.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

Tate Exhibition to Oxford University.—(£90 a year for 4 years)

.....G. Jellicoe.

Educational Training Grant to Oxford University.—(£75 a year for 4 years)

.....G. Jellicoe.

Robert Gee Scholarship for Medical Studies at Liverpool University.—

(£42 10s. od. a year for 4 years) A. Hyatt Williams.

INTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

Henry Tate £10.—G. H. Clarke, T. W. Goodwin, E. Todd, W. S. M. Wilson.

Duke of Westminster £5.—J. C. Grimmett, D. A. Cumming, E. C. Harris, N. F. Lythgoe.

Atkin £5.—D. C. Halling-Jones, T. M. Jones.

PRIZE LIST.

	1st Prize.	2nd Prize.	3rd Prize.
Form III J.	H. O. M. Bryant.	S. Bunting.	G. E. Powl.
Form III B.	W. E. Clare	F. Tweedle.	G. L. Evans.
Form III A.	R. M. Bennett	F. J. S. Campbell.	N. B. Smith.
Form IV J.	J. G. Stott.	J. Gallagher.	C. Smyth.
Form IV B.	G. E. Wetherell.	J. A. Blair.	W. C. Bray.
Form IV A.	W. Kinnear.	H. B. Evans.	A. L. Davis.
Form V J.	D. A. Cumming.	L. Simms.	D. W. Lowry.
Form V B.	J. C. Grimmett.	W. S. M. Wilson.	W. W. Aslett.
Form V A.	H. J. Bozier.	D. Boggie.	G. F. Hughes. }
Form VI R.	R. E. May.	J. Collinson.	T. Cocker.
Form VI B.	A. Wood.	N. Arthur.	F. W. Davies.
Form VI A.	F. Kirkland.	N. F. Lythgoe.	T. L. Jones.
Form VI S.	L. Evans.	A. Cathcart.	N. W. Rees.
Form Upper VI. Com.	C. R. Currie.	G. W. Shaw.	

Special Prizes for High Standard in Matriculation.—D. W. Cutbill, T. W. Goodwin, H. N. Laver, K. G. Miller, G. H. Weston.

Prizes for Drawing.—Senior, B. W. Benson; Junior, J. R. Sarginson.

Prize for Latin.—L. Evans.

Prize for Geography.—A. Hyatt Williams.

The Annie Dodge Memorial Prize for History Essay (Presented by the Rev. C. Dodge).—K. W. Walker.

Connacher Memorial Prize for English.—G. Jellicoe.

Solly History Prize.—G. Jellicoe.

Headmaster's Prize.—W. Bridge.

The George Holt Prizes.—Mathematics—R. R. Sarginson. Chemistry—V. A. Stanley. Physics—J. H. D. Wetherell.

The Old Boys' Prize.—R. C. Loxam, L. S. Clarkson, G. N. Jenkins.

Medals for Drill and Gymnastics (Champion Four).—H. B. Barker, J. Barker, N. Arthur, G. C. Tweedie.

Free Exercise Medal.—E. Todd.

Royal Life Saving Society's Award of Merit.—J. Wood.

Victor Ludorum Cup.—K. J. Rice.

Silver Cup for Games.—Senior—M. A. Minns. Junior—R. H. Milligan.

Cross Country Run.—1st Prize (Senior)—G. W. Shaw, G. W. Smith.
1st Prize (Junior)—F. L. Hamilton.

House Trophies.—Athletics—Westminster. Cricket—Atkin. Football—Westminster. Cross Country—Stitt.

JOINT MATRICULATION BOARD CERTIFICATES—JULY, 1932.

Higher School Certificate.—

G. Jellicoe, English (G); History (G); Latin (S).

A. Hyatt Williams, Geography (D); Chemistry (G); Zoology, Physics (S).

W. Bridge, Chemistry (G.) ; Physics, Maths., French (S).
 G. N. Jenkins, Chemistry (G) ; Physics, Maths. (S) ; Geography (S).
 R. R. Sarginson, Chemistry (G) ; Physics, Maths. (G) ; German (S).
 V. A. Stanley, Chemistry (G) ; Physics, Maths. (G) ; Geography (S).
 J. H. D. Wetherell, Chemistry (G) ; Physics (G) ; Maths., Geography (S).

Letters of Success.—

G. H. Clarke, Mathematical Statistics, Economics, Art, French, Economic History.
 C. R. Currie, Mathematical Statistics, Economics, Art, French, Economic History, Geography.
 E. P. Gill (m), Mathematical Statistics, Art, French, Economic History.
 G. W. Shaw, Mathematical Statistics, Economics, Art, French, Economic History, Geography.
 G. W. Smith (m), Mathematical Statistics, French, Economic History.
 Also—E. S. Anderson (2) ; F. W. Miller (2) ; F. E. Tomlinson (2).

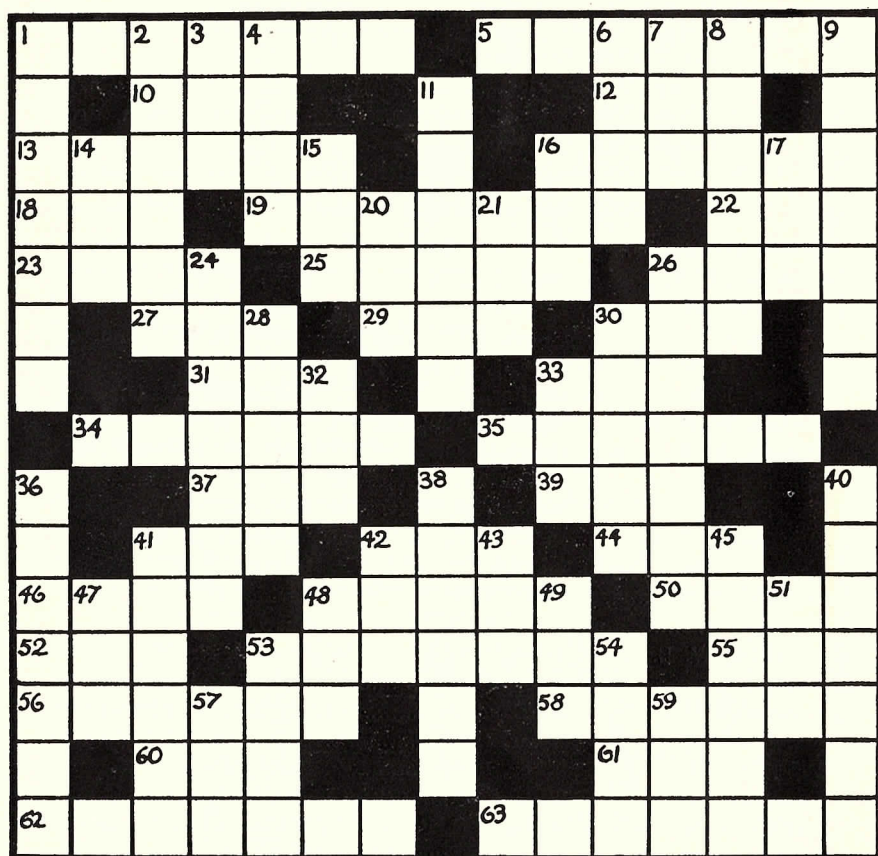
School Certificates.—

Andrews, L. T.	Davies, L. M.	May, W. D.
Angelman, H.m.	Davies, S.	Miller, F. L.m.
Arthur, N.	Evans, L.m. 3. 4.	Miller, K. G.m. 1.
Barker, H. B.m.	Francis, F. A.	Parry, T. A.
Barker, J. K.m.	Gaulter, J.	Penlington, W. H.
Barlow, W. R. F.	Goodwin, T. W.m. 3. 6.	Reade, W. J.
Benson, B. W.m. 4.	Green, J. G.	Rees, W. N.m.
Bird, G. L.	Hayes, W. J.m.	Rice, K. J.m.
Blair, T. W.	Henderson, D. G.m.	Richards, P. T.
Broadhurst, J. W.	Ince, W. L.m.	Robinson, J. N.m.
m. 4 (Sept.)	Jackson, T.	Rogers, A. D.
Brewster, E. W. G.m. 2.	Jones, A. M.	Seville, T.m.
Cathcart, A.m.	Jones, T. A.	Shaw, C. A.
Cockbain, W. L.	Jones, T. L.m.	Slinn, J. N.
Coglan, L.m. 3.	Kelly, H. M.m.	Smith, J. A. A.
Condon, J.	Kirkland, F.m.	m. (Sept.)
Craig, E. S.	Laver, H. N.m. 6.	Stelfox, L. F.
Cross, H. L.	Lilley, F. H.m.	Squires, R.
Cumming, W.	Lilley, R. E.m. (Sept.)	Tweedie, G. C.m.
Cutbill, D. W.m. 4. 5.	Lythgoc, N. F.	Weston, G. H.m. 4.
Darlington, A. C.	m. 5. (Sept.)	Wood, A.
Davies, J.	Mackinder, R.	Wylde, P. R.
Davies, F. W.	McLeod, H. G.	

Key. m—Matriculation. **Distinctions**—1 History. 2 Geography. 3 French.
 4 Maths. 5 Physics. 6 Chemistry.

Crossword.

A PRIZE of half-a-crown is offered for the first correct solution to be received. Open to boys now at School only. Solutions to be handed to Mr. Hall.



ACROSS.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1.—Put back. | 34.—Oxen. |
| 5.—Slope. | 35.—Civil constitution. |
| 10.—Confused Continental Donkey. | 37.—Second part of hide and seek. |
| 12.—Often after first. | 41.—T n i a t. |
| 13.—Part and— | 42.—Corded cloth. |
| 16.—To strike the hours. | 44.—Is in French and Latin. |
| 18.—Outer edge. | 46.—Short paragraphs. |
| 19.—Forester. | 48.—Elevates. |
| 22.—Nappy. | 50.—To pack earth round. |
| 23.—Norse deity seems to apostrophe noise. | 52.—Poem. |
| 25.—Teddy's other name. | 53.—Departer. |
| 26.—French dash. | 55.—French fire! |
| 27.—Make hay, short Edward. | 56.—Dull. |
| 29.—Poetical adverb. | 58.—Of clay and—made. |
| 30.—Topsy-turvy juice. | 60.—Poetical proposition. |
| 31.—Encountered. | 61.—You have ten of me. |
| 33.—Mouse is of this genus. | 62.—Shrieks. |
| | 63.—Animates by advice. |

DOWN.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1.—Reprimand. | 30.—Shadrach's diet. |
| 2.—Allow. | 32.—Score. |
| 3.—100,000 rupees. | 33.—Half of a half. |
| 4.—Afresh. | 36.—Taxes. |
| 6.—Stone from French town, distressed rod. | 38.—Scanty. |
| 7.—Cheek. | 40.—Put down. |
| 8.—Aspirations. | 41.—Thrill. |
| 9.—Stretches. | 42.—Mere tears (hidden). |
| 10.—Puts on. | 43.—Reason for. |
| 11.—12. | 45.—Singular accompaniment of rags. |
| 15.—Underhand delivery. | 47.—Bustle. |
| 16.—Frequently after also when unsuccessful. | 48.—Repent. |
| 17.—22. | 51.—Thousand. |
| 20.—Mineral. | 53.—Worthless Scotch confused outcry |
| 21.—(rev) 18. | 54.—Miltonic epithet for primrose. |
| 24.—Vengeance. | 57.—Proverbially busy. |
| 26.—What this clue is not. | 59.—More than enough. |
| 28.—Swollahs. | |

The Rhyme of the Wrathful Editor.

(With apologies to S. T. Coleridge).

IT is a wrathful Editor,
 And he stoppeth one of three
 "By thy inky face and pencil red,
 Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?"

"I cannot stay, detention waits
 And he that put me in,
 His voice roars loud above the crowd,
 May'st hear the awful din."

" I warned thee many moons ago,"
Quoth then the Editor,
" That all form notes must finished be
On this day or before."

" I fear thee, wrathful editor !
I fear it is a sin !
But I must seek another week,
Or ere I hand them in."

The Editor then seized his neck
And twisted it amain—
With heavy thump, a lifeless lump,
He dropped him down the drain.

EDITOR IRATUS.

New Year Resolutions.

I SAT alone, 'twas New Year's Eve,
And vowed that bad ways I would leave.
Good resolutions did I make,
And swore I never would them break.
No more for school would I be late,
Dashing at nine through the " prison " gate.
To Mother's call I'd always hark,
And rise up early with the lark.
Never again you'd find me shirk
Anything at all like work.
My books would all be clean and neat
And I'd not fidget in my seat.
In lessons I would never talk,
And down the stairs sedately walk.
I'd never give the prefects trouble,
Or give them cause my lines to double
In fact I'd be the teacher's joy,
That rarest thing, the perfect boy.

L. GALLAGHER, Form II.

Acrostic.

SOLUTION.

R	os	A
O	sculu	M
M	ar	O
A	g (g) e	R

The prize has been awarded to Cathcart. Two other solvers sent in very good translations, and consolation prizes have accordingly been given to C. R. Barker and Broadfoot.

The following is hardly a translation of the verses, but may help.

She ruled the world, and took her name
From Remus's big brother;
Turned round,—the god who knows no shame,
The cause of all the bother.

1. Though sweetest of all flowers it smells
That greet the dewy morn,
Look out! 'Tis truth the poet tells,—
"No—but has its thorn."
2. This is a teeny little "os,"
Yet looks a bigger word;
And "os"s two, seen in a "close-
up," meet to make a third.
3. Arms and the man the poet sings,
And Amaryllis' quarrels;
From farmers too, the lucky things,
He draws invidious morals.
4. The one is piled up from the ground,
The other spread out flat.
Longer than this will that be found:
Can you write this and that?

J.W.H.

Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Visor*.

Sir,

Rumours says that among the main difficulties of your editorial staff is the collection of reports from the four House Representatives in good time and in a form suitable for pub-

lication. This, it seems to me, is a problem which only requires sympathetic consideration, and the application of the modern business principles of rationalisation and mass-production for its immediate solution. The obstacle in the path of your compilers of domestic small-talk is the notorious difficulty of English composition, and this would at once be removed by issuing to them, about a week before the closing date, a simple printed form which, when filled in, would contain the necessary information set out in a clear and interesting manner. The enclosed is intended as a rough sketch of such a form, to be added to or modified as required. By the judicious provision of suitable alternatives, monotony is avoided; indeed they afford a pleasing variety, hardly obtainable under the present system.

Yours, etc.,

PRO BONO DOMESTICO.

Enclosure.

FORM HN/1.

(To be completed and returned to Editor on or before

.....)

.....HOUSE.

This term being short/long, we have played fewer/more matches than usual, the Seniors having defeated/drawn with/lost to.....by.....goals to....., and the Juniors, etc., as above. These results are above/below the standard of past years, and the House must all pull together if our position is to be maintained/regained in the future.

In school work we have been less/more successful, having been bottom/top of the mark sheets.....times. This is due to the presence in the House of more/fewer wart-hogs/whole-hogs/hogsheads/book-worms/wire-worms than in the other houses. (*Note*: These are a few suggestions; other alternatives may be thought out *at lib.*)

We are represented in the.....team by....., in theteam by.....etc., etc.

We are looking forward to next term, when, if we are as successful as we hope, we expect to eclipse/retrieve our recent successes/failures, and add to the laurels won in the hard-fought contests of the past. *Initials*.....

Note to House Representatives:

(1) Read through the above slowly 3 times, or until you have grasped its general meaning.

(2) Read it through again, filling in the blank spaces in BLOCK CAPITALS, and deleting those alternatives which do not apply.

(3) Read it aloud to a friend, to ensure that your entries are intelligible and not contradictory.

(4) Add your initials and hand in the form.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Visor*.

Sir,

When will the School win a Shield? Judging by past results, never!! The standard of football has dropped year by year, and although two of our teams have appeared in the finals during the past few years, the general standard of school teams has been low. There must be a reason for our failures, and the continued success of Liverpool schools like Alsop and the Collegiate. May we suggest it is through lack of practice and coaching?

Before any team can play together successfully, each individual, except the goalkeeper, must be fairly proficient in ball-control, and young boys must therefore be taught how to overcome this difficulty. Why not set up a number of stumps in the ground and let the boys try to guide the ball round them? If this were done at a fast pace, the pupil would soon acquire a good deal of skill.

Skill in taking corners, shooting on the run, and first-time kicking should be carried out under a master's, or some other coache's watchful eye; while heading could be practised in the gymn.

Surely there is some master who could spare a little time during a games period to tender advice to the coming footballers; even the mighty men in the school elevens would not, or should not resent some useful hints.

It is hopeless to expect a team such as we field, to cope with the well-trained teams that other secondary schools can field.

Yours, etc.,

S.C.

Others as We See Them.

ONE of the most solid magazines received for some time is *The Quest* (Westcliff High School for Boys, December, 1932). The school appears to be a hive of what are mildly described as 'out-of-school-activities,' and the accounts of these would have provided abundant material for one issue,

even if nothing else had been contributed. For instance, school outings last summer included a camp at Eastbourne, a holiday in North Wales, visits to the H.M.V. and Kodak factories, and a trip to Colchester.

Some of the Form Notes are bright and original. The Old Boys have their own well-edited section, and there is no lack of news from the universities.

* * * *

Contributions by headmasters, one gathers, are not as a rule gleefully welcomed by editors of school magazines. An exception to the rule is surely to be found in *The Wallaseyan* (December, 1932), which prints a page and a half of excellent and delightfully undignified fooling by the Head.

The school is achieving distinction far beyond Merseyside in the good work of fostering international fellowship and goodwill. A party of boys and masters from a Berlin High School have visited Wallasey, and carried out a programme of visits to local places of interest, and tours in Wales and Devon, as well as taking part in the work of the school and its societies. An exhibition of work done by Wallasey boys has been shown in Berlin, and *vice versa*. So widely known have these activities become that the school is being consulted regarding them by interested organisations in other parts of the country and even in America.

* * * *

The movement for a brighter *Esmeduna* (Liverpool Collegiate, December, 1932) continues to flourish. The latest innovation is No. 1 of a series of crosswords, with a prize for the first correct solution received. The going is hard enough to eliminate the unpractised multitude, but not, we suspect, to prevent a large number of solvers getting home in good time. One clue seems to be missing, and "hen" is perhaps not a very good definition of "rooster"; apart from these minor flaws, and the regrettable admission of one "alternative," the puzzle is very neatly constructed.

The verse of *Esmeduna* has been noticed before on this page. This time it is a "rondel," remarkable for containing only two capital letters, but not otherwise.

What at first appeared to be an expensive piece of 'big business' publicity, or an American super-High School magazine, turns out on closer examination to be the jubilee number of *The Cowleian* (December, 1932). This opulent production celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Cowley Middle School at St. Helens, and comprises fifty glossy pages of beautiful type, cuts and photographs. We cannot help envying the treasurer who has a balance of such magnitude that this (to us) stupendous outlay does not wipe it out. At least it must be fashionably slimmer.

* * * *

In addition to the above *The Visor* Committee gratefully acknowledges receipt of *Oultonia*, T.G.S. Magazine (Teignmouth Grammar), *Chronicle of the Edmonton County School*, *The Log* (Hobart, Tasmania).

University Letter.

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.

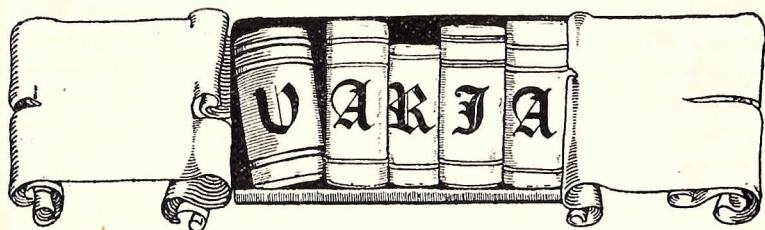
Dear Mr. Editor,

I heard a rumour that a B.I. boy had removed the cups from the Students' Union at the 'Varsity, and had deposited them in the trophy cupboard at school. Of course it was only a rumour, but even if it had been true, as someone said to me last week, the School would have had some right to them, because of the crowd of B.I. old boys at the University.

That's exaggerating, but if a prize had been given for the best one in the Panto rag, I am sure an old boy, an engineer, would have won it. We were all on different sides, of course, when we battled in the quadrangle for Sister Jane, our rag doll mascot. The ammunition was varied, ranging from cods' heads to bags of soot, and barrels full of rotten apples. When I met the aforesaid engineer in the thick of the scrum, as a salutation, he carefully aimed a small bag of soot, which was very effective, for it struck me right in the mouth!

That part of the term is over now, worse luck, and we are in the midst of exams., as I expect you are, too; so the sooner holidays come the better.

H.H.W.



THE Editor would like to meet the boy who suggested publishing *The Visor* once a week; so would the two sub-editors.

* * * *

Now that the tree-planting scheme has been completed, we are awaiting the summer months to see the final results of our efforts.

* * * *

It is generally supposed that the VIj. bird-nesting club will commence activities on the first of the few fine Wednesday afternoons that we expect in the summer.

* * * *

Congratulations to R. H. Jones, H.W. Jones, and Clarke, who have been made prefects in place of some who have left.

* * * *

We hear that there has been a boom in the sale of aspirin tablets since the appearance in the last issue of *The Visor* of a Latin acrostic.

* * * *

It is believed that trouble is brewing between the various rival protagonists of "Ye Ancient Game of Shuttlecocke" and "Ye Time-honoured Game of Shove Ha'penny." "Les jeux des rois et les rois des jeux."

* * * *

As a result of Mr. Claxton Turner's talk last term, a branch of the League of Nations Union has been founded in the School. Success will attend this venture according as boys lend their support.

* * * *

Hearty congratulations to Cullen, Clarke and Marsh, who were 50th, 201st, and 235th respectively in the recent Civil Service Examinations. Considering that there were over 3,000 entrants, their performance was highly creditable both to themselves and to the school.

We hope that boys who leave school will follow the example of Benson, who has presented several books to the School Library. Benson is to be congratulated on making a happy innovation.

* * * *

It is gratifying to learn that a lantern lecture given by Mr. Watts to the local unemployed received special mention in a wireless talk by Mr. S. P. B. Mais, when he gave a survey of the voluntary efforts being made on behalf of the unemployed. As a result of this wireless talk, the Queen sent a supply of Scientific books to the Local Centre for the Unemployed.

* * * *

Dr. Teasdale Griffiths, as Hon. Conductor of the Birkenhead League of Service Professional Orchestra, has been giving a series of three subscription concerts in aid of unemployed musicians.

* * * *

Mr. Paice tells us that the portrait over the hat-rack outside the Library is an Old Master. We do not recognise him, so he must have been before our time.

* * * *

There seems to be keen competition between the Insurance Companies and Chartered Accountants for our Advanced boys. Evidently they prefer those who have benefited by the extra year or two.

* * * *

The quantity of lost property lying unclaimed in the Janitor's gloomy caverns is steadily increasing, and is rapidly creating what the papers call a situation (delicate), problem (acute), stalemate, deadlock, or impasse (adjectives to taste). It was suggested that the surplus might have been dealt with by the Government Disposal Board, but this seems to have been broken up.

* * * *

The England of Shakespeare was the subject of a lecture given by Mr. Harris to the Heswall Literary Society recently.

* * * *

Loxam, Clarkson and H. W. Jones have been awarded training grants to Liverpool University, and R. H. Jones and F. W. Miller have been accepted at Chester Training College. The number of these grants has been very much reduced, as part of the recent economy movement, and the school is to be congratulated on having been awarded five.

A certain youth, who had left his bicycle in school for over a week, was rather astonished to find that he possessed one. Apparently he had forgotten its existence. We wonder what rent he paid the Janitor.

* * * *

Mr. W. E. Williams has been lecturing to an Everton Literary Society on "The History of Liverpool in Relation to National History."

* * * *

Connell, our groundsman, has been badly missed on the school-field. We hope he will soon have recovered from his illness.

* * * *

Vb. consider football in the playground infinitely superior to geography in a classroom at a temperature of 42° F.

* * * *

A Birkenhead Institute boy was passing through Liverpool with a friend. They stopped before a large grim building.

B.I.B.: "What's this place?"

FRIEND: "Dunno! Looks like a gaol."

B.I.B.: "Must be a school."

* * * *

We trust that Benson, Cathcart, Evans and Weston are not too bent after their labours in connection with our tree-planting efforts.

* * * *

The School Orchestra have given up competing with the Cubs, and have retired to the Junior School. No doubt their attempts will fall on more sympathetic ears.

* * * *

Considering how widespread the 'flu epidemic has been, the school has escaped very lightly as compared with other schools.

* * * *

To add to our difficulties, during the recent cold spell, the water pipes in the pavilion decided to burst.

* * * *

From One in Authority: "If you want to come through the Lab., you'll have to go round."

* * * *

Congratulations to Ramsden and H. Barker on winning their school colours for football.

After the recent severe snowfall, the first eleven pitch has had to be placed out of bounds, since the Old Boys unfortunately played on it while it was unfit.

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We are pleased to hear that Mr. Paice has been made an Associate of the Royal Cambrian Academy and a Liverpool Academician.

* * * *

The detention room is still regarded as "a home from home" by certain people, judging by the frequency of their visits.

* * * *

Neither of the Shield teams has been successful in its respective competition this year. In the 2nd round the Juniors were beaten by Bootle Secondary School, and the Seniors by Oulton.

* * * *

The annual Cross-country Race is to take place on March 28th, so that, unfortunately, the report will have to be kept until next term. We hope that as many will turn out this year, as last.

* * * *

Just to prove how unselfish we can be at a time of National Crisis, we have decided this term not to mention the New Assembly Hall, or the additional classrooms, which were once so much in the air. Evidently the crisis has kept them there.

Sh!

Atkin House Notes.

ONLY the direst threats of a zealous sub-editor have constrained us to record the activities of the House during the last term. For, indeed, there is little to relate. Atkin seems to adopt the habit of the venerable tortoise, and to spend the winter months in blissful slumber, hid from human ken (relieved by periodic visits to the detention room!)

But, whatever they may be, tradition bids that our 'soccer performances should be displayed in faithful record. Three matches have been played this term. The Seniors drew with Stitt, 4-4, and so gained their first point. With no Atkin names figuring in this term's 'Valete' list, we may reasonably hope to improve our record in the two remaining matches.

Our Inter. team was rather surprisingly beaten 6-4 by Westminster, and against Tate our Junior team lost by 15 goals to 0. (No, that is not their biggest defeat !) Whether the Juniors lack ability or enthusiasm, we know not, but as we did not lose a match in this section last season, their failure is most disappointing.

Two individual honours have fallen to us. We congratulate R. H. Jones, who has augmented the honourable body of Prefects, and Ramsden, who was last term awarded his football colours. There is also a rumour that Cathcart is to receive an honorary reward from the Ancient Order of Foresters. Perhaps a seat on the conclave of Master Sextons would be more appropriate.

This season's Junior Shield team was honoured by five of our number—Parry, Kinnear, Snelson, Entwistle, and McKinlay. Although the team lost, we may take it as an indication that our Senior team should be fairly strong next year.

The Summer term heralds the Cricket season. Atkin at present holds the Cricket championship, and if we are to retain it next season, the three teams must remember that every point counts. Our Senior and Inter teams should be capable of heading their sections. Much will depend upon our Junior team.

K.W.

Stitt House Notes.

WE have few activities to report this term. In football we have played only two matches, the Seniors having drawn 4—4 with Atkin, while the Juniors have lost 8—1 to Westminster. These results are not up to standard of past years; but we cannot expect to excel every season, and it is to be hoped we shall be more successful next year. If we are to do so, however, this year's Juniors will have to put all their energy into the game, and make up their minds to do better than they have during the past season.

We are represented in the first eleven by: Smith, Christian, Cumming, Milligan, and Silcock, and in the Junior Shield team by Rowson and Simms.

In Cross-country running we are again strong this season, and we hope to carry off the Senior honours for the third year in succession, while we should stand a chance of winning the Junior run also.

We have the following members who run for the School : Christian, Hawkes, Smith, Wood.

Our position on the mark sheets has been persistently low ; a fact which we can attribute partly to the activities of two or three ' detention-hogs,' who, however, we are pleased to note, are now showing signs of a change for the better.

The coming season of cricket, sports, and swimming will, let us hope, provide us with the opportunity to prove that we can rise again from our present comparative obscurity and seize once more the glory that has been ours in the past.

Tate House Notes.

AT half term we were unfortunate enough to lose the services of Minns, our house captain, who left to take up a position in Liverpool. We should like to thank him for his able management of the affairs of the House during his term of office, and to wish him the best of luck in his future career.

So far only two house matches have been played this term. The Seniors beat Westminster by seven goals to two, and the Junior team, our best for many years, beat Atkin 15—0. We are represented in the 1st XI. by Harrahill and Wheat, and in the 2nd XI. by Collinson, Slinn, Stelfox, and Venables.

Our only representative in the Harriers' team is Hayes, but in the Junior pack our members continue to do good work, and we are hoping to do well in this department in the coming inter-house run.

We have not so many good Chess players as formerly, nevertheless we are represented in the School team by Robinson and Wadlow.

Up to the time of writing, we have been top of every mark sheet issued this term, thus continuing the good work started last year. This success is largely due to the absence of " detention hogs " which other houses possess.

We congratulate Clarke on passing the recent Civil Service examination, and wish him every success in the future.

We are now looking forward to the cricket season, when we hope to continue our past successes in this game. T.W.G.

Westminster House Notes.

OWING to the very short term and the bad weather, our activities have been limited, only two football matches having been played this session.

Tate defeated us by 7—2 in the Senior House match, owing mainly to the failure of our forwards, who did not grasp the opportunities to score offered in the first half. The Juniors won their match against Stitt by 8—1, and are proving themselves to be the strongest section of the House by winning four out of five matches played this season.

We still hold the lead over other Houses in football by two points, so that, with care, we may possibly gain the Football championship, so repeating last year's success.

We are not so successful in School work, however, having been bottom in the mark sheets practically every time. This position is not due to poor work, but to certain members of the House, mainly in the fourth forms, who are far too often in detention, a matter we must remedy.

In the forthcoming Inter-House Run, we stand a chance of a fairly high place in both Junior and Senior runs. It is up to the House to do well in this event, and also in the annual Athletic Sports, to be held early in the summer term.

We take this opportunity of bidding a belated farewell to our Vice-Captain, H. Barker, and thanking him for the good work he has done for the House.

R.C.L.

Library Notes.

SPRING is here! From my desk near the window I have a view over the vast fungoid growth which we call Birkenhead, and I declare there is less gloom than there was three months ago! There is a rustling in the air. Something stirs in all Nature. From the abysmal depths of Rock Ferry, over the heights of Tranmere to the far plains of Prenton, there is a sense of re-awakening life. The forest of Ingle Burrow rustles with vitality; listening carefully, one can hear the buds sprouting. From the south end of the School we have twice in the past week heard the raucous booming cry of the Greater Pipon (one of our lesser known wild fowl). As I write I hear the joyous bray of the aasvogel from without (I am sorry; my mistake: that was my colleague, R. H. Jones, hunting up House Notes. I beg the aasvogel's pardon).

The very books about me feel the joy of spring; did not two whole shelves of them turn right round one afternoon last week? And their custodian is so affected as to break forth into Petrarchan (?) sonnets (??).

Gloom! Others of us, however, are buried in black gloom. We are victims preparing for sacrifice. The green idol Aï-Chess-See clamours for blood; he must be propitiated; we are to be butchered to make a Joint Board's holiday. Except R. H. J. With the typical low cunning of the Eastham aboriginal, he has secured a place in Chester (the Training College, of course) and now gloatingly exults (or exultingly gloats) over the unfortunate wretches in the toils of this fierce monster.

More gloom!! We have lost the man Shaw! The G. O. M. is no more! He has migrated to the great metropolis. Many moons did the inhabitants of his native village sit round the camp fires in the blackness of the winter night and keen for him! But he returns not again. (Ochone!) His mantle has fallen on R. H. J. who has been elevated to the ranks of the upper twelve! But the toga praelecti sits heavy on his shoulders, and we fear for his reason, which shows (even more) signs of cracking up. Clarke, too, has been "decorated," and one feels it will be some little time before he recovers from the shock.

Still more gloom!!! Minns has gone. That head of hair which was the pride of the Library is gone for ever. Only on one historic occasion did we see a hair out of place, and this was later proved to be a loose one which had strayed there by accident. Benson, our poster artist, Test Match reporter, and tree planter, has also been called to higher service.

Barker brothers, Lilley brothers, May, Kelly, Green and Co., and several other firms well known in the commercial world, have, this term, moved to new premises, leaving behind fragrant memories (and a lot more room) in the Library. R.I.P. No flowers by request.

Talking of flowers reminds me; it has been suggested that we train clematis and rambler roses round the windows and mantel-piece in the Library. If anyone knows where such plants could be obtained (there must be plenty of gardens with fairly low walls), we should be glad if he would inform Todd Pasha (whom Allah preserve!) who will negotiate the procuring thereof.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

If the boy who removed a book from the Library without the knowledge or consent of Custodian will report to me in the Library, I shall count it an honour to be allowed to shake his heroic hand.

R.F.B.

Form Notes.

VI.

AFTER having the electric lights lowered in our salubrious form-room, we were startled to find a picture had vanished one day. A close watch is being kept to ensure that its partners do not perform similar antics.

We extend our good wishes for happiness in the future to Arthur and Penlington, who have recently left.

In football, we are represented in the First XI. by Cumming and Stelfox, while Collinson and Slinn have also made their debut lately. Craig represents us in the Second XI.

In the Shield games Rowson was conspicuous in the Junior, and Collinson in the Senior. Only one Form match has been played, against VIa., when we won 8—2.

We understand that S*mmy is now having the month off in preparation for Easter.

One day when our celebrated blackboard cleaner (of the firm of Davies, Davies; Davies, and Davies), was absent S.—took his place. Mr. Bl**r remarked that he did not fulfil the job so capably as Davies, whereupon he recived the retort, “He’s had more experience than I have.” A quite successful term!

R.E.M.

VIa.

“**H**ERE’S disgrace!” as Al Capone said when they put him in jail. VIa. without a calendar. Can you imagine? Here’s a chance for an ambitious boy. Bring along a calendar. We may condescend to inspect YOURS, and may, even, if you’re very very lucky, accept it!

When we look back and think that, for over a month, we have gone without a calendar . . . well. Indeed, we were at one time considering the possibility of marking the passage of time by cutting notches on the blackboard, or the door, or the detention sheet. Special notches, of course, for Wednesdays and Saturdays.

We have passed a quiet term in the midst of our books; quiet scholarly behaviour has characterised us. A monastic air pervades our class-room. This, however, is sometimes swept away by the blasts that Moffat, as Guardian of the Windows, lets in. Moffat is, must be, a fresh-air fiend, and—he sits by a radiator. Sometimes he has the windows wide open; we watch the sleet driving in. This is, of course, uncomfortable, and so, discarding our scholarly air, we request Moffat (in the gentlest of tones) kindly to shut the window. Summer will, however, soon be here. Meanwhile, of course, we still have our bit of fun. We were told that a certain chemical process is known as the Old Dutch process. Not, as someone suggested, the Dear Old Dutch process.

Which is about all there is to say. We haven't played much football this term. We have still four members in the First Eleven, and two in the Second, and we shall be well represented in the cricket elevens, next term.

In conclusion, we would all extend our heartiest best wishes to Silcock, who left us at Christmas. C.E.H.

Vib.

G RIMLY fighting his way through the smell of H₂S the Vib. live-wire reporter delivers the goods. I am able to announce that a concert of classical music is to be held, the proceeds to go toward buying a new detention sheet that won't get that roaming habit. The pianist will be P*ckh*m, and the soloist will be C*I*ns*n. There have been some striking new styles in hairdressing in Vib. lately. George C. has been converted from the side-stroke to the throw-back, while Ernie prefers the stick-up. Both these models are on view in Vib. form-room, admittance charge being a modest ha'penny. The proceeds from this show are towards a lock and chain for the aforementioned detention sheet.

The Vib. Male Voice Choir has been very much in evidence during this term, its renderings of "Swanee River" and "The Voice in the Old Village Choir" making listeners wipe away a silent tear and fix the cotton-wool still more firmly in their ears. As for the rest of our select company, B*lt*n and L*sty make guttural sounds and manipulate imaginary twist-grips, L*rd talks about high-tension batteries, P*ckh*m threatens, and yours truly tries to write form-notes.

L.W.

VIj.

APART from one or two unusual incidents, the term has so far been remarkably uneventful.

Since our manifesto concerning our "kindness to Animals" policy was made public, we have tolerated innumerable indignities with complacence. Mice have been welcomed in the form room; the Janitor's cat we have entertained as hospitably as possible. Rise is assured a comfortable home at the minimum of outlay;—but cockroaches! A glossy black adult member of the species appeared from the vicinity of Trigg's pocket and commenced a triumphant crawl across the floor. Its existence terminated abruptly when it approached the Hughes frontier. The manner of its death was interesting. Our sarcastic young farmer (Cavanagh) recently obtained from Rise a handsome concertina (in exchange for a trivial wireless accessory of no value). The bargain, undoubtedly a bad one for Rise, caused considerable commotion in the Form.

Most of us, however, readily forgave Cavanagh after his delightful rendering of "Wheezy Anna" on the instrument.

Shone, our foreign correspondent, informed us that VIa. were in possession of a cricket bat, slightly battered, but nevertheless, a bat. Such prospects of a diversion from the monotony of work were not to be missed. A party was immediately organised which proceeded to VIa. form room in the dinner hour and returned proudly with its booty.

Before half term, it had been our practice to light several torches before entering the inky darkness of the Cubby Hole. Imagine our surprise, therefore, when, arriving at the door preparatory to lighting up, we were greeted by dazzling rays of light—the windows had been cleaned!

Pipon, we are pleased to chronicle, is once more with us, following his recent serious illness; we trust he will continue in good health for the remainder of the term. Thomas, we hear, is to join the form next term.

Our football team has not produced the excellent results which have been anticipated, but there is still cricket, and next term we hope to inform you of our manifold successes.

J.E.B.

Va.

V A'S impression of the New Forest.

Everybody sneezes,
And wheezes,
And freezes;
And all the little trees
Are bending in the breezes.

It snows,
And it blows,
And your clothes
Are all froze;
And all the little trees
Are bowing on their knees.

The wind roars
Out of doors,
And it pours,
And, of course,
All the little trees
Are lying round in pieces.

Nevertheless, we hope that in the approaching cricket season our longfielders will not be put in the shade.

At football this term, we have no failures to report. Possibly this is due to our excellent playing, but, on the other hand, it has been rumoured that we have attained this result by cancelling all our fixtures. I.M.

Vb.

THE outstanding feature of this term has been the epidemic of 'flu, and for one period we had an average of from five to nine absentees. This fact, combined with the shortness of the term, has left little time for events worthy of being chronicled in *The Visor*.

One of the most interesting lessons this term has been Geography. In the event of anyone's sneezing, all doors and windows have to be opened wide. One morning was particularly delightful. We had come in from prayers, and were just deciding that freezing is a very unpleasant death, when Mr. Allison ordered us into the yard, where, to employ a Hibernianism, our geography lesson took the form of a football match.

Our tame pawnbrokers, Phoenix and Davies, continue to terrify with bloodthirsty weapons, while they have as a mascot a gold (?) -mounted badger's foot.

We are now in the throes of exams. We have had only one result so far, and most of us are not very anxious to receive the remainder.

G.C.

Vj.

"**N**OUS sommes arrivés, n'est-ce pas?" (You see we do know some French in Vj.) Our form has been conspicuous as usual for its assiduity (dictionaries) in the pursuit of knowledge. St*lf*x has twice taken the honour of top position in the fortnightly mark sheets. The form lost a valuable member when Sm*th left the school and district for Manchester, where he will attend the Manchester Secondary School. We all wish him every success in his new surroundings.

The customary sparkling wit and numerous wisecracks so typical of Vj. have diminished considerably this term, but I have two good reasons, firstly, the world-wide financial depression, and, secondly, the departure of Sm*th, but nevertheless Smart still makes funny remarks, a specimen of which is "Please sir, do people get hanged for committing suicide?" I wonder! Mr. T—— suggests that "The Song of the Ungirt Runners" ought to be set to music and sung by the Harriers. I hope the secretary of the Harriers' Club takes note of this suggestion.

There have been no football matches this term owing to the trials and the Junior Shield match. We are represented in the First Eleven by McKinlay and Wheat and our Third Eleven representatives are Watkins, Burrell and Tennent.

Iva.

AS usual, Iva. surprised the school. At the end of last term we put our far-famed noisiness to a useful purpose, for we produced a play which we performed to the whole school (including Broadfoot, who held up part of the scenery). Quaile was a convincing princess, and, at the end of the play, the stage-door was besieged by clamouring admirers.

Not content with introducing a new feature in the shape of a play, we again showed our versatility by forming a Cycling Club of which Meneely was elected captain. The craze for riding has not dimmed our enthusiasm, however, for other athletic exertions, and several of our members are practising for the Inter-House Cross Country Race.

Our football has suffered as a result of the loss of our captain, Colenso, who has gone to adorn IVb. We have beaten IVj. twice, lost one match to the III's., and three to IVb.

However much we interest ourselves in outside activities, I fear our scholastic efforts are decidedly below par. Although Montgomery can get 7 stars, there are several boys at the bottom end who are not pulling their weight. Moreover, the fondness of several boys for the detention room brings credit to neither the boys, the form, nor their House. They have added to our reputation by making IVa. the form with the greatest number of detentions and Wednesday afternoons.
J.K.

IVb.

[With apologies to "SPRING IN THE SOUTH."]

"IN all form-rooms Spring is beautiful. In VIb. it is intoxicating. Clare begins to call. He utters a few penetrating syllables then waits for an answer from silent Tweedle. That red headed musician Campbell makes holiday in a neighbouring desk. They too belong to the vast chorus of IVb.-ites whose vast form room is again free, though its doors have been so long bolted with detentions, and the scenery hung with lines and impots."

We are making excellent progress, being top of the fours both in mark sheets and in games.

We have lost only one game at football, against the combined thirds. We did not have our usual team, however.

We are well represented in the Chess Club, Sarginson being in the School team. Leighton and Mayo are the third division finalists.

Evans represents us in the Debating Society, and Sarginson in the League of Nations.

Two new boys came this term, Henry, from Chester County School, and Colenso, from IVa.

Our Professor broke his glasses; as usual, at a very convenient time.

One Geometry lesson we were informed that a locus was a fruit, plant, and insect.
J.M.

IVj.

THIS term IV. Junior have not done well on the playing fields, losing to IVa., IVb., IIIb. But, sometimes our best men have been absent.

In the matter of the tree schemes we have not responded to the call as well as some other forms. Buck up IVj.

The latest addition to the form is J*ff*r*ys who said that the famous racing track on the shores of Florida is Brooklands. Another budding geologist thinks that the world is egg-shaped. Previous to the election for the post of form representative for the *Visor*, IVj. showed their enthusiasm by displaying posters such as "Vote for ———, and you'll be the only one" on the sides of the desks.

IVj. has suffered from 'flu, there being no less than nine boys absent. One boy, Hayward, has got appendicitis, and is not back yet. We all hope that he may return healthy by next term.

Coughing is one of the pastimes of the form, and strange noises are often heard. H.O.M.B.

IIIa.

WE have had a quiet term, and have not had very much to talk about.

The recent fall of snow, however, resulted in excitement in the playground, and boys who did not indulge in the quiet pastime of snowfighting had to guard their faces, ears, and backs of their necks against barrages of snowballs which were frequently opened.

The latest craze this term is "bubbly gum." This is a kind of chewing gum which can be blown (by experts) to a size of about two inches. The novice usually ends up with the bubbly gum in the waste paper basket and his name on the dreaded detention sheet. W.E.J.

IIIb.

OUR football team has played four matches and has been very successful. We played IIIa. and won by 9 goals to 4. We played IIIj. and IVj. and the Junior School, and we won in each case. We hope to do as well in the cricket season as in the football.

Many of our team play for the combined third form eleven.

One member of our form imagines that monks live in an abattoir, another (poor fish) thinks that "tiddlers" breathe through their fins.

I pen these notes with

Ink, it is no myth

I think we are—no need for words—

Best form of all the thirds.

B.S.H.

IIIj.

THE football team has done better this term, having beaten the Juniors 6—3, 6—2, and 12—3. Lowson has scored four-fifths of the goals. When asked "what kind of a skeleton would it be?" *d*lst*n replied, "A dead one, sir." (Loud wails). Lowson came out top in the examinations last term. Bawdon was top in the first mark sheet, Simpson being top in the second. Eleven from IIIj. turned out for the paper-chase.
H.R.B.

Junior School Notes.

THE chief characteristic of the Spring term in the Junior School is the array of hyacinths, tulips, and daffodils in every form room. These seem to thrive in spite of the lack of sunshine and the atmosphere of chalk and learning which might be expected to repress any harbinger of Spring. Form II's. "host of golden daffodils" appeared somewhat suddenly. It is whispered that they were bought "all ready to burst into flower"; that they did so is surprising in view of the fact that they were planted in earth so hard with frost that it had to be thawed by the fire!

The Christmas term closed as usual with Prize-giving in Beechcroft. The prizes were presented by Councillor Worrall, and afterwards a dramatic version of "Alice in Wonderland" was given. The play was very much enjoyed by the audience, and the boys deserve praise for their acting. Alice's golden curls and demure petticoats were so convincing that some people could not believe that "she" was a boy! The Juniors are enthusiastic play-actors and we are again this term devoting an hour on Thursday after school to "dramatics."

The Cub Pack's chief activity still seems to be collecting money for tents. Now and again they hold a sale of cakes and sweets, when, for the good of the cause, we all buy something we should be better without. The Cubs enjoyed a belated "Christmas Feed" with the Scouts recently, and are already beginning to think of next year's camps.

An innovation is the recognition of important anniversaries in talks specially prepared by chosen boys. We have already heard some interesting and well-delivered speeches on such varied subjects as Charles Dickens, Shrove Tuesday, and St. David's Day. Among important anniversaries in future

will be numbered February 23rd, when the Juniors planted trees on the School field. Staggering under the weight of the stakes each carried, they marched up to the field resembling bristling porcupines rather than the traditional "crocodile."

The Junior School usually gives whole-hearted support to projects of this nature, and has done very well in providing 70 trees.

H.M.D.

Peterborough.

PETERBOROUGH is situated in the North Eastern corner of Northamptonshire on the river Nere which divides Rutland and Northampton.

The city, although not very old, has a Cathedral founded upon an abbey first built in 651 A.D. Little remains of the original abbey buildings, since they were despoiled and damaged by Henry VIII's. Commissioners, but the Church itself was unharmed. The West Front, which has thirty statues, each in a separate niche, is one of the finest examples in Europe. In the Eastern Chapel there is a roof of delicate and beautiful fan-vaulting. Here, too, are the Monk's stone and Catherine of Aragon's tomb.

On a tombstone in the Layfolks' cemetery is a curious old epitaph:

" You see Old Scarleit's Picture stand on hie,
But at your feete there dothe his body lye.
His gravestone doth age and death-time show,
His office by theis tokens you may know.
Second to none for strengthe and styurdye limm,
A scarebabe mightye voice, with visage grim
Hee had interd two Queens within this place,
And his townes house holders in his live's space
Twice over: but at length his own turn came;
What hee for others did, for him the same
Was done: No doubt his soule doth live for aye
In heaven, tho here his body clad in clay."

All the chief buildings of the town are built round the market square. These include a Guild Hall, Library, and Museum; in the latter is a number of models made in bone by French prisoners.

Peterborough is famous for its brickyards, of which there are several in the district, and for the great engineering firm who have their headquarters in the town.

Insurrection! A Melodrama.

(As Shakespeare might have conceived it).

Scene—A blasted heath. Two diggers are seen in the foreground. Curiously enough, they are digging. Enter Foreman Alex, dragging two large trees.

F.A.: "—There's more work.

What's the time o' the day?" [Tempest I. 2. 238].

1st D.: "The clock hath stricken three." [Jul. Caes. II. 1. 192].

2nd D.: "Is there more toil?" [Tempest. I. 2. 242].

F.A.: "Stand close awhile, for here comes one in haste."
[Jul. Caes. I. 3. 131].

Enter a 3rd digger, with spade.

1st D.: "But who did bid thee join with us?" [Macb. III. 3. 1].

F.A.: "He needs not our mistrust; since he delivers our offices, and what we have to do." [Macb. III. 3. 2].

Exit F.A. The trees are planted, and the three diggers stand back to observe their work.

1st D. (Apostrophising tree): "I have begun to plant thee, and will labour

To make thee full of growing." [Macb. I. 4. 27].

Re-enter F.A., followed by a crowd of boys dragging trees.

1st D. (counting): "... A fourth! Start eyes!

What, will the line stretch out to the crack of doom?

Another yet! A seventh! I'll see no more." [Macb. IV. 1. 114].

2nd D. (Throwing down spade): "We will proceed no further in this business." [Macb. I. 7. 31].

F.A.: "How now? moody? [Tempest I. 2. 244].

What is't thou canst demand?"

2nd D.: "My liberty." [Tempest I. 2. 245].

F.A.: "Before the time be out? no more!" [Tempest I. 2. 246].

3rd D.: "Come, my spade!" [Hamlet V. 1].

1st D.: "Thou marshalls't me the way that I was going. And such an instrument I was to use." [Macb. II. 1. 42].

2nd D. (Raising spade): "I am settled, and bend up Each corporal agent to this terrible feat." [Macb. I. 7. 79].

He strikes F.A. on the head, felling him to the earth. The others violently attack him, and he is killed at once.

1st D. (knocking him on the head) : " O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth." [Jul. Caes III. 1. 253].

2nd D. : " Why does he suffer this rude knave to knock him about the sconce with a dirty shovel, and will not tell him of his action of battery ?" [Hamlet V. 1].

[They throw the body into a hole, and a tree is planted over it].

1st D. : " What ceremony else ?" [Hamlet V. 1].

2nd D. : " Must there no more be done ?" [Hamlet V. 1].

3rd D. : " No more be done." [Hamlet V. 1].

1st D. : " So call the field to rest, and let's away.

To share the glories of this happy day." [Jul. Caes. V. 5. 80]. [Exeunt omnes]. W. SPOKESHAVE.

"The Window Question."

THAT superior form VI. was at its wits' end. Badminton, a rough game played with someone else's book and a shuttlecock borrowed from the Library, had been banned in the form-room. The spare time of the form was being wasted, until the problem solved itself.

Certain youths residing beneath the windows had been keeping them open, much to the discomfort of those at the opposite end of the room. Several heated arguments followed, but the windows remained open. Civil war was imminent.

One morning, after "break," the "cold ones" assembled at their desks as zero-hour approached. The signal, "Let fly!" was given, and immediately two "bombs" shot to where a group of "window guards" were waiting. War had been declared. The "guards" responded. Backwards and forwards travelled the "bombs." Bulls-eyes were frequent and many fighters were hit. No casualties were reported. On one side were included "The Inimitable Three" of old VIb. days; on the other "Big Jack" led his old VIa. fighters.

The former, with the raw fifth-form recruits, suffered from a positional disadvantage, and many shots went astray (some through the windows). The "window guards" were shooting accurately, especially at "Sammy" who eventually retired, unsuccessfully, behind his attaché-case.

Excitement was at "fever-heat," when one of the neutral spies cried "Nix!" There was a rush for dugouts.

The "League" stepped in, and peace reigned for a time. Armaments were greatly reduced by the capture of the stray

"bomb" (ex lab' duster). Slight skirmishing is still carried on, and spies have been doubled to give warning of interference from the "Supreme Council."

N.B.—S.D.'s absences are not due to injuries received in battle.

IVa. Cycling Club.

OUR newly formed Cycling Club had its first outing to Chester. When we set out at 10 o'clock, our party numbered eight, but in a short time that number was diminished by three who were unable to keep level with the rest. In spite of the extreme cold, the remainder carried on. As we approached Willaston, snow began to fall, but fortunately for us it ceased before we reached Chester.

On arriving at our destination, we entered Woolworth's café to appease our hunger, and then we mounted the historic walls of the city. After having surveyed this relic of "the good old days," we went down to the River Dee, which glides through the cathedral city to the open sea. Meneely, the club-captain, while testing the sea-worthiness of an old boat, was set adrift, but he was rescued in the nick of time by Montgomery.

At 5-30 p.m. we were ready to return home, but unfortunately Montgomery's back tyre had a puncture, which had to be repaired at a garage. With few mishaps we finally arrived at Birkenhead with aching backs but cheery faces, after spending a very enjoyable day. MONTGOMERY, IVa.

Tale of a Tree.

A YOUNG Institute lad, whate'er his name be,
 Promised to pay 1/6 for a tree.
 A sapling he planted,
 And gaily he chanted,
 "A poplar some day this will be."

Many a year has since rolled by;
 That boy in the old churchyard doth lie.
 Now his great-grandchildren see
 That beautiful tree,
 Spreading its branches towards the sky.

Form II.

Badminton Notes.

THE membership is smaller than usual, but the enthusiasm shown has enabled our players to reach a high standard in a short time. Since most of them are first year advanced people, we should have a good team next year.

The club has suffered so far from the fact that players have only just begun to recognise the finer points of the game, when they leave school. To remedy this, it has been decided to admit new members from the lower sixth and fifth forms. The number of vacancies is necessarily small. Boys interested should apply to Broadhurst.

Chess Club.

IN the fight for the school championship, Weston, last year's winner, is at present level with Hunt, each having seven points to his credit. A. L. Davies, of Va., made a good win in Division II., with the maximum of 10 points. Sarginson stands second with 7, while Bunting, Burrell, Goodwin and F. Marsh each obtained 6. The third division "knock-out" tournament has left Leighton and Mayo in the final out of the 32 original players.

The Shield team won one of the three last matches played this term, but suffered one heavy defeat.

Birkenhead Institute	2	Liverpool Collegiate	5
Birkenhead Institute	3	Holt Secondary School....	4
Birkenhead Institute	5	Wallasey Grammar Sch..	2

Thus, we have obtained $2\frac{1}{2}$ points altogether, a slight improvement on last year's result of $1\frac{1}{2}$ points.

Our Junior team, led by Bunting, defeated Claughton Higher Grade School for the second time this season. The score was $7\frac{1}{2}$ — $4\frac{1}{2}$, compared with 7—5, on the last occasion.

W.H.M.

Debating Society.

THIS society has had a quite successful term, although there have been few meetings. On January 23rd, the motion "That a sense of humour is better than a large banking account" was carried. Marsh and Cathcart supported this, against Loxam and Winter. The Far Eastern Question has occupied a lot of the society's time this term. On February 6th, the motion "That this house disapproves of the action taken by Japan in Manchuria," which was proposed by Green and Broadhurst, and opposed by R. H. Jones and K. Walker,

was carried. On February 26th, Mr. Allison enlightened the members still further in his talk on "Some aspects of the Far Eastern Question." All the members are hoping for a speedy solution. On March 22nd, an impromptu debate will be held.

H.E.W.

Harriers.

WE have been handicapped this term by the loss of Shaw, our captain and our fastest runner, who left us shortly after Christmas. We have succeeded, however, in winning one of the three matches we have held so far this term, and another we lost only by a very narrow margin.

Our first match was with the Liverpool University third team, on the University course. The ground was frozen hard, making running exceptionally strenuous, and although the distance was fully a mile more than that to which our team is accustomed, we won fairly easily by 20 points to 33.

Our team was : Shaw, Collinson, Hayes, Hawkes, Marsh, Wood, Bennett.

The second match was with Liverpool Institute, on their course. They had a particularly strong team, and beat us quite easily, the score being 51—31.

Our team on this occasion was : Smith, Collinson, Hayes, Wood, Milne, Sutton, Bennett, and Ward.

The third match, with Alsop High School on our own course, we lost by the narrow margin of 3 points, the score being 30—27.

Team : Collinson, Hayes, Wood, Hawkes, Bennett, Ward and Metcalfe.

Another notable feature of the term was the paper-chase, held on Wednesday afternoon, March 1st. The weather was bright and dry, and the run proved a great success. The hares, Clare, Colenso, and Tweedle, were followed at the end of five minutes by forty Junior runners, and five minutes later by about twenty Seniors. After a run of roughly seven miles, one of the hares succeeded in arriving back home uncaught, while the other two were captured by the first two Seniors, about fifty yards from the finish.

Our numbers have increased in the course of the last term, especially among the Seniors, where several promising new runners have been found, and there is every hope that the Harriers will next year be quite as successful as they have been during the past season.

J.W.

League of Nations Union.

President: The HEADMASTER.

Chairman: R. H. JONES.

Secretary: H. E. WINTER.

Treasurer: K. WALKER.

At the beginning of the term a committee was appointed, consisting of a chairman, secretary, treasurer, and four representatives. The Headmaster, early this term, gave a talk to the members on "The League and its work." Later in the term Mr. Allison gave the members of the Debating Society and of the League of Nations a very interesting lecture on "The Far Eastern Question," the Headmaster taking the chair. Mr. Allison dealt with the history of China, Japan, Korea, and Manchuria, from a very early date.

Members or intending members of this society are asked to bring their subscriptions to the treasurer as soon as possible, because no steps can be taken towards the registration of the branch until at least twenty members are secured.

H.E.W.

Rifle Club.

FOR almost the first time in the last eight years or so, the club has suffered through losing members during the session. At the end of last term, we had to say farewell to Brewster, and this term Benson has left us. Clarke has taken the former's place, but no one has as yet applied for the second vacancy.

We have recently had a general overhaul of rifles and butts, in which Loxam, in supplying material, and Clarke and Parry in furnishing manual labour, have been extremely useful. As a result, we are looking forward to some good practices in the future.

R.H.

Rover Notes.

THE performance of the three plays, rehearsals of which had fully occupied the Rovers during most of last term, took place on December 9th, a dress rehearsal with an audience of the boys having been given the evening before. All were distinct successes, both from the point of view of attendance and from the applause with which our efforts were rewarded. Without doubt the best of the three plays was "The Road of Poplars," in which Bird gave a very good rendering of a difficult part.

Very little of note has been done this term. It is hoped that work on the improvement of a club-room will be resumed in the near future, so that we may have a comfortable 'home.'

Two more new members of the crew are now on their probationary period as Rover Squires. They are Seed and Cutbill, the latter being already a member of another crew. R.L.

National Savings Association.

AVERAGE weekly investments have shown a slight increase this term in spite of heavy demands on our members' resources in other directions. Their idea is not so much to put something by for a rainy day, as to put by whenever possible on a rainy day in case it gets wetter. There must still be a large number of non-members who are *losing* money every year by *keeping* it in money-boxes or the Post Office. If you cannot understand this, apply to the undersigned.

R. HALL (Hon. Sec.), J. W. HAIME (Hon. Treas.)

Scientific Society.

MEETINGS.

Jan. 24—G. W. D. Wright. "Mathematical Conceptions."

Feb. 7—J. D. Jenkins. "Modern Astronomical Ideas."

21—W. H. Marsh. "Cathode Rays."

Mar. 7—J. G. Keates. "Instruments of the Symphony Orchestra."

24—C. D. Greaves. "Magic."

THE Easter term has been a very enjoyable one for members of this Society. We have already held four out of our programme of five meetings, and they have all been well attended. At our second meeting we had a record audience of sixty-four; we feel sure they were not disappointed, as the lecture was most interesting, and Jenkins illustrated his remarks by means of some very fine slides. The lectures by Marsh and Keates were also very enlightening, being accompanied by some highly successful experiments. In the first of the talks, Wright handled a rather unusual subject in a very fascinating manner.

Membership of the Society is now free, and open to all boys in the Fifth and Sixth forms, so that we are hoping for many more to join us. Next term, instead of lectures, we hope to arrange visits to the works of several local industrial firms.

J.W.B.

Scout Notes.

THE most enjoyable of this term's Scout meetings was the Group Tea and Social held early in February. Rather more than sixty Cubs Scouts, Rovers, and Officers were present at tea, after which the Headmaster presented the new trophy, a statuette in bronze, to the winners of last term's Inter-Patrol competitions. The successful patrol was the Woodpigeon Patrol, under the leadership of J. C. Grimmett. Following this little ceremony, games and competitions were held in the gym, and during the course of the evening several musical items were rendered by members of the troop.

Inter-patrol competition has been very keen, but there are still a few boys who have not progressed so far towards the 1st class stage as they might have done. Every boy a 1st class Scout is the Ideal!

Once again we have to thank our Rovers, and especially Coughtrie, Wetherell, and Tomlinson for their "Service" towards the troop. They have spared no efforts to make the meetings both enjoyable and instructive.

Already preparations for camps are going ahead. Several fortunate boys are going to take part in a world Jamboree at Gödöllo, near Budapest, and will be undergoing a course of intensive training for this event. It is hoped that everybody will take advantage of the excellent camping site at Thornton Hough, and will spend many week-ends there during the summer, so becoming well prepared for either the annual summer camp or the Jamboree.

Table Tennis Club.

LAST term our numbers were sadly depleted, owing to the fact that most of the Senior members, including Brewster, May, Minns, Lilley, and the brothers Barker, left the School. However, several new members have been enrolled, and, under the able guidance of Mr. Morris, we hope soon to be at full strength. So far, this season, we have played only two matches, winning one against St. Andrew's Church and losing the other to Christ Church, but we hope to avenge this latter defeat before the end of term.

Football Notes.

AT the end of last term we managed to mould a fairly successful team (we actually won two successive matches) when our complete half-back line, J. Barker, H. Barker and Silcock joined the ranks of the weary toilers. This left us with the task of modelling a new team, and in this effort we were hindered by several matches being cancelled owing to the grounds being in a condition unfit for play. Then fell the saddest blow of all, our vice-captain, centreforward, and veteran left. Minns, the irreplaceable, commenced to work in an insurance office, a week or so before the Shield matches. We wish Maurice and the one-time half-back line the best of luck in their new positions.

We were further handicapped in the Senior Shield game by injuries, and our team was below strength. This game and the Junior Shield match are reported elsewhere. Both elevens entered the 2nd round without playing in the 1st round.

Three matches were played last term after the *Visor* had gone to print. The first was at Liverpool Institute and the match was marred by the unfortunate incident of Liverpool's outside right's knocking himself out on the flag post. We lost by 4 goals to 2.

Against Waterloo the School fielded a re-arranged team, Smith going into the forward line and J. Barker coming into the half-backs. The team was successful, winning by 4 goals to 2. J. Barker was a "find" who was discovered too late, for he left soon afterwards.

The same eleven travelled to Liscard High School's ground and was again a success, winning by 5 goals to 1. Liscard were a young side, and the School had a fairly easy task.

After school reassembled for the Easter term, we were faced with the problem of finding a new half-back line. In the first match Kelly, Smith and Christian were tried out as halves, Holme and Ames filling the former places of the last two named. A heavy ground prevented either side from playing good football and Oulton Secondary School, the heavier team, won by 9 goals to 6.

The next match was against Bootle, away, whom we had already beaten this season. We repeated our success by scoring 5 goals to Bootle's 2. The School showed real promise in this match, but the team was again weakened, as Kelly left after this match.

Stimulated by this victory, the School tackled the University 3rd XI. at home in a spirited manner and reversed last term's result by winning 4—2, this despite Smith's absence and the fact that one poor wight presented the 'Varsity with both goals, scoring one and giving away the penalty that resulted in the second. Modesty prevents me from mentioning his name.

After the School had been defeated by Alsop in the second round of the Senior Shield, the first eleven visited St. Francis Xavier's, and though the forwards were more prominent than in the previous week, the defence again lapsed in the latter part of the second half. The result was 7—1 for S.F.X.

The second eleven copied the first eleven, for they lost matches to the same schools and won the corresponding matches to those that the first won. As they did not play as many matches in the Christmas term as the 1st XI. and won one more, they have a more creditable record.

H. Barker and Ramsden were awarded their colours at the close of the Christmas term. Of the others Milligan has played well in goal, while Ames and J. O. Jones were two promising players.

The season's records of the two teams :

	P.	W.	D.	L.	GOALS.	
					F.	A.
1st Eleven	17	5	2	10	53	72
2nd Eleven	13	6	1	6	50	39

The following matches of the 1st XI. have been cancelled : v. S.F.X. (h.), St. Edward's College (a.), Liscard High School (h.), and Quarry Bank School (h.) With the exception of the Liscard match the corresponding 2nd XI. fixtures have also been scratched.

2ND ELEVEN RESULTS.

1932.

Dec. 14—v. Waterloo Secondary School (h.)W. 4—1
 21—v. Liscard High School (h.)W. 7—0

1933.

Jan. 18—v. Oulton Secondary School (a.)L. 3—4
 Feb. 1—v. Bootle Secondary School (h.)W. 7—4
 22—v. Liscard High School (a.)W. 3—0
 Mar. 8—v. Oulton Secondary School (h.)L. 4—5

SENIOR SHIELD (2ND ROUND).

v. Alsop H.S. (away) ; (1st Round—a bye).

Result : Lost 7—0.

Team : Milligan ; Ramsden, Ames ; Collinson, Smith, Christian ; Stelfox, Harrahill, Davies (C. E.), Holme, Jones, J. O.

As the score suggests, we were beaten by a superior team, both individually and in team-work. Alsop were quicker and heavier, with obviously more experience and method. Their first-time tackling and constructive play should be an object-lesson to the School team.

Yet all the more praise is due to our eleven. We were handicapped by injuries which necessitated the inclusion of new-comers in other than their usual positions. Consequently the team-work was ragged, and the forwards lacked combination. Nevertheless, such spirit and determination did the School show that, until close on half-time, play was of a very balanced nature. Our defence was very firm and sure, the forwards made dangerous raids, and with a little first-time shooting we might easily have taken the lead.

But Alsop's first goal appeared to unsettle the team, and in the second half, playing with the wind and slope, our opponents gradually assumed the mastery. The School defended valiantly, but the half-backs were seldom able to give the forwards any support, and apart from a few isolated, though at times penetrating raids, we were confined to our own half.

Had it not been for a safe and clever display in goal by Milligan, Alsop might easily have reached double figures. The full-backs were safe in their kicking, but not quick enough to cope with a fast-moving attack, while the half-backs, though sure in their tackling, gave the forwards little support.

Taken as a whole, the game revealed our weakness in team-work, and ability to shoot hard and at every opportunity.

K.W.

JUNIOR SHIELD MATCH, (2ND ROUND).

BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE v. BOOTLE SECONDARY SCHOOL.

(King's School, Chester, withdrew from the first round).

In fine weather, B.I. made a promising start by opening the score after a quarter of an hour's play, through Cooke, whose shot passed into the corner of the net. After rather even exchanges, one of our defenders unfortunately conceded a penalty, and Kinnear had no chance of saving the resulting shot. Following this lapse, Bootle took the offensive and added

two goals, giving them a lead at half time, the score being 3—1 in their favour.

In the second half, Bootle continued to press, and in a short time had increased their total to six. With this large deficit, B.I. took up the attack, and three goals scored in quick succession put a different complexion on matters. This fine rally, however, came too late, for the final whistle blew with the score 6—4 in our opponent's favour. G.H.

Old Boys A.F.C.

NEAR the end of a particularly active season, the Football Club is confirmed in a supreme position amongst the amateur Soccer organisations on Merseyside. Although results have not always reflected success, the work and enthusiasm of the Club for the game and the Old Boys of the School are the main cause of satisfaction. That Old Boys and opponents should enjoy a good game, thorough sportsmanship and the finest football is the chief concern of the Club, and members have rarely been disappointed.

The first team occupied the premier position in Division 2 of I. Zingari League for several weeks, and they still hold a good chance of promotion. Two games with the strongest challengers, Formby, at the end of the season should be well worth watching. Except the thirds, who relapsed into losing ways again, all the remaining sides have fulfilled expectations. The fifths put up some especially creditable performances against bigger, heavier teams, and several members of this side are certain to figure in the senior XI.s next season.

The outstanding social event of the season was the annual dinner, which was one of the most successful functions the Club has ever held. A very large gathering in the School Dining Hall was thoroughly entertained by an all-Old Boy concert party (Al Kitchen and his Crocks), while the Club was honoured by the attendance of Mr. R. J. Russell, M.P., Mr. J. M. Furniss, a distinguished Old Boy, and many other friends. Mr. Russell has always been a great and valued friend of the Old Boys, and the Football Club is greatly indebted to him for all his kindnesses. Mr. J. Smallpage was unfortunately absent with 'flu, and he was very much missed, though it is pleasing to learn that he is now happily recovered and enjoying good health.

Both Old Boys' Junior and Senior Shield competitions will be occupying the Club's attention very shortly. The Juniors have already reached the semi-final, and the opponents are not yet known. The Seniors are due to play Old Cathinians in the second round early in April.

Some weeks ago, a visitor to Ingleborough Road tentatively inquired whether the fact that several Old Boys were contemporaneously in the throes of cultivating a moustache was a coincidence, a disease, or bore some ethical significance. It was certainly not the latter, as we discovered on making personal investigation. In the end our Oldest Player (who hasn't grown a hair for twenty years) was safely approached, and he immediately recalled the long, long ago, when man was man, and there was no beating about the beard. In fact, he asserted, a minute bearing on this very subject was entered in the records of the Club. Unfortunately the entry was not now available as no minute-book of the period was extant, save in the deepest archives of the Oldest Player's mind where only the most agile psycho-analyst could follow; but, the O.P. was happy to say, he himself still had access to these labyrinthine ways, and would endeavour to enlighten the world on the subject.

The whole trouble arose over

THE BEARDED FOOTBALLERS.

who exerted great influence on the game many years ago. This was at a time when to erase the hairy growth from the face was to deny one's manhood, and the more whisker a man could boast, the greater his moral ascendancy over his fellows. Eventually, so keen was the competition, men began to look more like bushes than human beings with their countenances concealed behind an efflorescent mass of curly fungus.

The fashion extended to the football field, as old photographs reveal. Confident-looking gentlemen in narrow-striped shirts (tight to the neck), flannel trousers (to the calves), smoking caps, and boots that would make a policeman blush, stand and recline, like fauns and satyrs, in the most dainty and awkward attitudes all over the picture, their beards bunching in all directions like tangled undergrowth.

When this new influence first made itself felt, the Old Boys committee, ever to the fore, decided that opponents vaunting eleven huge beards could not be allowed a moral advantage worth, at least, two goals. So a minute was recorded advising all players to cultivate the necessary appendages. The following Saturday, the team turned up with their beards, and they were real beauties, bunches of flocculent growth flowing in hairy waves from the smothered visages of the players. All save one. He, poor youth, an insignificant half-back, had striven unstintingly to achieve the merest fimbria, and had nothing more to show for his pains than the fluffiest down.

Throughout the many weeks before other teams retaliated, the Old Boys overawed their opponents, but were invariably weakened by the beardless chin of the half-back. He became an object of derision, of contempt. He was an embarrassment to the rest of the side. While his team mates concealed their feelings to their utmost ability, opponents were under no such obligation, and openly despised him. Forwards tickled him with their growth; backs tilted their noses and stroked their handicap contemptuously when he approached; and custodians paraded in front of

goal, wagging their great beards at him with scorn in their eyes. He was a pruned trunk amidst a profusion of arborescence.

For weeks he submitted his chin to treatment. He slept with his jaw in a pot of vinegar. He dabbed eau-de-cologne on his face, until not a mortal being would walk within miles of him. To thicken the growth he shaved and shaved until he had not a square inch of flesh on his face. Yet all he could show was a clotted stubble that was hideous in comparison with the voluminous pilosity of the others.

Months went by. With careful cultivation the half-back had managed a good dundreary, but he was still futile amidst all that hirsute grandeur,—until, perchance, he became champion of them all.

A match was on. The Old Boys' goalkeeper had fallen over, his beard splayed in front of him like tangled matting, and the ball was somewhere in the midst of it all. The half-back dashed up, waded through the undergrowth, and let fly at the half-hidden ball. There was a rending sound, an agonised yell disturbed the ether, and ball and beard careered up the field. Our hero staggered back, astonished at the goalkeeper's sudden deprivation of Shavian propensities, and clutched for succour the huge mane of a full-back. Another tear and shriek announced another nakedness—and the amazed and horrified onlookers were confronted with a pair of denuded chins. Frauds! False beards! At first a roar of anger shattered the skies (it hurts people's vanity to learn they have been taken in), but fortunately the humour of the situation prevailed, and everyone laughed. Mirth rippled round the ground like water round an island. Players, spectators and officials fairly shrieked. Everybody was in convulsions except the goalkeeper, the full-back and the half-back, and none of these liked being laughed at any more than anybody else. To see their fellow Old Boys shrieking at them was more than they could stand. Goaded into the last extremes of passion they marched amongst their fellows and tugged beards as though they were doorbells, and lo!—beards parted left and right, were shed like leaves. Not a bearded Old Boy remained. The amusement of the opposition at this internecine strife, however, did not last long, for the Old Boys, goaded in their turn, jumped on their tormentors, crazy and berserk, and likewise ripped the vegetation from their countenances. Not a beard remained on a player's face, save for the stubbly growth of the half-back. It was all a great sham.

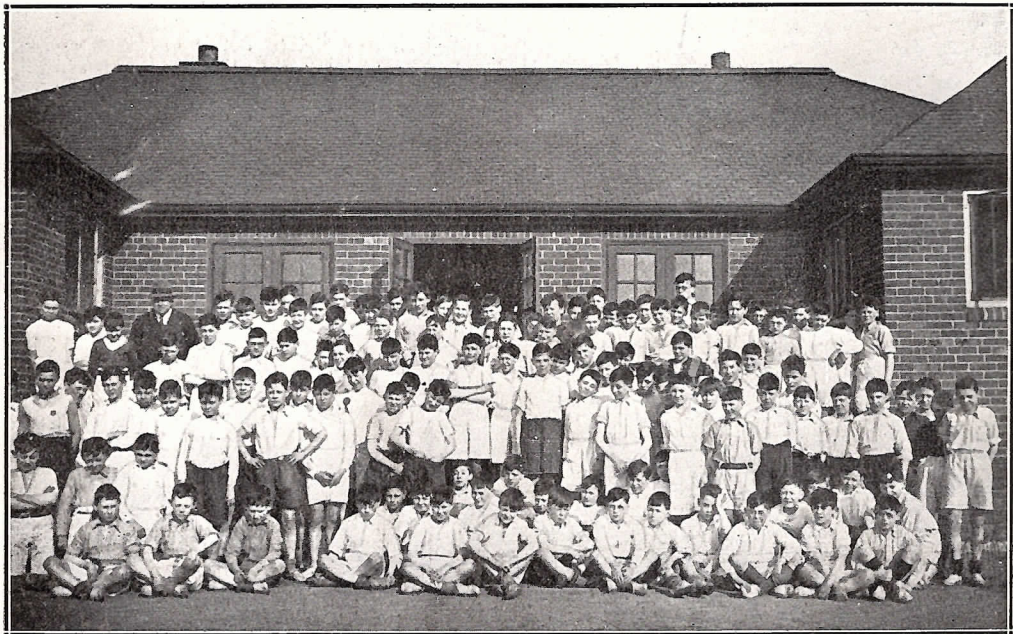
The referee was seething with indignation. He was a big man, bearded like the proverbial pard, and he was winded with his totally ignored exertions on the whistle. It was time he put his foot down! He did. Players were ordered off the field left and right. There was silence for a moment, then a surly growl, and with one accord twenty-two enraged men fell upon his natural beard and tore it out by the roots.

And so the half-back retained the only beard amongst the lot of them. He gloried in his new-found manhood, contemptuous of the envious glances upon his bristly chin and dundreary whiskers.

His magnificence was short-lived, however. "At the next meeting," says our Oldest Player, "the committee decried a superfluity of hair as effeminate, and recommended in the minutes the total abolition of growth upon the face, so that all the half-back's efforts went for nought."

"After all," the Oldest Player adds, "never split hairs over a whisker!"

B.V.W.



JUNIOR CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS, March, 1932.