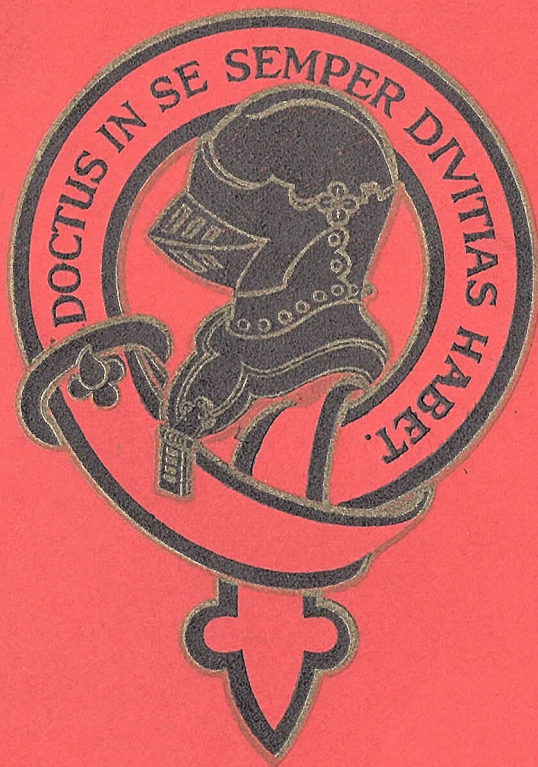


# THE VISOR

---



BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE  
SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

---

CHRISTMAS, 1935.

# BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE SCHOOL BLAZERS

*At Robbs, in the spacious Boys' Department, you will find every necessity for your school outfit, and can rely on always getting the best possible value.*

		Junior School	Senior School
School Blazers	from	13/-	15/3
		(All Wool and Fast Dye).	
„ Caps	from	2/6	2/11
„ Ties	from	1/9	2/3

**ROBBS**  
OF  
**BIRKENHEAD**

**ROBB BROS. LTD., CHARING CROSS,  
BIRKENHEAD. Tel.: 2880 B'head (5 lines).**

Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."



AWARDED 30 MEDALS AND DIPLOMAS.

High-Class Bakers, Confectioners,  
Caterers.

**W. Y. HODGSON & Co.,**

381 & 383 Borough Road,  
48 Upton Road,  
**BIRKENHEAD.**

Also at **BROMBOROUGH & CHILDER THORNTON,**

Telephone : **BIRKENHEAD** (Borough Road) 1789 (Upton Road) 81.  
**BROMBOROUGH** 37, **CHILDER THORNTON** 9.

---

**Claughton Travel Agency**

(ERIC FLINN)

**6 Upton Road, Claughton, B'head.**

Telephone 1946.

**OFFICIAL RAILWAY and STEAMSHIP AGENTS'  
BOOKING OFFICE.**

**L.M.S., G.W.R., CHESHIRE LINES & L.N.E.R.**

Tickets Issued & dated in advance (No booking fees).

SEAT RESERVATIONS and LUGGAGE IN ADVANCE.

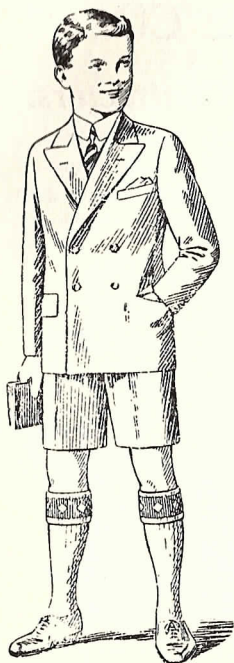
**BELFAST & DUBLIN** Tickets also issued by direct Steamers & berths reserved

**CRUISES, TOURS** (British & Continental); **CROSVILLE**  
and **RIBBLE MOTOR COACH SERVICES, KARRIERS**  
**PARCEL DELIVERY; BAGGAGE INSURANCE** and  
**LONDON THEATRE SEATS BOOKED.**

**If you travel by Rail, Coach, Steamer or 'Plane**  
**ARRANGE YOUR HOLIDAY BOOKINGS**  
**Through Our Agency.**

---

**Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."**



# BIBBY & PERKIN, Ltd.,

243/247 GRANGE ROAD,  
Birkenhead.

Telephone : Birkenhead 2263.

113 BEDFORD ROAD, ROCK FERRY.

For Boys' Suits That Will Wear and  
Keep Their Appearance.

Boys Navy Gabardine Raincoats  
Guaranteed Indigo Dye & thoroughly  
Rainproof.

And all school clothing requirements,  
viz. Blazers, Caps, Ties.

**THE**

**SPORTS SHOP,**  
Charing Cross.

**The Goods  
For  
Every Game.**

Sole proprietors of the 'WIZARD' and 'SPEDEX'  
brands of sports goods.

**ROBERTS & JOBSON**  
LIMITED.

'Phone 778. 'Phone 3751. Hours 9-30 to 7-30.

**R. TRAFFORD,**  
F.S.M.C., F.B.O.A., F.N.A.O., F.I.O.,

Qualified Optician,

**250 Borough Road.**

Registered by the Joint  
Council of Qualified Opticians  
for Sight Testing and Optical  
Treatment, under the National  
Health Ins. Acts, and for the  
Hospital Saving Association.

Oculists' Prescriptions.  
Repairs.

Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."



# **E. R. WILLIAMS & CO.,**

## ***Builders and Public Works Contractors.***

*Head Office—*  
37 PARKBRIDGE ROAD,  
PRENTON, BIRKENHEAD.

*Telephone—*  
BIRKENHEAD 4250.

**A**LL classes of building work in brick, timber, stone or concrete, are carried out and a staff of plumbers, gas and hot water fitters, painters and glaziers are also employed.

EXPERT advice and estimates are willingly given for all Repairs, Decorating and Painting, Slating, etc., to all kinds of property.

If you are in any difficulty over your property please write to the above.

---

---

---

### **SHORTHAND AND TYPEWRITING**

THOROUGHLY TAUGHT.

PROSPECTUS:

**Mrs. McDONALD,**  
F.C.T.S. INC.,  
**24 Balfour Road,**  
**Birkenhead.**

---

---

---

**Ride a Raleigh and Enjoy  
Your Leisure.**



**CALL and INSPECT the  
RALEIGH CYCLES  
AT**

**R. EDMUNDS,**  
**9 Whetstone Lane,**  
**Birkenhead.**



**ANY MODEL**

**ON DEFERRED TERMS.**

**5/- DEPOSIT. BALANCE WEEKLY.**

**Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."**

TEL: BIRKENHEAD 3139.

## A. LEWIS,

Ladies' and Gentlemen's  
Hairdresser,  
16 WHETSTONE LANE,  
BIRKENHEAD.

---

Permanent  
Marcel and Water Waving.

---

Manicure, Massage and  
Violet Ray Treatment.

Early & Punctual Deliveries  
of  
CLEAN FRESH MILK  
(IN BOTTLES)  
from Local Farms only.

---

FRESH BUTTER  
SALTED AND UNSALTED.  
RICH THICK CREAM.  
NEW LAID EGGS.  
PURE ENGLISH HONEY.

---

DUDGEON'S  
DAIRY,  
59 GRANGE ROAD WEST.  
Telephone 1109.

## R. FORSHAW,

Family Butcher,

27 CHURCH ROAD,  
Hr. Tranmere.

+

Best Quality Home Killed  
Beef, Mutton, Lamb,  
Pork, etc.

+

Telephone Birkenhead 2929.

Phone No: Birkenhead 2547.

Try

## W. HARTHEN,

For

Everything " DOGGIE "

The Poultry and Pet Food  
Specialist,

---

31 OXTON ROAD,  
BIRKENHEAD.

Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the " VISOR."

MUNICIPAL AND GOVERNMENT  
CONTRACTOR.

**JOHN McKENNA**

TIMBER AND PLYWOOD  
IMPORTER,

**91 & 91a Oxton Road,  
BIRKENHEAD.**

Tel.: 2441 B'HEAD.

**TIMBER**  
OF  
EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Hire your  
Wireless Batteries

From

**P. Seymour & Co.,**

Electrical Contractors  
and Radio Engineers.

**92 Oxton Road  
BIRKENHEAD.**

Phone 2357.

**P. Kingdon Bottomley,**

M.P.S.

CHEMIST,

**16 PRENTON ROAD WEST.**

Phone : BIRKENHEAD 3478.



**PURE DRUGS**

Accurate Dispensing  
Most Reasonable Prices

Night Service for urgent  
Medicines.



**PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS**

*Developing, Printing, Enlarging.*

*Quick Service.*

**High-Grade FOOTWEAR**  
For all Seasons,  
For all Wearers.

Agent for "K," Bective,  
Lotus and Delta, Norvic and  
Mascot, Swan Boots and  
Shoes.

Special Feature :  
FITTING BY 'X' RAY.

**Tom Fothergill,**  
50 GRANGE ROAD  
WEST.

PHONE 671.

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."



# BRADLEYS (Chester) LTD.,

The Boys' Clothiers and Outfitters.

BOYS' FAMOUS SCHOOL SUITS, in durable Tweeds and  
Saxonies, Ready-to-Wear 14/11, 16/11 and 18/11.

SMART OVERCOATS for BOYS of All Ages 10/6 to 18/11.

WINTER UNDERWEAR, PYJAMAS, SHIRTS,  
STOCKINGS, SLIPOVERS, JERSEYS,  
GLOVES, CAPS, TIES, Etc.

---

SCHOOL RAINPROOFS AND MACKS.

---

*(Only Address in)*

82 & 84 ARGYLE STREET, BIRKENHEAD.

---



Established over 50 years.

**William Pyke & Sons,**  
LTD.,

JEWELLERS & SILVERSMITHS,  
42 & 44 Market St., 237 Grange Rd.,

Tel. 403 —BIRKENHEAD— Tel. 403

**CHALLENGE CUPS and SHIELDS**

*Suitable for all kind of Sport,  
Supplied at Competitive Prices.*

**GOLD and SILVER MEDALS**

*In the most up-to-date designs.*

WE HOLD A LARGE RANGE OF GOODS  
SUITABLE FOR PRIZES OR  
PRESENTATIONS.

*(Special Discounts).*

**JEWELLERY, WATCH and CLOCK  
REPAIRS.**

**Shop Locally & Save Time & Money.**

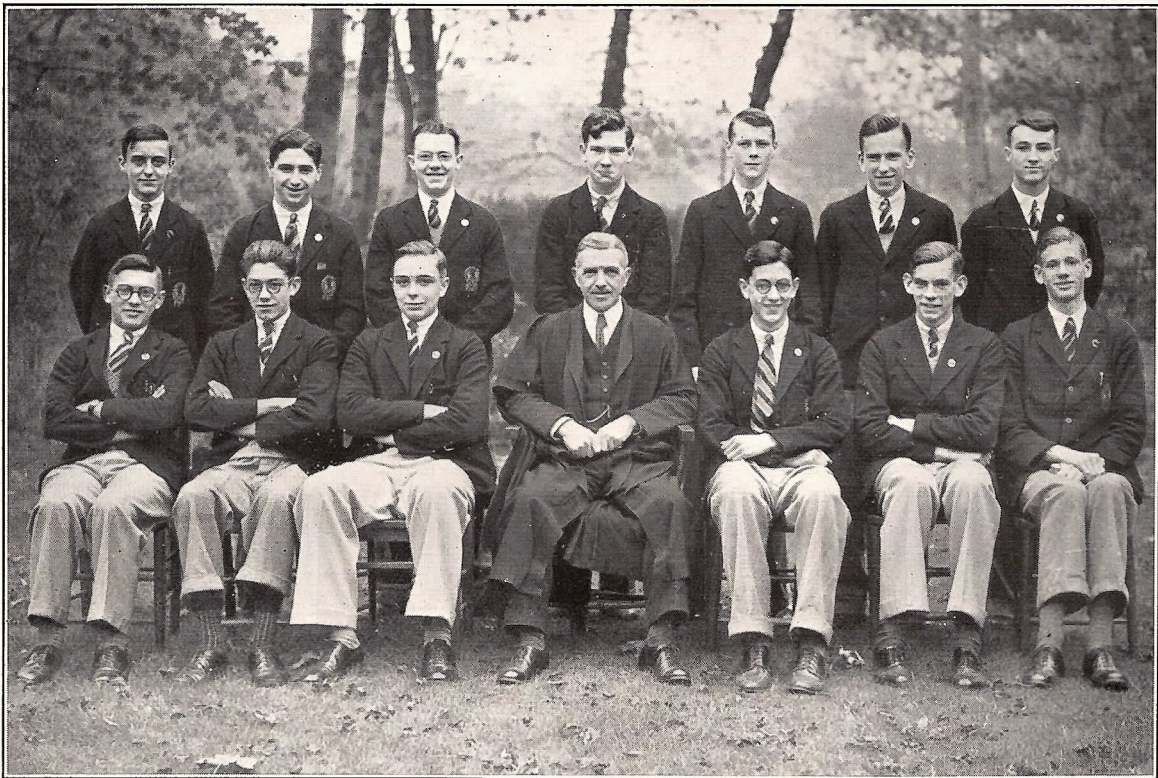
---

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

# Contents

	PAGE
School Committees and Officers ... ..	I—2
School Calendar ... ..	2
Editorial ... ..	3
Salvete ... ..	3—4
Valete ... ..	4—5
Swimming Gala ... ..	5—6
Examination Results ... ..	6
Cycling Up North ... ..	8—10
Novel ... ..	11—12
Lament—A Triolet ... ..	12
Tales of O-Yeh, the Scribe ... ..	12—14
Obituary ... ..	14
The Train ... ..	14
Crossword, No. 9 ... ..	15—16
Crossword, No. 8 ... ..	16
The Summer Sun ... ..	16
Others as We See Them ... ..	17—19
University Letters ... ..	19—22
Varia ... ..	23—24
House Notes ... ..	25—28
Library Notes ... ..	29
Form Notes ... ..	30—45
Junior School Notes ... ..	45
Badminton Club ... ..	46
Chess Club ... ..	46
League of Nations Union ... ..	46—47
Sixth Form Literary and Debating Society ... ..	47
Scientific Society ... ..	48
Scout Notes ... ..	48—49
Table Tennis Club ... ..	49
Rugby Football ... ..	50—51
OLD BOYS' SECTION—	
A Word from Mr. Watts ... ..	52
Notes and News ... ..	53—55
Old Boys' A.F.C. ... ..	55—56
Old Boys' R.U.F.C. ....	57

PREFECTS, 1935-36.



C. V. BELL, L. SIMMS, T. H. HEYS, J. GALLAGHER. H. E. WINTER, W. K. COUGHTRIE, W. BRAY.  
G. A. WETHERELL, R. MAY, C. A. ALLDIS, H. J. BOZIER, W. KINNEAR, J. G. STOTT.





VOL. IX., No. 1.

CHRISTMAS, 1935.

## *School Committees and Officers*

### MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

President  
THE HEADMASTER.

Chairman  
Mr. HALL.

Editor  
J. GALLAGHER.

Secretary  
G. L. EVANS.

Vice-Chairman  
Mr. HAIME.

Treasurer  
Mr. PAICE.

Sub-Editors  
W. KINNEAR, R. E. MAY,  
W. I. N. MERCER.  
Assistant Secretary  
I. S. MELVILLE.

House Representatives  
Atkin: W. KINNEAR.  
Stitt: L. SIMMS.  
Tate: J. G. STOTT.  
Westminster: H. J. BOZIER.

HEAD PREFECT AND CAPTAIN OF THE SCHOOL  
C. A. ALLDIS.

Captain of Games  
C. A. ALLDIS.

Headmaster's Prefect  
R. E. MAY.

### PREFECTS

C. V. BELL.	J. GALLAGHER.	L. SIMMS.
H. J. BOZIER.	T. H. HEYS.	J. G. STOTT.
W. C. BRAY.	W. KINNEAR.	G. A. WETHERELL.
C. K. COUGHTRIE.	R. E. MAY.	H. E. WINTER.

### House Captains

Atkin: C. A. ALLDIS.  
Stitt: L. SIMMS.  
Tate: J. G. STOTT.  
Westminster: H. J. BOZIER.

### RUGBY FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

President  
THE HEADMASTER.

Chairman  
Mr. D. J. WILLIAMS.

Committee  
Mr. H. T. DAVIES, Mr. A. O. JONES.  
1st XV. Capt.: C. A. ALLDIS.  
Vice-Capt.: H. E. WINTER.

### BADMINTON CLUB

President  
THE HEADMASTER.

Chairman  
Mr. THACKER.

Treasurer  
Mr. SORBY.

**CHESS CLUB****President**

THE HEADMASTER.

**Chairman**

Mr. MOAT.

**Captain**

A. O. LEIGHTON.

**Secretary**

A. L. DAVIS.

**SIXTH FORM LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY****President**

THE HEADMASTER. Mr. W. E. WILLIAMS.

**Chairman****Secretary**

T. H. HEYS.

**LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION****President**

THE HEADMASTER.

**Chairman**

W. I. N. MERCER.

**Secretary**

W. H. HEAPS.

**Treasurer**

G. L. EVANS.

**NATIONAL SAVINGS ASSOCIATION****Hon. Secretary**

Mr. HALL.

**Hon. Treasurer**

Mr. HAIME.

**RIFLE CLUB****Chairman**

Mr. HALL.

**Secretary**

J. G. STOTT.

**SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY****President**

THE HEADMASTER. Mr. D. J. WILLIAMS.

**Chairman****Secretary**

R. E. MAY.

**TABLE TENNIS CLUB****President**

THE HEADMASTER.

**Chairman**

Mr. MORRIS.

**Secretary**

R. E. MAY.

**ROVER SCOUTS****Rover Leader**

Mr. THACKER.

**Rover Mate**

W. D. COUGHTRIE.

**23rd TROOP BIRKENHEAD BOY SCOUTS****Group Scout Master**

Mr. DAVIES.

**Patrol Leaders**K. J. SMEDLEY, M. CEHA, R. CEHA, B. S. HALLIDAY, E. VICK,  
W. S. WILLIAMS, G. P. RIDOUT.**23rd PACK BIRKENHEAD WOLF CUBS****Cub Master**

Miss K. G. BOOTH.

**Sixers**

J. T. BARTLETT.

J. P. BEACALL.

H. NEIL.

B. H. BAXTER.

D. W. BIBBY.

W. P. PEMBERTON.

**School Calendar**

Autumn Term begins	...	...	...	...	September 11th.
Swimming Gala	...	...	...	...	October 8th.
Half Term	...	...	...	...	November 2nd.
Term ends...	...	...	...	...	December 20th.
Spring Term begins	...	...	...	...	January 15th.
Half Term	...	...	...	...	February 29th.
Term ends...	...	...	...	...	April 3rd.
Summer Term begins...	...	...	...	...	April 29th.
Half Term	...	...	...	...	May 30th.
Term ends	...	...	...	...	July 29th.

## *Editorial*

**WE** speed forth this issue with a manifesto and an appeal.

The magazine committee have not endeavoured on this occasion to introduce any changes of importance, or to increase the amount of matter, for they feel that the extensive developments of recent years justify a resting on the oars, although not, of course, a folding of the hands to sleep. Nevertheless, articles dealing with original topics will be scrutinised with uncommon tenderness.

In this connection it is necessary to mention that the production of this number has been hampered by the lack of contributions. Once again the committee appeal, as their fathers and fathers' fathers did before them, to all who have been convulsed by the inspired posters in the corridor to recollect that emotion when in tranquillity, and to respond, if not to correspond. We extend this appeal to old boys in particular; any attempts of theirs to increase their somewhat limited representation in the magazine would be welcomed.



## *Salvete*

**Form VIIb.—Westminster:**—Cook, A. T.

**Form IIIa.—Atkin:**—Downing, G. N., Foster, H. G., Huntriss, S. B., Rands, H. **Stitt:**—Griffith, C. **Tate:**—Griffiths, O., Shimmin, R. E., Turtle, R. D., Williams, J. L. **Westminster:**—Boyd, W. T., Lane, R. S., Smith, A. E., Whitelaw, R. G.

**Form IIIb.—Stitt:**—Campbell, W. C., Coathup, L. S., Couch, C. W. S., Edge, E. N., Parkinson, A. **Tate:**—Darlington, O., Moseley, J. M. **Westminster:**—Ceha, J. W., Ferguson, T. L., Hewitt, P.

**Form IIIj.—Atkin:**—Bryden, J. W., Dale, N., Foxcroft, G., Jones, D. H., Nash, H., Williams, R. K., Woodward, G. **Stitt:**—Dodd, L. J., Hughes, G., Rowlands, C., Woodend, J. **Tate:**—Bunning, R., Holford, C. D., Hughes, F. G., McIntosh, D., Molyneux, E., Rogers, P. O., Taylor, M., Williams, J. **Westminster:**—Roberts, M. H.

**Form IIa.—Atkin:**—Pugh, T. K., Vickery, F. E. **Stitt:**—Hassall, A. H., Hill, G. G. **Westminster:**—Horne, L. B. H.



**Form IIb.—Tate :—**Little, F., Roberts, J.

**Form I.—Stitt :—**Taylor, G. P.

**Lower Prep.—Atkin :—**Bretherick, R. M., Renison, S. D. **Stitt :—**Berry, P. J., Edwards, D. C. N., Harriman, D. A. **Tate :—**Phillip, W. D.



## Valete

**Upper VIa.—Atkin :—**Aslett, W. W. (1925-35), *Prefect, Matric., 1933, H.S.C., 1935, Secretary of Visor, Tate Schol., 1934, Stitt Schol., 1935, Captain of House, Vice-Captain 1st XV., Secretary of Harriers Club, Committee of VIth Form Literary and Debating Society.* **Stitt :—**Hunt, T. W. (1925-35), *Prefect, Matric., 1933, H.S.C., 1935.* Laver, H. N. (1927-35), *Prefect, Matric., 1932, H.S.C., 1934-35, Financial Secretary of Visor, Captain of Harriers Club, Secretary and Treasurer League of Nations Union, Committee of VIth Form Literary and Debating Society.* Wood, A., *Matric., 1933.* **Tate :—**Collinson, J. (1927-35), *Prefect, Matric., 1933, H.S.C., 1935, Vice-Captain 1st XI. Football, Captain 1st XI Cricket, Committee of VIth Form Literary and Debating Society.* Slinn, J. N. (1925-35), *Prefect, Matric., 1933, Captain of Games, Captain of House, Captain of 1st XI Football, Sub-Editor of Visor, House Representative of Visor.* Robinson, J. N. (1927-35), *Prefect, Matric., 1932, H.S.C., 1934-35, Captain of 2nd XI. Cricket and 2nd XI. Football, Secretary of Chess Club.* **Westminster :—**Weston, G. H. (1928-35), *Head Prefect and Captain of the School, Matric., 1932, H.S.C., 1934-35, Captain of House, Captain of Chess Club, University Training Grant, 1935.*

**Upper VIb.—Atkin :—**Black, L. D., *Matric., 1934.* **Stitt :—**Blair, J. A., *Prefect, Matric., 1934, Financial Secretary of Visor, Member of Rifle Club.* **Westminster :—**Leigh, J. S., *Prefect, Matric., 1933, Captain of 1st XV., Secretary of Table Tennis Club.* McAlpine, S. V., *Matric., 1933.*

**VIc.—Atkin :—**Hubbold, J. E., Price, G. E., *Matric., 1935.* Proctor, M. L., *Matric., 1935.* **Stitt :—**Kenrick, W. H., *Matric., 1935.* **Tate :—**Burrell, P., *Matric., 1935.* Dalziel, A., *Matric., 1934.* Stelfox, G. H., *Matric., 1935.* Wheat, K., Wood, W. K., *Matric., 1935.*

**Vla.—Atkin:**—Bennet, R. M., *Matric.*, 1935. Buckley, G., *Matric.*, 1935. Croxton, T. R., *Matric.*, 1935. Gover, R. E., *Matric.*, 1935. **Stitt:**—Williamson, M. A., *Matric.*, 1935. **Tate:**—Elliot, C. H., *Matric.*, 1935. **Westminster:**—Barker, D. R., *Matric.*, 1935. Makepeace, H. R., Makin, M., *Matric.*, 1935.

**Vlb.—Atkin:**—Humphreys, G. L. **Stitt:**—Clark, R. A., Jones, E. H., Roberts, A. D., Russell, R. E. **Tate:**—Ternent, A. T., Watkins, R. V., Wilkins, F. P. **Westminster:**—Allen, W. K., Freedman, H., Henry, O., Moss, N., Quaile, A., Young, D. H.

**Rem.a.—Westminster:**—Huxley, K. W.

**Rem.b.—Atkin:**—Johnson, H. T. **Stitt:**—Halliwell, A., Jones, J. C. **Tate:**—Lea, W. R. **Westminster:**—Moss, R. C.

**IVa.—Atkin:**—Edge, R. W.

**IVb.—Atkin:**—Robinson, H. A.

**IVj.—Westminster:**—Adams, C. R.

**IIIa.—Tate:**—Aiken, J. A. C.

**IIIj.—Atkin:**—Billington, B. P. **Stitt:**—Forshaw, R. S. **Westminster:**—Taylor, J. A.



## Swimming Gala

THE Swimming Gala was held at Livingstone Street Baths on 8th October. The new silver challenge cup for the Senior Squadron Race was won for the first time by Atkin who had a successful evening. Johnson won the School Championship and Austin the Junior Championship, both being members of Atkin.

Congratulations to R. C. Lowson who set up a record for the Junior Backstroke Race.

For the first time for some years we had the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. A. W. Baker) present, and after the Mayoress had presented the prizes the Mayor made a short speech.

Thanks are due to the Staff for the way in which the events were carried out with the usual snap and precision.

## RESULTS.

Form VI.—Handicap.—W. E. Clare.

Form Remove and V.—Handicap.—H. Austin.

Form IV.—Handicap.—L. J. Porter.

Form III.—Handicap.—G. M. Tomlinson.

Senior Neat Dive.—W. E. Clare.

Junior Neat Dive.—R. C. Lowson.

Novices' Race.—J. W. Ceha.  
 Senior Back Stroke.—G. C. Lowson.  
 Junior Back Stroke.—R. C. Lowson.\*  
 Life Saving Race.—K. Taylor, E. Moxley.  
 Senior Object Diving.—S. Rowland.  
 Junior Object Diving.—L. H. Gallagher.  
 Senior Obstacle Race.—G. R. Colenso.  
 Junior Obstacle Race.—H. Austin.  
 Novelty Race.—E. S. Vick.  
 Senior Breast Stroke.—W. E. Clare.  
 Junior Breast Stroke.—L. J. Porter.  
 Senior Plunge.—L. Goodwin.  
 Junior Plunge.—L. J. Porter.  
 Senior Mop Fight.—G. R. Colenso.  
 Junior Mop Fight.—R. C. Lowson.  
 Senior Championship.—R. G. Johnson.  
 Junior Championship.—H. Austin.  
 Old Boys' Race.—E. Croft.  
 Senior Squadron Race.—Atkin.  
 Junior Squadron Race.—Westminster.

\* School Record.



## Examination Results, July, 1935

### HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

Alldis, C. A.; Aslett, W. W.; Bozier, H. J.; Collinson, J.; Robinson, J. N.; Weston, G. H.

### LETTERS OF SUCCESS.

Black, L. D.; Blair, J. A.; Heys, T.; Kinnear, W.; Leigh, J. S.; May, R. E.; McAlpine, S. V.; Simms, L.; Slinn, J. N.; Turner, J. E.; Wood, A.

### SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.

#### FORM VI.

*m* Bell, C. V. (H.); *m* Burrell, P.; *m* Coughtrie, C. K.; *m* Dalziel, A.; *m* Evans, J. F. R.; *m* Goodwin, L.; *m* Hubbard, J. E.; *m* Johnson, R. G.; *m* Kendrick, W. H. (F.); *m* Melville, I. S. (A.G.); *m* Matthews, F. J.; *m* Moore, T. J.; *m* Moxley, E.; *m* Price, G. E. (H.); *m* Procter, M. L.; *m* Smart, T.; *m* Snell, D. L.; *m* Stelfox, G. H.; *m* Taylor, K.; *m* Theobald, A. G. (C.); *m* Wheat, K.; *m* Winter, H. E. (M.P.); *m* Wood, W. K.; *m* Woolman, W. J.; *m* Yates, I. V.

#### FORM VIA.

*m* Barker, D. R.; *m* Bennett, R. M.; *m* Buckley, G.; *m* Campbell, F. J.; *m* Clare, W. E. (M.P.); *m* Croxton, T. R. (M.); *m* Davies, H. L.; *m* Duff, A. S.; *m* Edwards, G. R.; *m* Elliott, C. H. (F.); *m* Evans, G. L.; *m* Evans, K. (M.); *m* Fallon, J.; *m* Gover, R. E.; *m* Jones, H. M.; *m* Makepeace, H. R.; *m* Makin, M. (C.); *m* Mayo, J. R. (H.); *m* Nava, H. N.; *m* Renner, N. A.; *m* Sarginson, J. R.; *m* Tweedle, F. (M.P.); *m* Williamson, M. A.

#### FORM VIB.

Colenso, G. R.; Dean, K. W. (C.); De Croos, M. A. K.; Freedman, H.; Henry, O.; Humphreys, G. L.; Lowson, G. C.; Robey, D. R.; Warr, S. A.; Watkins, R. V.; Young, D. H.

Matriculation—*m*.

Distinction—Art—(A.); Chemistry—(C.); French—(F.); Geography—(G.); History—(H.); Mathematics—(M.); Physics—(P.)





△ CANONGATE TOLBOOTH

## *Cycling Up North*

ONE cold, grey morning, just at dawn, my friend Jim and I found ourselves aboard the ferry boat with heavily-laden bikes. An hour later we were on the road outside Ormskirk Station, enveloped in a bitterly cold fog. However, soon the sun broke through to revive our spirits. That night we reached Southfield, north of Shap, a favourite camping place of mine. Shap Fell, by the way, we found very trying in the heat of the afternoon.

Next day, we passed through Penrith and Carlisle, the slight drizzle not preventing us from enjoying the glorious lakeland skyline. Almost immediately we beheld lying before us the Cheviots, and eventually we found ourselves at Hawick, after a hard ride over the moors.

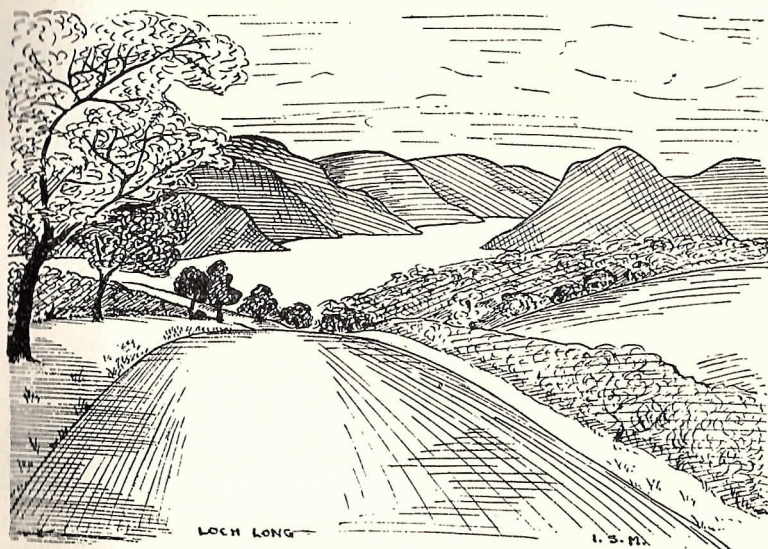
Two days later, battered by a sixty knot gale we literally clung to the sharp peak of Arthur's seat while we surveyed Edinburgh, with historical Holyrood Palace below us.

We paid a visit to the National Memorial to the Scots who fell in the Great War. We saw the Forth Bridge with the evening sun glinting upon its mighty yet graceful spans; and, lying desolate across the sparkling water, another marvel of British engineering, the old Mauretania.

Falkirk, Linlithgow, Stirling, and Dunkeld were left behind, all places of great note in Scottish history. The Grampians, great, rugged mountains barred our path northward. Our road lay over the Devil's Elbow. Having spent the night at Bridge of Cally, with the tent pitched on a four-foot ledge jutting out from the precipitous hillside, we set off for the summit. We walked most of the way from the Spittal of Glen-shee to the top (about a dozen miles). As I had previously discovered, the Devil's Elbow deserves its name—two hairpin bends cut into the mountain at an average gradient of 1 in 3 or 4. Even pushing the bike up was grilling work (who would dare to tell that we paddled in a mountain stream to cool both our feet and our feelings!) To compensate for this, we had a glorious flight down from the summit, two thousand two hundred feet up, the highest carriageway in Britain.

Even yet the most exciting part of our journey had not begun. A few hundred yards from Balmoral Castle, almost hidden in the firs, we turned along a track into the wilderness, marked on the map as a secondary road, although a notice at





the foot advised motorists that they "proceeded at the owner's risk." The next night found us nearly prostrate at Tomintoul, the highest village in the Highlands, a mere twelve hundred feet up. We had climbed from the valley of the Dee to two thousand odd feet and then dropped again. The average gradient of the Lecht (that benighted road) was 1 in 4.

Inverness was our aim for the next day. Our motto was "do or die": we did, being forced to pass right over the Cairngorm Mountains in the attempt. Our most northerly point was reached, and we turned south-west down Glen More. We asked permission to camp at a farm as usual, were accepted and yet were ushered not into one of the fields but into their small garden. Later on it was discovered that this was a measure of safety as the farm was owned by the Royal Inverness and District Lunatic Asylum, and that the less dangerous inmates were put to work in the fields!

Only slow progress was made down Loch Ness, not because we lingered monster-hunting, but on account of the blustering head wind. The following night was spent at an isolated clachan, still in the Glen. This little self-supporting holding, inhabited by a young woman who spoke far better English than we, comprised a field, house and shed, a contented black cow, a discontented little black bullock tied to a stake two yards from the tent, two dogs, and a few hens.



Mist and rain made us downhearted next morning. For a great distance along the glen, the mountain tops were shrouded in drifting wreaths of mist. To console ourselves we actually had dinner in a café (an unheard-of happening hitherto) in Fort William.

In the afternoon we crossed Loch Leven by Ballachulish Ferry, en route for Glencoe. The Three Sisters of Glencoe loomed menacingly above us, their heads thrust into the dense, enveloping mist, and but for the occasional passing of that infernal vehicle, the motor-car, there reigned heavy silence, as though they were still preparing sinister vengeance for the slaughtered Macdonalds. Then on to Rannoch Moor, the most desolate area in all Scotland, nothing but treacherous peat, weather-toughened grass, and an infrequent loch or tree, with one settlement in two hundred square miles of country. This was Bridge of Orchy, a store, a farm of sorts, and a tea-room. The storekeeper, who was also postmaster, provision merchant, telephone operator, and newsagent, kindly lent us his derelict "shack" which was fortunately rain-proof. For hours heavy rain had been falling, with no prospect of its clearing. Strange to say, although we had had no proper meal for eight hours, we could find room only for half-a-dozen eggs between us, half a tin of corned beef, and half a loaf each. Then, having wrung out our clothing, and poured a cascade of water out of our sodden shoes, we clambered on two tables pushed together, unrolled our sleepingbags, and retired.

The next day, refreshed but still moist, we continued through Crianlarich to the three beautiful lochs, Loch Lomond, the Gareloch, and Loch Long (the least spoilt). We had now left the Highlands, and the next evening from the top of Tarbert Hill, West Kilbride, really saw the climax of our tour.

At our feet were northern Ayrshire and Renfrew, bounded by the smooth Clyde. Across the firth was Arran, a rugged mass thrust up from the sea-bed, and, farther north, we could see Argyllshire, every jagged peak silhouetted by the setting sun. Every cloud was edged with brilliant gold. Far below, a tiny ship was peacefully making her way out to sea. The sun, a fiercely-glowing, golden ball, sank below the clouds, the several islands showing up dark against the silver sea. That was our last view of the Highlands.

A rapid run home through Ayr, Dumfries, Carlisle, and Shap ended the tour, and brought us back once more to the familiar ferry-boat.

I.S.M.

## A Novel

**H**EARING of the honours bestowed upon great, or at least famous writers of the novel, I decided, from purely jealous motives, to outshine them utterly and absolutely. Perhaps you would like a short summary of this masterpiece? Right, here goes:

### CHAPTER ONE.

I, the hero (of course), am courting the heroine, Miss Strongheart, while the villain, twirling with great dexterity a moustache, looks on with hatred in his eye. He plans some evil with his associates who, by some mischance, are all disfigured.

### CHAPTER TWO.

After I have departed in search of the bar, the villain kidnaps the heroine, leaps into a taxi, and starts for the continent.

### CHAPTER THREE.

Overcome with noble wrath, I give chase, picking up on the way a faithful plumber who leaves his tools and follows me.

### CHAPTERS FOUR AND FIVE.

The chase continues. I keep on arriving at places just after he has left them.

### CHAPTER SIX.

I recapture heroine. Villain, still twirling his moustache (now somewhat threadbare) watches me being overwhelmed with her praises.

### CHAPTER SEVEN.

I am kidnapped (new one this, isn't it?)

### CHAPTER EIGHT.

I am still kidnapped (have to pull my socks up).

### CHAPTER NINE.

I escape (back to the old routine).

### CHAPTER TEN.

Heroine captured (a give and take battle).

### CHAPTERS ELEVEN AND TWELVE.

We—the plumber and I—rescue her and trail the villain to an old, dark house.

### CHAPTER THIRTEEN.

Unlucky chapter! The villain again seizes heroine and locks her in a secret room.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN.

I enquire of the plumber as to the whereabouts of his tools. He replies that he left them in Chapter Three.

It is now no use continuing the chase, for, by the time we have gone back and retrieved the tools, the villain will have a lead of about twenty-four chapters. I decide to abandon the heroine to her fate. On more than one occasion she had left me flat, and *had helped my rival with his homework.*

THE END.

I.G.J.

■  
*Lament A Triolet*

EXAMS now are near,  
And what do I know?  
Very little I fear.  
Exams now are near,  
My brain is not clear,  
My heart's full of woe!  
Exams now are near  
And what do I know?

Form IIa.

■  
*Tales of O-Yeh, the Scribe*

THE GREAT FEAST OF BI-AI.

PASSING through the bazaar at Sidi-bel-Abbas one evening, shortly before the hour of prayer, I chanced to meet a venerable and bearded Sheikh, who seized me by the arm and drew me inside one of the booths, where was a seller of sherbet. "O scribe," said he when we were seated, "what is thine?" "Now Allah reward thee, my father," I replied, "and mine shall be a sherbet with one measure of red wine."

"Take now thy inkhorn and scroll," said the venerable man, "and write all that I shall tell; for by the beard of the Prophet, I have a tale for thee. I am old, and therefore, before I am gathered to my fathers, I will tell thee many things whereof thou shalt make a book, that all men may know what deeds were done in Bî-Ai in the days before the great sheikh Horeb-el-Isha ruled in the land, and turned away many to the worship of the Bîkh-On.

"And first I will tell thee the true story of the great feast which was held in Kah-Bihôl, and what befel thereafter." "Say on, O Protector of the Poor," said I, "and I will write, that thy words may be known to many in Bî-Ai."



"Know then," said he, "that these things were done in the days when Mustapha Djeli-Kho had no beard, and when the Lai-Brah-Ri was inhabited by the war-like tribe of the Lhitts, under whose protection dwelt the less powerful Khoms. Know also that among them the tenth day of the fifth month was always kept as a day of rejoicing, for on it were born two of the great men of the tribe, Khris and Tô. Therefore it was decreed that a great feast should be held, to which were bidden Khris and Tô, Shor and Rah Reitsch, who dwelt apart in Istam, Todh and Djo-nî, the great Frehd-Dî, and divers others. But, powerful as were the Lhitts, they were ruled by an even more powerful Sheikh, who had made a law against the holding of feasts in Kah-Bihôl, and this Sheikh was one greatly to be feared. Therefore they met in secret and with much stealth did they gain their retreat, which they locked and barred, setting a watch. All who were bidden had brought gifts of food, of fruit, and of divers sorts of wine, and there was great feasting and making merry.

"Now after the feasting there was a deputation as to who would dare the perilous ascent from Kah-Bihôl on to the roof-tops of the Djimm or Great Hall of Bî-Ai. And this too the great Sheikh had forbidden. But on the roof-tops was the shade of trees, and the bul-bul sang from the branches, and the flagons were but half-empty, so that no man wished to return to Kah-Bihôl until after the sun of their opportunity had set. For, as they like Jamshid gloried and drank deep, there came one running who said, "Lo, the great Sheikh standeth in the Djimm, and he hath marked us, and we be all lost men." Then said Khris "If we be taken, O Tô, then there will be much whipping and hanging." "Thou sayest," said Tô, "but what meaneth this talk of being taken? Seest thou not how these sycamore trees grow up from the courtyard of Bî-itsh Kropht? Can a man not escape thereby, and across the courtyard even to his own tent?" And it was so. And Tô entered the Djimm by another door, and sat down behind the great Sheikh. Who when he saw him said, "What doest thou here?" "Verily, O Defender of the Faithful," said Tô, "I read in the book of one Sheikh Ispîr the words of wisdom." "Seest thou no man upon the roof-tops?" asked the Sheikh. "Nay, verily," replied he, "there is no man there; behold they all abide in their tents." And when the Great One went to see, it was even as Tô had said, for every man was in his own place, reading the words of wisdom as the Sheikh had commanded.

"And wherever in the bazaars men gather and speak of the Lhitts, there tales are told of them by the weavers of lies. But my words are the words of truth. And now the muezzin calls me, but I will meet thee here in the tenth month, and thou shalt hear more."

So I, O-yeh the scribe, have written, even as I was commanded, this tale of old time, that all men may read and marvel.



### *Obituary*

GENERATIONS upon generations of Old Instonians will learn with regret of the peaceful passing of "Algebra," Mr. Bloor's canine marvel. The miraculous powers of this wonderful animal enabled him to provide his owner with a correct solution to any mathematical problem at a moment's notice. Mr. Bloor was not, however, jealous of his accomplished pet, but freely admitted the extent of the assistance which "Algebra" afforded him, and was often at a loss to find problems of sufficient difficulty to keep the dog amused. Many who managed to obtain a matriculation certificate will go so far as to attribute their success entirely to "Algebra's" now world-famous system, while others monthly mutter a fervent prayer for the little genius, as they pocket their fat salaries. A great point in his favour was that whenever possible he wore an old School Collar, and although most of "Algebra's" disciples were permitted to inspect him only once a year (viz. on Sports Day), he inspired a real affection, and the news of his decease will be received with great sorrow, if not in the four-corners of the earth, at least in the outposts of Empire.



### *The Train*

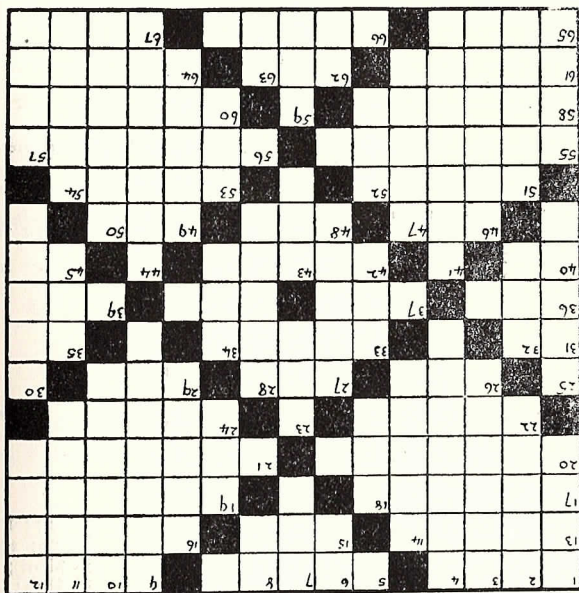
WHEN the train steams into the station,  
 What a noise it makes !  
 Doors flung wide on every side,  
 Porters and passengers how they collide !  
 Milk cans clanging,  
 Luggage banging,  
 People scurrying,  
 Porters hurrying,  
 What a hustle  
 And a bustle,  
 When the train steams into the station !

P.S., Form I.

## Crossword No. 9

TWO prizes. Solutions to Mr. Hall.

## CLUES.



## ACROSS.

- 1.—First principle.
- 5.—Straw no good for this in Eng-land.
- 9.—Yawn.
- 13.—Help.
- 15.—Often made of sugar!
- 16.—Trimmed.
- 17.—Language.
- 19.—Venturesome.
- 20.—Tap it.
- 21.—Boat.
- 23.—Antique weapon.
- 24.—Net and river.
- 26.—Two e's will make sense.
- 27.—Signifies addition.
- 29.—Steamships.
- 31.—Tear with 40.
- 33.—Watchful.
- 35.—Exist.
- 36.—Consume.
- 37.—Cobbler uses it.
- 38.—Lubricate.
- 39.—River (in Scotland).
- 40.—See 31.
- 42.—Ancient language.
- 45.—Part of Bible.
- 46.—Confused ugly old woman.
- 48.—Used to be.
- 49.—Mimic.
- 51.—Ward off.
- 53.—Colloquial language.
- 55.—Burdensome.
- 56.—Arrow for a crossbow.
- 58.—Your favourite subject?
- 60.—Roving.
- 61.—Then perhaps this is! (see 58).
- 62.—Acquired.
- 64.—Mongol.
- 65.—Formerly.
- 66.—Noisy place.
- 67.—Where Drake went.



- 1.—Took place this term.
- 2.—Sddo.
- 3.—Animals of badger family.
- 4.—Performed in woodwork.
- 6.—Cereal with 8.
- 7.—See 15 across.
- 8.—See 6.
- 9.—Adorn.
- 10.—Unitarian.
- 11.—d.
- 12.—Usually cutting.
- 14.—In the Zoo.
- 16.—Panels.
- 18.—Brief smoke.
- 19.—Lord of classical underworld.
- 23.—A certain person.
- 25.—River known to Hotspur.
- 27.—Permit.
- 28.—Worthless residue.
- 30.—Plenty in a watch.
- 32.—Corrode.

## DOWN.

- 33.—Beard of corn.
- 34.—Knot.
- 35.—Mountain peak.
- 41.—Powder used for welding.
- 43.—Noisy frolic.
- 44.—Well known bird.
- 46.—5r—s.
- 47.—Moan.
- 49.—Call to arms.
- 50.—Madden.
- 51.—At hand.
- 52.—Vessel.
- 53.—Prosecute.
- 54.—Group of closely connected species.
- 55.—Look at with side glances.
- 57.—Two short officers.
- 59.—Good in stable, or on table.
- 62.—' Entrance.
- 63.—J



## Crossword No. 8

THE prizes for this competition were awarded to A. Turner of Remove A, and J. Edelsten of Remove J.

### SOLUTION.

ACROSS.—1, Mote; 5, Hovel; 9, Cons; 13, Opens; 15, Pen; 16, Carat; 17, Random; 19, Palate; 20, Elderly; 21, Yucatan; 22, Sears; 24, Babel; 26, Dry; 27, Fig; 29, Bas; 31, At; 33, Fiend; 35, To; 36, Mow; 37, Pal; 38, Air; 39, Rot; 40, Gr; 42, Scows; 45, To; 46, Paw; 48, Has; 49, Mat; 51, Rebel; 53, Lemur; 55, Hubbles; 56, Membral; 58, Arbts; 60, Toledo; 61, Halts; 62, Fit; 64, Seeds; 65, Ails; 66, eeeee; 67, Snee.

DOWN.—1, More; 2, Opals; 3, Tended; 4, Endears; 6, 8, Open; 7, Vex; 9, Calabar; 10, Crates; 11, Natal; 12, 32, Stentor; 14, Sorry; 16, Cacao; 18, M.L.S.; 19, Pub; 23, Lie; 25, Ramon; 27, Filch; 28, Gnaws; 30, Motor; 32, Tor; 33, Fas; 34, Dis; 35, Got; 41, Rabbits; 43, Cat; 44, Gambles; 46, Pebble; 47, Welts; 49, Memos; 50, Tureen; 51, Rural; 62, Les; 53, Let; 54, Radde (dared anag.); 55, Noha (Noah anag.); 57, Lose; 59, Tie; 62, 63, Fête.



## The Summer Sun

The sun is shining brightly down,  
 Upon the hillside where we play,  
 Shining too in the smoky town,  
 And gilding the ocean out in the bay;  
 What should we do without your light,  
 O summer sun so warm and bright?

S.H., Form I.

Goods supplied for Parties and Whist Drives  
at Reduced Prices.

Tel.—Upton Road 2143  
Mallaby St. 1960  
Birkenhead.

# J. H. MYCOCK,

BAKER AND CONFECTIONER.

16 Upton Rd., & 16 Mallaby St.,  
Birkenhead.

Fancies, Madeira Cakes, Fruit Cakes, etc.

Only the Best ingredients used in the manufacture of our  
Goods.

Wholemeal Bread. White Bread. Hovis.

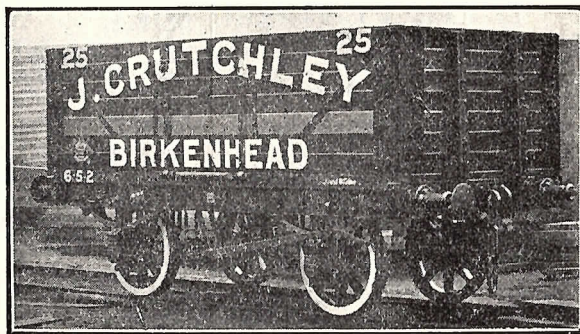
Tel. B'head 647.

## JAMES CRUTCHLEY

Est. over 60 years.

Best Lancashire,  
Staffordshire,  
Yorkshire Coals.

—  
Anthracite, Coke,  
Nuts, for  
TRIPLEX GRATES  
Always in stock.



Only Address—

Price List on Application.

**2 Argyle St. South, Birkenhead**  
(Opposite Central Station)

All kinds of Gravel for Garden Paths.

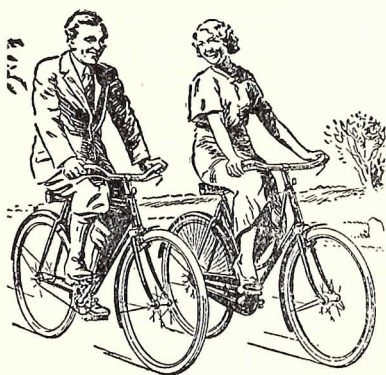
Sand suitable for Gardens, supplied and delivered in Bags  
at 1s. per cwt., special quotations for larger quantities.

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

# BUY A

# B.S.A

## FOR VALUE



B.S.A. Bicycles have many special features—B.S.A. solid centre pedals, central pull or caliper brakes, etc.—features which are the outcome of long experience and give outstanding reliability, comfort and long service. B.S.A. Bicycles have real quality equipment too—Terry Spring Seat and Dunlop tyres. There's a B.S.A. model for every rider, from £4.19.6 or 10/- down and 2/2 weekly.

Get the B.S.A. Cycling Annual

**E. COTTRELL,**

Phone  
Rock Ferry 932.

**117 MOUNT ROAD**

(between Bedford Drive & Borough Rd.)

EST.:1833. Tel. 2006 BIRKENHEAD.

If you want **FLOWERS**  
for any occasion,  
you cannot do better  
than go to

**E. P. BEER,**  
FLORIST,

*South Grove Nurseries,  
Woodchurch Road,  
Birkenhead.*

ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED  
TO.

**PUBLIC ADDRESS  
MIKE**

The firm that did the B.I.  
Sports

**ALLANSON'S  
738 Borough Rd.**

Phone 2545

Don't forget also

**D'Allansons  
Dance Band**

when you want a Band

Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."



# DR. TEASDALE GRIFFITHS

FELLOW, ROYAL COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS.  
FELLOW, TRINITY COLLEGE, LONDON.  
FELLOW, INCORPORATED STAFF-SIGHT-SINGING COLLEGE.  
ASSOCIATE, ROYAL MANCHESTER COLLEGE OF MUSIC.  
LICENTIATE, ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.  
MEMBER, ROYAL SOCIETY OF TEACHERS.

REGISTERED TEACHER,  
LECTURER, ADJUDICATOR, RECITALIST,  
CONDUCTOR, EXAMINATION COACH.

PREPARATION for all recognised Musical Degrees and Diplomas, and for Music as a subject in Arts Degree or Matriculation.

TUITION given in Pianoforte, Organ, Voice Production, Aural Culture, Form in Music, Harmony, Counterpoint, Fugue, Orchestration, etc., etc.

*For Terms and Interviews, apply :—*

**17, Christchurch Road, Oxton, Birkenhead.**

*Or 'PHONE : BIRKENHEAD 1977.*

*YOU must not miss our new*

**CHRISTMAS  
SHOWROOM,  
42 Grange Road West,**

**HORNBY, MECCANO,  
BOWMAN MODELS,  
HOME CINES—**

*A SPLENDID  
SELECTION OF  
CHRISTMAS GIFTS.*



**HAROLD HIRST.**



**REAL "TALKIES" AT LAST.  
SOUND ON FILM.**

## MARSTON'S

For

**RALEIGH**

AND

**B.S.A. CYCLES**

**from £4/19/6 cash or on  
Hire Purchase terms.**

**50 Argyle Street,  
Birkenhead.**

**Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."**

# ALLANSONS STORES LTD.

for

## BOYS' SCHOOL WEAR.

### Boys' Navy Raincoats.

Shoulders Lined with Oilskin. Thoroughly guaranteed Waterproof. These coats have a 3" hem so that they can be lengthened.

All sizes 17/11. 22/6.

### Boys' Winter Overcoats.

Smart range in popular and useful styles for school wear. In Browns, Greys and Navy diagonal Velour cloth.

12/6 to 15/6.

### Boys' Pyjama Suits.

Beautiful soft yarn. Warm for Winter wear.  
2/11 & 4/11.

### Boys' Slipovers & Pullovers.

All pure wool. Pleasing designs. 3/6 4/6 6/6.

### Trouser Presses.

Complete with stretches for the young men.  
A useful gift. 12/6.

*Telephone : Birkenhead 3593 (3 lines).*

GRANGE ROAD, - BIRKENHEAD.

## *Others as We See Them*

HOW many boys are bored with Shakespeare?  
THANK YOU! HANDS DOWN!

How many of us after leaving school will trouble to go and see one of his plays or even to hear one broadcast? Not many. And why? Because he was a bore, who wrote a lot of highbrow stuff which ought to be labelled 'For Schoolmasters Only'? Wrong. Because we have so mixed him up in our minds with homework and tests and examinations and notes and glossaries that we have never noticed that his plays are gripping dramas and roaring comedies. Park High School have made this discovery. Their magazine (June, 1935), tells how they went to see *Hamlet* at the Playhouse,—not in select little parties from School Certificate forms, but by the hundred,—and loved it.

Their reporter, however, can hardly believe that a Set Book could really be as good as all that, and gives all the credit to the fine acting and excellent production. Believe me, most of it belongs to W. Shakespeare.

The magazine is up to its usual standard: the Milk Poster on page 14 might have been omitted without great loss.

\* \* \* \*

A few phrases taken from House Notes in the Liverpool Institute Magazine (September, 1935):

"... with a little more effort ... determined to pull together ... the good of the House as a whole ... as weak as its weakest member ... pulled its whole weight ... well sustained effort ..."

Where have we read something like this before?

We heartily second the editor in complimenting the designer of the cover, but feel that the school motto would look better if SOLUM stood ALONE (—NON NOBIS SOLUM—SED TOTI MUNDO NATI—).

\* \* \* \*

Wirral County School (Boys') Magazine (Vol. IV. No. 1) reports that inclement weather led to a postponement of the *Athletic Sports*. One wonders what led to their misspelling.

This number is a remarkable medley of good and bad. There is a description of a night spent on Moel Famau, which is a joy to read, an unsigned Rhapsody on Swimming, in the Second Person Singular, and a Nocturne, near-modern and pseudo-Russian,—repeat all nouns and adjectives at frequent intervals, omit most verbs, Capital letters to Taste,—which, in attempting to describe nausea with nasty realism, achieves



only physiological absurdity. Many of the contributions are carelessly put together, and some are positively illiterate. There are strenuous efforts at humour on the subject of Latin by persons with little Latin and less humour. To write *canis pulciosus* and *Virgilius Maronis* may be funny, but it is not Latin. Nor can the *Charge of the Light Brigade* be said to be parodied in the lines

There's not to reason why,  
There's but to do and die.

\* \* \* \*

In *Pharos* (October, 1935), the magazine of the Wirral County School for Girls, the headmistress suggests to parents that the time has come to form a Parent-Teacher Association in connection with the school, and announces a meeting of parents for the purpose. Although the school is only four years old, an Old Girls' Association is already in existence with its dramatic group and sports club in full swing.

\* \* \* \*

*The Wallaseyan* (July, 1935), has a sonnet from the pen of a love-lorn prefect. Whatever the source of his inspiration he handles his theme in good style; but is it fair, is it kind, to sandwich his sonnet between House Notes and Wolf Cub Jottings? There are several contributions of merit in this number, but their arrangement looks like the result of an accident.

\* \* \* \*

Very different in this respect is the Birkenhead Girls' Secondary School Magazine (July, 1935), where due order is observed, and everything is tidily set out in its appointed place. There is no lack of good material, well illustrated with clever 'cuts' and line drawings. Spelling is curious here and there, as, for example, where one reads of *Llanwryst*, *A. E. Houseman* and *surreptious* meetings.

But there is a merit in these pages which would hide worse faults than those,—the quiet dignity, the modesty, extreme even in a girls' school, which marks the whole production. Here is no 'publicity,' no braying self-advertisement: here are none—or almost none—of those *lists*, so tiresomely familiar, apparently so indispensable to all school magazines, including our own. There is no list of officers of school societies; no list of matriculants, or certificants, or sycophants; of pothunters or potwinners or potwallopers; no list of sports

events and no league tables. The one exception is of vital interest to past, present and future members of the school, and catalogues events universally and aptly classed as 'happy.'

\* \* \* \*

### HIGH LIGHTS.

"A House is what we, every individual member, *wants* to make it."—(Liverpool Institute Magazine).

"Bidston Hill . . . *this vast pyramid*."—(Park High School Magazine).

*Feminine Physics*:—A rabbit hutch "should be raised from the ground . . . *in order that the damp air does not rise into it*."—(B.G.S.S. Magazine).

"Few breathe as we should."—(Holt School Magazine).  
Could we, if they tried?

"We saw many things that Mr. ———— had pointed out to us while studying Norway *and numerous others*."—(Ibid.)

"It has been said that no-one knows how long we may live when we are free from the ravages of germs. *Who knows?*"—(Ibid.)

Please, sir, no-one, sir.

\* \* \* \*

Copies of the magazines mentioned above have been placed in the 6th Form Library. Members of other forms wishing to read them should apply to the Librarian. In addition to these *The Visor* Committee gratefully acknowledges receipt of *Esmeduna*, *Oultonia*, Edmonton County School Magazine, the Halton Magazine, and *The Quest* (Westcliff High School).



## University Letters

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

November, 1935.

Sir,

Certain well known signs always precede the coming of an event which, by long experience, one knows to be as inevitable as Fate or Quarter Day. Thus the falling of the leaves, and the shortening of the daily ration of sunlight convey to the mind a warning of the arrival of Winter, just as his supersession by Spring is heralded by the appearance of the early violet. In precisely the same way, when you, Mr. Editor, paid us a visit at a late hour the other evening, we immediately opined that another issue of *The Visor* was toward. Not that

you reminded us of either a falling leaf or a violet, but you see the analogy, do you not? And events have proved our suspicions well-founded; not only are you contemplating going to print, but you demand a University Letter. In the immortal words of Banquo: "Thou hast it now."

Our life for the greater part of this term has been almost monastic in its tranquillity. Isolated as we are on the arid slopes of Brownlow Hill, we see and hear little of the outside world; and within nothing happens to interrupt the even tenour of our way.

Work is proceeding steadily, and already a certain attitude of awareness on the part of third-year students betokens the great June offensive: but long before that comes Panto Day, for which already much strenuous preparation goes forward, and which is, of course, of far more importance than any merely academic activity.

The only items of real interest that have come to our notice have been extra-mural, so to speak. We hear of great doings afloat, where the bonny babes, Loxam, and his new accomplice Hamilton, wield mighty oars with deadly effect. The resultant rumour that England has two new "hush-hush" heavy battle cruisers on the West Float is causing consternation in Italy, and, in view of the coming conference on naval limitation, may have international repercussions. Comrade Todd is reported to be very busy: he certainly seems to have his hands full at the moment.

At long last the Corporation has catered for the needs of students who have to come up from the Pier Head on wet mornings. A tramway has been laid up Brownlow Hill, even to our doors. Thus are the benefits of civilisation reaching out to earth's utmost bounds.

But, as we have already occupied sufficient of your valuable space, and you, sir, have taken up far too much of our really invaluable time, we bid you Auf Wiedersehen!

R.I.P.

\* \* \* \*

PETERHOUSE,

CAMBRIDGE.

November 26th.

Sir,

I often think how flattered the Vice-Chancellor would be, if only he knew of your perennial interest in this University. Letters from Old Boys are usually an excuse either for show-



ing off literary talent, or else for indulging in personal gossip and scandal. I intend to do neither. As I don't suppose anyone troubles to read this letter a miniature essay would be waste of time: and as I'm the only possessor of "the old School tie" in Cambridge I can't regard psycho-analysis as a "healthy" occupation. But I will share with you one reflection which has impressed itself upon me of late. You know very well that at School you are inevitably caught up and entangled with that dreadful monster the Examination machine. Yet often you are consoled with the thought that once you have entered the portals of a University—and particularly of the older universities—you will have escaped it. You will be free to develop your interests and have the leisure to look upon life in all its phases to your heart's content. Like many of the theories of our modern educationists, this is largely a myth. Cambridge, too, daily burns the midnight oil to that great examination god.

The press has been rather to the fore of late in pouring scorn upon the 'apathy' of Cambridge. It is largely true: as a body we are extremely apathetic, particularly in politics. But it is rarely due to lack of interest: rather to a superabundance of necessary work. The Fresher arrives with visions of golden hours of leisure. Before long he is amazed to discover his Tutor accuses him of slackness. No, Mr. Editor, competition extends not only to Matric. and H.S.C., but to degrees as well. The "class" is more important to-day than the degree itself. Have I exploded a school-boy myth? I haven't said much, I confess, but then Tradition has been maintained, Precedent has been fulfilled, Custom has been upheld—in short, a University letter has been written!

Yours sincerely,

K. W. WALKER.

\* \* \* \*

PHYSICAL SOCIETY,

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY.

November, 1935.

Sir,

Setting aside our studies, we take up the quill and proceed to write a University letter. These curios are unearthed and gazed on with awe and wonderment (?) by readers of *The Visor* at some later date—but to proceed to business.

The autumn term produced its usual crop of Freshers from B.I., who have now found their respective stations, and are proceeding merrily, safe in the conviction that should weariness and loneliness overcome them, they have but to wander through the corridors and labyrinths of the University for a short while, before meeting a kindred soul from the old School. I was highly amused the other day to hear a voice, "What, are you from Birkenhead Institute? This place is full of them." I might add that "full of" was not the expression used, but it makes my meaning clear.

Some of our Freshers have been unduly alarmed by what I can best describe as the 'appearance of a voice,' for "Hallo" is borne on a rush of wind. May I explain that this phenomenon is not scientific in origin; it is merely our old friend Broadfoot, who has taken up cross-country running, and, you will all be pleased to hear, runs for the University 2nd team. Good luck, Bob! I have heard it rumoured that he desires to catch an earlier boat to Liverpool in the morning, but I do not believe it is due to an increased desire for work.

Broadfoot has shamed our engineer, Hamilton, into action, and on Wednesday afternoons, those brawny arms and that mighty back impel an oar for the rowing club down at the docks. Little is seen or heard of 'Ham.' these days, as he keeps very much to himself studying electrical engineering.

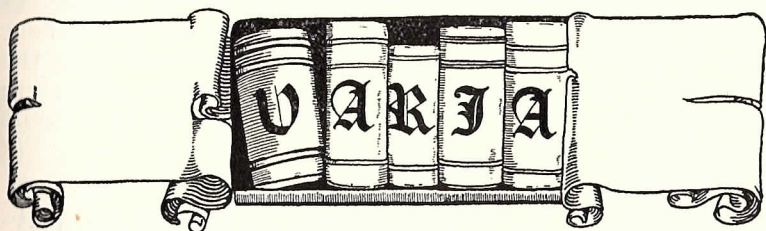
Rollowing in his footsteps is Hunt, and an "old, old" boy, Hutchinson, whom few of you will remember

In the department of Physics, we have a growing list of old boys. Piggott has recently left us to take up 'Education,' while Stanley delves in research in the basement. Those who wish to speak with him either descend into the gloom, or wait until he comes up for air. Evans is 'progressing favourably,' and appears happy in his own quiet way. Weston, former head prefect, is our latest addition, and we old hands welcome him to the Physical Society, and its amenities.

The above rambling account may give you an idea of a few of the activities of old boys. I can only mention one or two, without fear or favour, of the many now studying in various departments of the University. For the others, we meet occasionally in the precincts, or in the Union, that grand hall of democracy, where in sundry small rooms and offices, the fates of us poor students are determined.

Au revoir.

R. C. LOXAM.



TO Mr. Jeffery, who arrived this term to join the Science staff, we extend a hearty welcome.

\* \* \* \*

We are glad to hear that Mr. Hall is well on the way to recovery, and hope to have him back again before the end of term. During his absence his place has been filled by Mr. Best, whose stay, we trust, has been of the happiest.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. Watts, of course, has retired; but someone suspiciously like him has been observed once or twice disappearing at the end of a corridor, or dodging round a corner of the staircase. In fact, 'Janny' affirms, calling strange deities to witness, that he himself has served him this term with one of his 'Ninepenny Specials' in the dining room.

\* \* \* \*

Among the last of many school tours personally conducted by Mr. Watts was a visit last term to the *Liverpool Post and Echo* offices. A visit to *The Visor* offices on the part of some people is long overdue.

\* \* \* \*

We came back from the vac., and we all nearly fainted  
To find that the school had been newly repainted.  
For years the Advanced had been painting it red;  
Now the painters had painted it yellow instead.

\* \* \* \*

A school party visited a coal mine at St. Helens early this term. We have nothing but admiration for the courage of the master who wore his best suit, and of the lone cyclist who rode the whole thirty miles in a downpour.

\* \* \* \*

Among the hardy perennials to be found growing in *Varia* the new trophy cupboard was beginning to occupy a position. The cupboard is now complete, and replete with cups, and has therefore been removed from our list.



Cycles, we read, are pushing motors off the roads. As long as they do not push them on to the pavement, we shall not interfere. What troubles us is that they are overflowing the extended cycle accommodation. Is maths. no use in dealing with a problem like this? What about constructing a cyclic quadrilateral?

\* \* \* \*

The kiddies' paddling pool at the bottom of the playground has been abolished, the Corporation requiring the water for other purposes.

\* \* \* \*

After a very short apprenticeship to rugger, our fifteens have already put up a good show against those of other schools where this game has long tradition behind it. In this connection we should like again to acknowledge the generous assistance given by Messrs. Paterson and Baxter, two of our governors, both international players of repute.

\* \* \* \*

FASHION NOTE.—House badges bearing the school crest on a background of the house colour are enjoying a wide vogue this term. These natty little gadgets, worn on the lapel, are now *de rigueur* among the smarter set. As a result the prefects' badge is a little in the shade, but we learn from an unreliable source that expert designers are already at work, and that the result will be the last word in *chic*.

\* \* \* \*





The sole reason for the inclusion of this sentence is that everyone is expecting some mention of the pneumatic drills in *Varia*.

\* \* \* \*

A short but impressive ceremony was held on Armistice Day. The sale of poppies enabled us to send £2 7s. 1d. to the Haig Fund.

\* \* \* \*

Buy *The Visor* for news in advance! Last year one contributor optimistically suggested that the School film show might some day bring to us the talkies. This year we exclusively announce that Mr. Hirst, to whose generosity we are already so much indebted, has done the impossible and has promised not only to arrange another film show for us, but also that it will be 100 per cent. talking. Hats off to Mr. Hirst!

ATKIN	STITT	TATE	W'MINSTER
			
HOUSE NOTES			

WE shall start this year with our usual optimism, all the horrible despair in which we wallowed last year having been completely forgotten.

In the first place, we are fortunate in having many of the "old brigade" still with us. Three of last year's prefects, Alldis, Kinnear, and May, have remained, and Alldis has the distinction of being Head Prefect, Captain of the School, and thus automatically Captain of the House. The only new Atkin prefect this year was Winter, who, unfortunately, has now left.

At first sight, the Atkin Rugger results seem surprising, for the Seniors have lost both their matches, despite the fact that the captain of the 1st XV., Alldis, the vice-captain, Winter, and three other members of the 1st XV., Jones, Kinnear, and Robey, are all in Atkin. However, these results are largely explained by the illnesses of several members of the team, and by the fact that Atkin played a man short in both matches. The Bantams started in a promising way by beating Stitt, but we were routed by both Tate and Westminster.

The Swimming Gala, however, affords a more cheerful topic. Once again we covered ourselves with glory, and became Champion House. Among the outstanding individual performers were Johnson, who won the School Championship, and Austin, who won the Junior Championship, the Junior Obstacle Race, and the Form V. Handicap. Since three of last year's winning Senior Squadron Team were swimming for us, the result of the Senior Squadron Race was never in doubt, and the team:—Buckley, Black, Johnson, and Aslett, won easily. The Junior Squadron team was a close second to Westminster, but was unfortunate to lose Hill the day before the Gala. Hill, one of the fastest swimmers, was unable to assist

the team because of septic poisoning in his arm, but Rogers, Macadam, Rawsthorne, and Austin all swam well, and might with luck have won.

During the last few years all the Houses except Atkin have in turn gained supremacy in the School activities as a whole. Our turn is long overdue, but there is no reason why we should not at least assert ourselves this year. W.K.

### STITT.

**W**ITH the New Year should come new resolutions, and, if possible, new actions. The number of trophies we have won in recent years has been pitifully few, and it is during precisely that period that the House has ceased to pull its weight. As an example let me point out that the Bantams have played and lost two matches, results due in part at least to a number of "cryings-off." On the other hand, the Seniors have won one of their two games, and, like the Senior Cricket Team, preserve to us our few rags of reputation. Obviously these fellows are the backbone of the House. I wonder what will happen when they have gone?

The Swimming Gala provided the same story, the Senior and Junior Squadrons finishing second and third respectively. Has Stitt ever won the Senior Squadron race? [Yes. Three if not four years in succession.—R.H.] If so, when is there going to be a repeat?

In the mark sheets of this term we have easily kept up the standard of recent years, being either third or fourth in every one.

In every department the story is similar; it is the junior members who are mainly responsible for our humiliation; it is they who constitute the root of the trouble.

I appeal once more to our members. Will they awaken to their duties and bring back the House into a more suitable, more dignified position? Remember, a House divided against itself cannot stand. L.S.

### TATE.

**W**ITH pleasant thoughts do we look back upon last year's long list of successes for the House. The latest additions have been the winning of the Cricket Championship and of the House Shield at the Sports—both for the third year in succession. For these successes we owed a great deal to Wheat, Collinson, and Slinn, but—alas—these stalwarts are now gone from our midst, and with them others who worked untiringly.



Now it is up to those who follow on to put out their utmost endeavour, and we shall not be disappointed.

Let us, then, pass quickly over the fact that both Senior and Junior Squadron Teams came in last at the Swimming Gala, and let us say that we hope for, and expect, a better result next year.

At Rugby, the results are so far satisfactory, the Senior Team having beaten Atkin by 14 points to 6, and lost to Westminster by 17 points to nil; while the Bantams have beaten Atkin and Stitt, but lost to Westminster by 3 points to 5. We are represented in the 1st XV. by Clare, Coughtrie, and A. J. Taylor, and in the 2nd XV. by Astley, A. L. Davis, Stott, and A. C. Williams, while Gullan has also played.

A. L. Davis still upholds our reputation in the Chess Club, and plays second board in the School Team. Tate are again doing well scholastically, having topped the first three mark-sheets this term, and it is to be hoped that this will be kept up.

It is rather deplorable that some of the sixes are very slack, and in many cases are a drag to the House instead of being the leading lights; it is up to themselves to remedy this.

We are hoping to have a House Tea and Social Evening before the end of term; meanwhile, the search for talent is going on apace, and we are looking forward to an enjoyable entertainment.

J.G.S.

### WESTMINSTER.

THE outstanding achievement of the term is in connection with the Rugby teams. Having obtained full points in five games, Westminster are well on the way to winning the House Championship for the second time. The senior and bantam teams have scored 125 points and conceded only 6.

Wetherell, Smedley, Heys, Lowson, R., Lowson, G., and Moxley, represent the House in the 1st XV., and Hayes, Edelsten, Tomlinson, and Tressider, have all played for the Bantams.

In the Swimming Gala, also, success came our way. The juniors finished first in the squadron race, but the seniors did not do quite as well. Congratulations to R. Lowson, who broke the junior back-stroke record.

Heys was the only member of the House who received the Order of the Button this term. In the School Chess team, we are represented by Sarginson and Lowson.

And now we come to the matter of detentions. Here a lot of regrettable enthusiasm is shown by a large number of misguided youths. During the first three weeks not one detention was recorded against us, but since then Westminster has headed the list with a vengeance.

# WESTMINSTER.

They talk of Atkin's prowess on the track,  
Of runners who can run both swift and straight,  
Who, fleet of foot and strong of limb and back,  
Can test the qualities of Stitt and Tate.  
And what is it, we ask, to you and me  
If Stitt and Tate are both at number 3?  
Oh! What about it? We shall still prefer  
The first and best of houses,

WESTMINSTER.

They talk about the brainy lads of Tate,  
Of youths with convolutions in their brains,  
Of intellectual stars who can relate  
Tri-weekly tales of mental growing pains.  
And should these shining stars our rivals blind  
And leave poor Stitt and Atkin far behind,  
Oh! What about it? We shall still prefer  
The first and best of houses,

WESTMINSTER.

They talk about the stalwart lads of Stitt  
Who kick a leather ball to kingdom come,  
Who throw a kind of Herculean fit  
To flatten Tate and Atkin in the scrum.  
And possibly, but most improbably,  
Some day, perhaps, they'll flatten you and me.  
Oh! What about it? We shall still prefer  
The first and best of houses,

WESTMINSTER.

And so we sing our friendly foemen's powers,  
And tribute pay to many a gallant fight.  
We sing of skill which nearly equals ours—  
Very nearly, very nearly, but not quite.  
For every one of us is sure of this—  
That nought to Westminster will come amiss,  
For every one of us will pull his weight  
To keep on top of

ATKIN, STITT AND TATE.

## *Library Notes*

**I**N the first place you might like to know what the Library is like nowadays. On second thoughts, however, you probably wouldn't, so just think of Devil's Island, or Paradise Lost, or the Abyssinian war, and you'll be pretty near it. But the best of it is, it has been re-decorated. Not that there is any decoration; don't run away with that idea; but they've changed the paint and shovelled up some of the dust. This is called "Brighter Library" or "Amelioration of the condition of the non-Working Classes" and is due entirely to the team spirit of the government.

Now anyone who wasn't in the know might think from the first paragraph that we don't See Life in the Library. This idea is wrong, i.e., we do. Only last month, for instance, we had a non-stop, all-stuttering, all-swearing, drilling, and scintillating road-smashing programme, presented to us free of all charge by the Corporation Fun Director. Anyway, what is all this talk about pneumatic drills? Who would deny the honest British workman his harmless amusement? It's a free country isn't it? (Or is it?) They're handy things and it might do the Library good to have one. There is no end to the things we could do with a natty line in pneumatic drills. 'Hey,' we could say, 'what about growing some turnips in the playground?', and out we could all troop and drill up a few square yards. Or we could prospect for oil on the school field and make a good thing out of it. All this clearly shows that something ought to be done. But what?

Let us put aside such profound ponderings and return to the levity the season demands. You have no doubt heard of the vicious system whereby the Library is subject to an annual infusion of new stock—to keep the race pure, etc. Well, we wouldn't complain about this, if it didn't make the selection of a purely librarian type so difficult. The Dictator of Libraria is noted for his breadth of mind but even he isn't sure who should be persecuted when two possible non-librarians like Sweet William McHaggis and Edwards ap Eisteddfod are submitted for examination. Here too something should be done. Who'll do it?

C.A.A.



*Form Notes*

## VIs.

**D**ESPITE the fact that we are all strictly honest in VIs. one Hardy has the temerity to write such lines as these—

“ Tell me the French, and I will lend  
 My History to you,  
 Or leave a note beneath my desk . . .  
 Just questions one and two.  
 I’ll be in dete, if you won’t help,  
 I’ve only done a few;  
 So tell me that first sentence, please,  
 O be a pal, please do!  
 This morning I sent you a note,  
 You threw it back to me,  
 I’m not vindictive, so I’ll let  
 You off, if you agree  
 To tell me all there is to know  
 About that question three!  
 Now number four and then I shall  
 Have done it all! Sez me!”

Scandalous seduction of honest boys! Again, when everyone knows of the emptiness of our spotless detention sheet, Bunting wrongly writes—

“ Where the sheet is, there am I  
 In detention room I lie.  
 There I sit when balls do fly  
 Outside in the yard, so high.  
 They do soar, and now I sigh.  
 Sighing, always shall my thoughts roam  
 Until the master sends me home.”

Vanity, vanity, all is vanity!

Our room, though very sparsely furnished, has a surfeit of one commodity, gym-shoes. These can be found anywhere and everywhere, but we have, or had, a special favourite. This particular one, though tattered and torn, was also old and cunning. It possessed many magic properties including those of walking and flying by its own power. These elegiac stanzas tell of its deeds—

Now prosper long our noble form,  
 And all we therein do;  
 A wonder once did there appear.  
 It was an old gym-shoe.

One day when we were sitting there  
It chose to fly around,  
It had no wing that we could see  
To raise it from the ground,

But it did jump and move around  
All of its own accord,  
Around it flew, quite by itself,  
And loudly struck the board.

Its last journey it then did take,  
(Still of its own accord !)  
Out through the window it did soar,  
And landed on the sward.

A boy went out to find the shoe.  
Its life, alas, was done  
In falling it had struck a spike,  
And all its side was torn.

We gave it to the janitor,  
For it we would cremate.  
Up the flue in smoke it went  
This its doleful fate !

Alas, alas, let us mourn ! This same gym-shoe had, before this remarkable miracle, made another notable fight. This time it struck the clean and shining form-room wall and the clean and shining form-room paint was scarred by a long and dirty scar. This was unfortunately discovered, and we were forced, like malefactors, to scrub the mark away. Having written all this stuff we are going, again like malefactors, to slink away to our studies and leave you till next term.

### Vla.

Dear Sirs,

We have a mixed lot of convicts in the cell next the Warders Room this year, all shapes and sizes. But the most mixed of the mixed is S\*\*\*\*\*, a criminal of the most despicable nature. He is always to be found brooding over some mysterious spell, or brewing potent concoctions with anarchist intentions. Needless to say, other cowardly and unscientific members of the form creep away into dark corners, having no wish to be turned into hogs or salt "in the interests of science." (We'd tell you what this fellow's full name was if we weren't afraid of being turned into blue pencils ! Ed.)

Our "hot-dog" is Renner who has topped the mark sheet quite often just lately. We have few members who play Rugby but those who do are good, definitely good.

We were unfortunate in being on the wrong side of the school to benefit from the pneumatic drills, for we heard from more fortunate comrades, particularly in the Library, that whole lessons, whole lessons mind you, were suspended owing to the din. Why do we face north?

This inconsistency on the part of the architect has also made us suffer from the icy blasts of winter and turned our form-room into a sandless desert. However, we endure in silence and are still,

Yours affectionately,  
VIa.

### VIb.

ALTHOUGH elevated to the same storey as the Library we fear there has not been a corresponding advance in literary talent. We are sorry, but there you are. The spirit was willing, of course, but . . . This being so, sooner than nauseate you with broken-winded limericks or with the pernicious pun, we decided that we could best give you an idea of our type of mind by publishing this delightful effort by Hamilton—

Winter is ycomen in,  
Loudly sing tishoo;  
Bloweth wind and cometh rain  
And giveth all the 'flu.  
Sing tishoo!  
Snow falleth after rain,  
Loudly sing tishoo;  
Home fire burneth,  
For spring man yearneth.  
Merry sing tishoo,  
Tishoo, tishoo.  
Well singest thou tishoo,  
Nor cease to sing tishoo.

### Remove j.

WE should like to be the first to reveal an astonishing fact which has come to light. Mr. H\*\*m\* has a nephew in the school! At least, a boy, in giving in his marks, was heard to say: "Six marks, uncle."—Copyright, R. J.

We also take great pleasure in publishing a fragment of MS. found during recent excavations in the form waste-paper basket—



“ Ruin seize thee, Hore-Belish,  
 Confusion on thy beacons wait,  
 With thy horde of mobile-police  
 Who tour the roads in idle state.  
 Horns, nor sirens’ howling wail,  
 Nor e’en thy virtues, tyrant, shall avail  
 To save thee—”

Here the manuscript breaks off. We can only surmise the reason. Perhaps the author died before he could complete it. Perhaps, on the other hand, he had nothing more to say. We shall never know.

From Remove j, too, comes the explanation of that more or less famous remark: “ Science’s loss is Art’s gain.” (The loss is Heaps)—

Since Mr. Newton’s apple act  
 Physics got complications,  
 And I can’t learn a single fact,  
 Much less do calculations.  
 So last exam I failed to get  
 The half-mark line, or near it—  
 Nor could I do the paper set,  
 Nor wanted to, I fear it.  
 So now I sit and draw old churches,  
 In the room with magic door,  
 While in the Physics lab. Smith searches  
 For  $11r^2$  times twenty-four.

Let us turn to the Sporting News. We have a strong Rugby team, with Lowson and Taylor in the 1st XV., Williams in the 2nd XV., Blackburn, Bawden, Macklin, and Morris in the 3rd XV., and Leyland, Ceha, Edleston and Hutchinson in the Bantams. Taylor, having felt the poetic urge, must needs burst forth into song.

#### RUGGER.

Give to me the game I love,  
 Let the men go by me,  
 Give the wheeling scrum above,  
 And the ball below me.  
 Give to me the scissor-trick,  
 And a knock-on—never !  
 There’s the game for a man like “ Vic,”  
 There’s the game for ever.

Let the blow fall soon or late,  
 Let the scrum be o'er me,  
 Let me intercept a pass  
 And touch down in glory.  
 Wealth I seek not, hope, nor love,  
 Nor a friend to know me,  
 All I seek, the wheeling scrum  
 And the ball below me.

This poem appears to be a graceful compliment to Vic. Bell.

After Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Church-yard" comes the snappier and altogether more classical—

#### ELEGY WRITTEN IN DETENTION.

The school bell tolls the knell of parting day,  
 The shouting hordes stroll slowly t'wards the gate.  
 The masters homeward plod their weary way,  
 And leave the school to me, for I was late.

Now fade my schoolfellows before my eyes,  
 And all the air seems heavy with my grief,  
 But I was very late, and they were wise—  
 They had not had five plates of corned beef.

Save that, agape on yonder varnished sill,  
 The lazy prefect sleeps, and snores in peace,  
 The room is still, the world is deadly still,  
 Until it seems the quiet will never cease.

Beneath that desk, what is it that I see?  
 It shineth dully; I must have a look.  
 By Jingo! it's the mouldy, rusty key,  
 It's fallen from the sleeping prefect's book.

The breezy call of freedom loud I hear;  
 I run towards the door, with key in hand;  
 I open it, and round the corner peer.  
 And think how neatly my escape was planned.

If we consider our efficient and entirely competent band of prefects, and then read Bawden's elegy again, we have to conclude that it is fictitious.

**Remove a.**

**N**O news is good news ; all is very well in Remove a, as we have nothing to report. There is a story about fireworks, which does not seem quite new, but it is not about anyone in the form ; there is another story about people in the form, which is quite new, and there would be fireworks if we printed it. There are several sets of verses, which we would include if they were better ; and there is the following, which we had better include—

Curses on thee, robot ghou,  
 Breaking up our road to school !  
 Shocks our brains to water turning  
 Interrupt the course of learning.  
 Morning school is drowned with clatter.  
 Masters moan, while boys can chatter.  
 In place of navvies making riot,  
 Dinner time brings peace and quiet.  
 The afternoon brings roar and rattle,  
 Like machine guns in a battle.  
 Not till evening can we gain  
 The normal peace of Whetstone Lane.

And that is all.

**Remove Lower.**

**E**VERYONE has heard the pneumatic drill.

Everyone has thought of the drill, and no-one of the power behind the noise. No-one, that is, except Maddocks, and his investigations led to the following results—

**ROAD EXCAVATIONS.**

The foreman sat on a heap of clay,  
 Looking along the line.  
 “ O where will I get a good strong man  
 To drive this drill o’ mine ? ”  
 Then up and spake an elderly man,  
 Stood at the boss’ right knee.  
 “ Old Jimmy O’Keefe is the best man  
 To drive this drill with me.”  
 “ Oh no ! not me,” old Jimmy snarled,  
 “ It’s time you let me chuck it ;  
 Another chap must do it to-day  
 While I make the tea in a bucket.”



"Come on, thou fool," the foreman said,  
 To-day thou must come with me;  
 "Although it's not pleasant, there's still this fun  
 We'll double the racket," grinned he.

And now it is time we mentioned detentions. So we shall,  
 by means of Porter :

Not a sound was heard, not a joyful cry  
 As myself to the "det" room I hurried,  
 Not a scholar discharged a farewell goodbye  
 As, grabbing his books, off he scurried.  
 I hurried in quietly, just after work,  
 My pen with my teeth I was chewing,  
 By the open window, where deep from the murk  
 Came the shout of the schoolboy's booing.  
 But half my weary work was done,  
 When the clock struck the hour for dismissal;  
 I bounded away with a jump and a run,  
 And hurried back home with a whistle.

#### V. Lower.

THIS year we are extremely tough, and know it. Your  
 humble servant interviewed a number of leaders of opinion,  
 and here is what they said—

Hudson: "The lads of our form are a real tough lot."

Hallam: "All the heroes of the B.I. are found in V.  
 Lower."

Then he saw Gurney, that wizard at figures, who shocked  
 him with the statement:

"Detentions are being dished out at an average of ap-  
 proximately six a week, and Wednesdays at about five." If  
 the figures for juvenile crime are any better, it's not this  
 form's fault.

And then work, take work. Consider the case of the fellow  
 whom for kindness' sake we will call Jones:

"What's the formula for water, Jones?"

"H I J K L M N O."

"Eh?"

The scholar slowly repeated the mysterious letters.

"Who on earth gave you that idea?" asked the master.

"You did, sir," replied Jones. "Yesterday you said the  
 formula for water was H<sub>2</sub>O,"

And now we have an outburst by J. Evans, adapted freely from the poet Gray (Interesting problem: would the great man, seeing that last line, have shot Evans, or would he have shaken him by the hand saying: "Congrats, old man. Rotten rime scheme, isn't it?" Who knows?) Here it is—

The buzzer hoots the knell of parting day;  
The omnibus winds slowly from the sea,  
As C\*rv\*r homeward plods his dreary way,  
And thinks of nothing but detentions three.

Long since ere this the light has run full low,  
O why should C\*rv\*r come the last from school?  
What is the reason for his exit slow?  
Is he a fool at school, or are they crool?

### Vj.

THE main impression given by Vj. is one of toughness. In fact, the only time when this amazing toughness is absent is during French lessons. Then it is "Les Misérables."

Matters were not improved when V. Lower, who are equally tough, were amalgamated with Vj., as a result of the unfortunate illness of Mr. Hall. This unhappy arrangement immediately led to serious riots and risings, which only subsided after several rioters had taken the straight and narrow way to the Head's study. However, both factions, still undaunted, assert that they mean to continue the fight for their rights. (Whatever they may be).

It is perhaps only poetic justice that the nightly detention should be held in Vj. since Vj. contributes so considerably to the number of the detained. Consequently, Vj. can give some first-hand impressions of detention. First there is Davies's effort—

The boy sat in the det. room,  
His thoughts were far away;  
He wondered how he got there,  
And what his Pa would say.

Equally harrowing is the next:

In warlike splendour the Master sits,  
Prepared to stain the clean white sheet  
With blue-black ink, and bad boys' names,  
With fulls, and halves, with tots and French.

That night when other boys go home,  
The sinner plods to Vj. room,  
And there he swots for one full hour,  
Until the prefect sends him home.

The great advantage of this last is that it makes no pretence to rhyme.

In case you want to look us up, we are to be found in Vj. room four nights a week from 4-30 p.m. to 5-30 p.m.

#### IVa.

**WE** have made a flying start this year with several aeronautical experiments and pitched battles. Do you remember the time when one end of the playground was covered by a struggling mass, punching, rolling, gouging? That was IVa. So we have most certainly made our mark. If you wait for the details of this Armageddon, H.P. will state our case against the aggressor—

Over a muddy drainage grid  
The IVa. corner stands;  
IVa. a mighty crowd and wild  
Has large, extensive lands.  
Its banner is a rusty bar,  
Defence, a sandstone wall,  
And thirty lads with hearts of oak  
Who're at their leader's call.  
One day, upon the road behind,  
Some rival gangs did cluster.  
The IVa. chieftain loudly cried,  
"Our armies we will muster."  
Their corner stormed, IVa. at bay,  
Defended with a will,  
Until the foe fell back and left.  
Them master of it still.

Now we'll have a trifle on punctures by Shipley. Do you, dear reader, know what to do about punctures? Well, read this and find out—

#### THE PUNCTURE.

The boy stood in the lonely lane,  
And not a soul in sight,  
As he looked down at his flat tyre,  
And silently cursed that nail in the mire  
Which had placed him in this plight.



And silently he set to work  
To mend the open piece.  
But in himself he knew that he  
Would never mend it properly,  
But still he would not cease.

After a time he gave it up,  
And, turning round his bike,  
Began to trudge his homeward way,  
Humming the latest dance tune gay,  
Vowed that next time he'd hike.

And finally, a rather sordid little affair from the plausible pen of Grice. With the situation described, at once delicate and critical, I am sure all of you can sympathise—

“ Oh why so late, my inky son ?  
I feel I must make mention  
This is the second time this week ;  
Have you been in detention ? ”

“ Yes, mother, I have been in det.  
Now please don't look so cross,  
For I was only trying to catch  
An inkwell thrown across. ”

“ O mother, how was I to know  
A prefect stood so near ?  
He came and grabbed me by the neck.  
The rest you know, I fear. ”

#### IVb.

“ **H**ERE we are again,  
Happy as can be.  
No more of the Cubby Hole  
For us—the new IVb. ”

As this fragment of a student's song will indicate, there is great rejoicing in the form over our final emergence from the Cubby Hole. Two old IIIb.-ites have been left behind in that dismal tomb—it should be evident who they are from the astounding decrease in the number of detentions received in the form.

To turn to a happier subject, we have another poetic effort of merit, this time by Vincent—

## CHRISTMAS.

Christmas once again draws near,  
With its carols and good cheer,  
With its cakes and tea and buns;  
We're all glad when Christmas comes.

When the snow begins to fall,  
Round the fire we gather, all,  
And to pass the time away,  
Jokes we crack, and games we play.

When parties gay are in full swing,  
And people laugh and dance and sing,  
Then Christmas bells peal out their lays,  
For Christmas is the day of days.

And when Christmas time is past,  
Cramm'd with joy until the last,  
We'll read again this song of praise,  
And thank our stars for holidays!

While our thoughts still revolve on a wintry theme, pray  
silence for Docherty—

## THAT MONDAY MORNING FEELING.

When det. sheets hang upon the wall,  
And masters and pupils blow their hands,  
And Keith bears books from out of hall,  
And ink is frozen in the pans,  
When ear is nipped and nose is red,  
Then each thinks of his own warm bed.

O—O—Oh.

O—O—Oh, a woeful note,  
While masters still keep talking rot.

When all around the wind doth blow,  
And sneezing drowns the master's call,  
And what you ought, you do not know,  
And then he starts to shout and bawl,  
When pencils break and pens do scratch  
Then lines do come which cannot match.

O—O—Oh.

O—O—Oh, a woeful note,  
While masters still keep talking rot.

## IVj.

WE begin our form notes (says Thompson) in rather discouraging fashion, having lost absolutely every game we have played. Next we must record the fact that during an Algebra lesson we had the charming experience of seeing Dorrity faint on our hands. Surely the reason is not far to seek? Thompson (that's me) has been rebuked for rowdiness, but replies that he only asks questions loudly, and as he is curious there are a good number of 'em. It must be mentioned in conclusion that we have broken an alarming number of test-tubes in the lab. Thompson and Tarpey broke six, Taylor and Townley seven. Is this a record?

But life here is by no means a bed of roses, roses everywhere. Certainly not. And fearing lest you might think so, we commissioned Pritchard to turn in a ghastly catalogue of woe. This is it—

## LIFE AT THE INSTITUTE.

There's a little ply-wood det.-sheet  
On the nail behind the board,  
And it bears a fateful summons  
For a sinner who is floored;  
He'll have to slave away at tots  
Instead of meeting Maud.  
There's a grim, determined master,  
Who in pride sits on his chair,  
Keeps pausing in his Theorems  
To give impots here and there.  
Someone gets a hundred lines  
For saying "That's not fair."  
There's a ghastly smelling chemi-lab,  
Upstairs above the hall;  
There are funny looking solids  
And we have to mix them all,  
And though we burn our fingers,  
We must *not* let beakers fall.

Let us turn to the high jinks which have been taking place in the playground between Germans and Latins as described by Roberts—

## THE PLAYGROUND WAR.

The Germans and Latins indulge in a fight,  
But none will surrender to-day.  
They scramble and scuffle with tireless might,  
And many are ragged in the fray,



The battle has been raging long,  
 It's likely to continue;  
 And when a scrapper comes along  
 The fear of death is in you.

When Janny comes to ring the bell,  
 The fighting finds a finish—  
 And when the class is counted, well,  
 There is a slight diminish.

Good word—'diminish.'

### IIIa.

YOU are listening to IIIa., full of pep, beans, etc. To show what we can throw at each other, here is an effort by one of us, Seed, about another—

There sits a young lad by the door,  
 Whose nose is three inches or more,  
     When he blows it, the thunder  
     Causes terror and wonder,  
 And the dust rises up from the floor.

There has been a good deal of trouble among us concerning the great ease with which notes and other pieces of literature are produced by—various people. And so Rands has written a manifesto or advertisement for such people—

A. T. HOME.

Local Agent for Misschool and Dodgit,  
 Schoolboys' Note Co., Ltd.,  
 Apply to our offices at Chester or Walton.  
 Notes forged by an expert hand!  
 Homework done in faultless writing!  
 Really new excuses!  
 Our terms are most reasonable and plausible.

We follow up that with a rather peculiar poem from Sparrow, who starts off down to the sea again, and finishes up in Limerick—

I must go out on my bike again,  
 To the lonely road or the track,  
 And all I ask are dropped handle-bars  
 And a pack upon my back.

And if I come back with much pain,  
 You'll know it's not me that's to blame;  
 For a road hog's a cad,  
 Habitually sad  
 When called on to answer for same.

And one by Huntriss—

There once was a boy in IIIa,  
 Who rugby attempted to play—  
     His jersey a wreck,  
     And a kick in the neck.  
 Were all he could show his first day.

### IIIb.

WE have, for our first year at this school, to live in the Cubby Hole. Nobody has any marked aversion to it except Couch who says—

Our form-room is a dreary place  
 Where many weary hours are spent  
 And many problems we've to face  
 With studious faces downwards bent.  
 Still, really we enjoy it all,  
 Though troubles come and go.  
 We smile and make the best of it,  
 And happy homeward go!

That's a good sign, anyway.

We all play rugger with tremendous vigour, but one Tuesday afternoon, Campbell, in his youthful enthusiasm picked up the ball and ran into the wrong goal—our own.

The poet Couch (see above), was discovered to possess unknown musical talent. He entertained us one afternoon in the chemistry lab. by playing " God Save the King " on test tubes.

Another period found Ceha attempting to play the gentleman of leisure. He was seen by Mr. ——— with his feet on the desk, and a ginger-beer bottle opener for monocle, reading a book. He thought his last hour had come!

Talking about people who put their feet up and dream, here is a fellow writing of " Winter Evenings "—

Around the fire I like to sit  
 On a cold and frosty eve.  
 I like to read of planes and speed,  
 And visions splendid weave.  
 I often look at wonder-books  
 That tell of different places;  
 Of stones and life and animals  
 And people of all races.

Our brainy lad is Proudman. I hope he won't be too flattered by what this bard says—

Proudman keeps the homework book :  
 He keeps it neat and tidy.  
 It never shows a blot or smudge  
 When he gives it in on Friday.  
 Proudman has an ancient bike ;  
 The three-speed's not so dusty.  
 But he nearly always has to hike,  
 The old thing is so rusty.  
 He likes a game of rigger, too.  
 But he likes soccer better.  
 He is the dashing inside-right,  
 The wonderful goal-getter.

### IIIj.

**T**HIS is just to let you know that we are still in the land of the living. And are we a poetic crowd ? Just get an earful of this from Roberts—

#### PNEUMATIC DRILLS.

A schoolboy has his trials sore,  
 And varied are his ills ;  
 But there's no ill so hard to bear,  
 As those pneumatic drills.

And how can we, just timid boys,  
 Be heard above the din ?  
 (Though should our answers be correct  
 That were an awful sin).

The day will come when they will cease  
 To make that frightful noise.  
 But then all answers may be wrong ;  
 Life's just too hard for boys.



# ANY BOOK

—text books or leisure books—wherever  
advertised or reviewed can be supplied by

**W. H. SMITH & SON**

*Express Book Service for books not in stock*

**FOUNTAIN PEN REPAIR SERVICE.** Any  
make of fountain pen can be repaired and returned  
to the bookshop, usually within 48 hours.

*Christmas Cards and Gifts.*

**W. H. SMITH & SON**

**233-235 GRANGE ROAD, B'HEAD.**

TELEPHONE No. 1618.

Head Office : Strand House, London, W.C.2.

---

## **Economic Electric Co.,**

*Electrical Contractors.*

**64 Dale St.. L'POOL.      Oxton Rd., B'HEAD.**



**NEON SIGN  
SPECIALISTS**



**CONTRACTORS TO:—**

**H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS,**

**POST OFFICE,**

**WAR OFFICE,**

**PRINCIPAL CORPORATIONS AND**

**INSURANCE COMPANIES.**

---

**Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."**

## INDOOR GAMES for the WINTER!

CORINTHIAN BAGATELLE 10/-, 12/6, 15/- and 21/-.

OTHER MAKES, Full-Size 3/11, 4/11 and 5/6.

BILLIARD TABLES 4-ft. x. 2-ft. 15/6, with Cue and Balls.

ELECTRIC SPEEDWAYS 5/6, 10/- and 12/6.

DART BOARDS AND RING BOARDS from 6d. each.

"SHOOT," the great Football game 1/-, 2/6 and 7/6.

"LEXICON," "CAN-U-GO," "SUM-IT," "BOB'S-Y'R-UNCLE," and  
all the latest card games.

CHESS, DRAUGHTS, DOMINOES.

TABLE TENNIS SETS @ 6d., 1/-, 2/-, 3/6 and 5/6.

BATS, BALLS, TABLES AND ALL ACCESSORIES.

also

BADMINTON . GOLF . FOOTBALL . AND . HOCKEY.

### DIXIE DEAN, *Sports Outfitter,*

140 Grange Road,

Birkenhead.

'Phone 361.

---

### F. J. DAVIS,

SUPPLIERS OF  
BOOKS, STATIONERY and  
ART MATERIALS.



FOR  
CALENDARS, CHRISTMAS CARDS,  
and NOVELTIES, ALL LEAD-  
ING MAKES OF FOUN-  
TAIN PENS.

14 Grange Road West,  
Birkenhead.



Est. over 70 Years.

Tel. : 1698.

TEL: B'HEAD 3367.

### A. JONES,

Fish & Poultry  
Dealer,

ORDERS PROMPTLY  
ATTENDED TO.

44 Church Road,  
Tranmere.

---

Please patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."

# YOUR BOY

## CAN'T DO HIS BEST

At WORK or PLAY, unless he is WELL-FED.

THIS does not mean that he should be over-fed, but rather that his food should be of the highest nutritive value.

THE Groceries and Provisions which we sell are bought and handled by experts, who place Quality first.

WE are sure that a trial will convince you of this, so write, 'phone or call at—

NIXON,  
THE GROCER,  
50 MARKET STREET,  
BIRKENHEAD.

Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."



For  
*Better Service*

Try  
‘THE EDINBURGH.’

TELEPHONE — — 1097.

THE  
EDINBURGH LAUNDRY,

BOROUGH RD.,  
BIRKENHEAD.

Experts in Dry Cleaning.

---

Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the “VISOR.”

Not to be outdone on this subject, Holford pens the following—

The pneumatic drill  
With noise and din  
Makes classwork hard  
To do within !  
Although the work  
Is Borough's gain—  
I wish it weren't  
In Whetstone Lane !

At the end of our first term in the school we are in a position to state that we think a great deal of the prefects, or do we ? It Simms that we Kinnear bells Alldis winter but we may not bray about—oh ! come off it.



### *Junior School Notes*

WHEN rain drips from the leafless trees in the garden, and November gloom darkens our classrooms, it is difficult to recall our activities of the summer term ; but the chief event in the Junior School since the last issue of *The Visor* was an " open " afternoon when parents were invited to tea and " entertainment " in the garden. The sword dance and the two little plays presented were much enjoyed, and we were able to collect a satisfactory sum towards camp expenses. In August the Cubs joined the Scouts at Charmouth, in Dorset, and their camp received an excellent report from the District Commissioner.

As usual at this time of year, we are much occupied in rehearsing for the play which is to be presented at the prize-giving on December 9th. We are " reviving," by special request, *The Wind in the Willows*, the original players now being stalwart fifth-formers.

It was pleasant to find, when we returned after the holidays, that our dingy green walls had been repainted in yellow. The approaching examinations should reveal whether this more cheerful environment has had a stimulating effect on the brains of the young !

H.M.D.

### *Badminton Club*

**T**HIS term, we have about a dozen new members, so that, as might be expected, the standard of play is not quite what it has been in past years. However, we must look on the bright side, and console ourselves with the thought that all the new members are shaping quite well, which promises well for next term.

Incidentally, we might mention that subscriptions are coming in very slowly, and that further signs of activity in this direction would be welcomed by our Treasurer, Mr. A. R. Thacker.

G.A.W.



### *Chess Club*

**W**E have had to abandon the idea of competing in the Cheshire Junior Championship owing to the inconvenience of travelling to Warrington to play in the tournament. The club numbers nearly fifty, but attendances have not been good, owing, doubtless, to the rival attractions of the Debating and Scientific Societies. It is essential that our playing strength should remain constant, in order to replace the annual losses. Though the team has lost four out of seven players, results show that their places have been well filled.

The present team is: Leighton (captain), Davis, A. L., Sarginson, Mercer, Lowson, G., Moore, Blackburn, the reserve being Bunting.

Playing against Holt School, we won by 5 points to 2, Leighton's game being in dispute, but finally settled in his favour. Next there was a decisive win over Birkenhead School by 6 points to 1. They are newcomers to the Wright Challenge Shield and we wish them luck. The last match of the term was gained by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  points to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , Leighton drawing on analysis of the position at close of play. Moore and Blackburn have won all their games and are to be congratulated on such consistency.

A.L.D.



### *League of Nations Union*

**U**P to the time of writing, this term has been successful. We have held two meetings, the first being devoted to business. At the second two, papers were read, one on Italy, the other on Abyssinia. We have changed our meeting place from the



form room of Remove j to the homelier atmosphere of the dining room. Attendance at our meetings is steadily increasing, and if this rise continues, we shall soon have the number of members requisite to become a recognised branch. We invite any boy interested in the work of the League of Nations to join us.

H.H.



### *The Sixth Form Literary and Debating Society*

THE Society has again proved itself a success. It has been well supported by a faithful band from the Library, but the Sixth Forms have not shown themselves so enthusiastic as usual. In spite of this fact, we have had an average attendance of twenty members.

Our five meetings this term have created keen interest and led to lively discussions in which all members have taken part. The first meeting was a debate. Mercer proposed "That Great Britain should not declare war on Italy under the Covenant of the League of Nations." Woolman led the opposition, and, after an interesting discussion, succeeded in defeating the motion.

Our second debate was on the question of Blood Sports. Nava proposed that they ought to be discontinued. Mayo opposed. Many arguments (and some very ingenious ones) were brought forward on both sides, but the House, moved with righteous indignation, voted almost unanimously in favour of the motion.

On October 24th, we were fortunate enough to have a paper by Mr. Towers on Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. This was heartily appreciated by all who heard it.

Our next meeting was held on the eve of the General Election. Mercer proposed "That the National Government does not deserve a further lease of office." This was opposed by Yates and gave rise to a warm discussion. The motion was lost by a substantial majority.

A lecture by Mr. Allison occupied our last meeting. His subject was "The Development of Birkenhead." The lecture was illustrated with a set of admirable slides, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience. We are looking forward to the second section of the lecture next term.

T.H.

### *Scientific Society*

THIS term there has been no necessity to call on the Staff to give lectures, since many boys have willingly volunteered. On Tuesday, October 15th, with Mr. D. J. Williams in the chair, G. L. Evans gave a lecture on "Scientists of Classical Times." His paper was divided into four parts—Astronomy, Geography, Medicine, and the Natural Sciences, and he went into detail over each section. On Tuesday, October 29th, Fannon and A. L. Davis gave a lecture on "Some Curiosities of Sound," illustrated by many interesting experiments, and dealing with the production and propagation of sound. Bray and Stott gave a lecture on "Surface Tension" on Tuesday, November 19th. This, too, was very well illustrated by experiments. Further lectures have been promised by Mr. Jeffery, who is a new member of the Staff, and by Cook, a newcomer to the Society. R.E.M.



### *Scout Notes*

THIS year, on the advice of the popular song, we "followed the sun to the sea" (and the south) for the summer camp. On the long night journey, one of the ladies (easy guess! there were only three) whiled away the dreary hours by ricocheting from side to side of the compartment, either in her anxiety not to turn her back to the engine driver, or in her endeavours to salute the new moon with full oriental ceremony. At last we reached the land of cream and cider and our camp site at Wootton Fitzpaine, near Charmouth, on the Dorset coast. The Scouts numbered about 25 and were divided into three patrols. Mr. Thacker, assisted by three A.S.M's, was in charge. The weather was perfect, and the heat made the daily bathing parade a never failing attraction. The nights were rather cold, however, and the surprise night game brought many a lament from the sleepy Scouts already wrapped up in warm blankets. Perhaps the greatest contribution to the success of the camp was the presence of Mr. Thacker, ever cheerful (even before breakfast) who, anxious to ensure that everyone had a good time, joined in all the camp activities. The greatest tribute to his personality and powers of organisation is to be found in the excellent report made by the visiting Commissioner.

But summer did not end with summer camp. On our return, two parties explored the lesser delights of more familiar ground; one, on bicycles, arrived at Beeston Castle

to find it closed (this trip was further complicated by an obstinate puncture), and a second tramped the Wirral footpaths to Parkgate. However, tiring of this limited range, three patrol leaders and Mr. Magee set off for the second time this year, to re-visit our old camp site at Ross-on-Wye. Here they lived in luxury in an old cottage constructed from the ruins of Penyard Castle. In spite of the eerie howls of the wind, the flickering of the candle and the legend of a ghostly coach, they spent some wonderful evenings round a bright wood fire listening to endless anecdotes of farming and farm life. The weather was fairly good, which was fortunate, as the roofing was rather decrepit. With great regret and a promise to return at Easter, they left this wooded hill-top which had become a second home.

This term started well with fourteen recruits, bringing the number in the troop up to fifty-five. Attendance at meetings has been very encouraging, and we are hoping for a record Scout year. We are busy rehearsing three one-act plays, which will have been presented by the time this is read, when we hope also to have enjoyed our Group tea and social on December 6th. Our carol party is busy practising at the moment for its annual assault on the houses of parents and friends.

We must congratulate the Rover Crew on becoming the holders this year of the Campers' Shield, awarded to the team sending in the best log of a weekend hike.

We welcome Mr. Jeffery as our new Scoutmaster, and hope that he will enjoy his work with us. A.S.M.



### *Table Tennis Club*

THIS club still flourishes. Meetings are held every Friday evening in IIIj. class-room. So far this term three matches have been played, two having been won and one lost. On October 16th against Christ Church Young Men's Club, we won 13—12, when J. F. R. Evans won five games, R. May and K. Coughtrie three games each and L. Goodwin and K. Evans one game each. The Birkenhead (West) Junior Conservatives defeated us on October 28th, by seven games to three. Our games were won by J. F. R. Evans, R. May and L. Goodwin. On November 23rd, we visited Hamilton Memorial Church when we won by eight games to four. R.E.M.



### *Rugby Football.*

THE season opened with ten of last year's 1st XV. back at school, and, although this number was later reduced to seven, a fairly strong side has been built up. Regular practice is producing a steady improvement in the standard of play, and we are now able to field three senior sides and a Bantam XV.

In the first match Calday 2nd XV. were easily defeated by 18 points to nil. The win was due largely to the hustling tactics of the forwards, who were much quicker than the heavier Calday pack.

On October 12, the School 2nd XV. beat a Bidston team by 18 points to 8, a score which could have been improved upon with better goal-kicking.

October 16th was an unfortunate day for the school. All four teams were beaten. It reflects great credit on the Bantams that they kept the score down to 17—0. The 1st XV. lost by 58 points to 5. In fairness, it should be stated that the Oldershaw 1st team is exceptionally strong. The captain, we understand, has actually played in the 1st XV. for six years. It was particularly unfortunate that, playing such a team, we should, through a misunderstanding, turn out a man short. The one bright spot of the match from our point of view was the clever cut-through by Winter which resulted in a goal.

The match opened our eyes to the possibilities of school-boy Rugby. It should serve as a strong stimulus, especially when we learn how assiduously the Oldershaw players practise. (They turn out once a week with a stop watch instead of a ball). But they have one great advantage over us. Their ground is by the school.

On October 19th, the 1st XV. met a strong team from Bidston, and lost by 14 points to 3, mainly because the Bidston players made good use of the wind when they had it in their favour. Most of their score was due to a Bidston 1st team man.

The School fought another losing game against Oulton on October 23rd. This defeat was entirely due to poor forward play. Our tackling was very weak, and, on three distinct occasions, tries were scored by unmarked Oulton forwards catching the ball in the line out and diving over. Our 2nd XV. also lost their game, but we have to praise the Bantams for winning by 23 points to 4.

November 6th brought a victory against the Conway 2nd XV., the score being 13—0. The game was particularly strenuous, and great credit was due to our forwards.

The improvement in our 1st XV. was maintained in the game against Wirral County on November 13th. We were very unlucky to lose by 10 points to 8. Our 2nd and 3rd teams also lost, but the Bantams again came to the rescue with a victory by 17 points to 13.

On November 20th, the 2nd XV. won against Conway 3rds by 9 points to 3.

Next year, we shall not be able to plead that we are mere beginners. In two or three years, however, if we are to judge by the progress of our present Bantams, we should have a very strong team.

## RESULTS.

1st XV.		For.	Against.
Sept. 21—Calday Grammar School (2nd)	.....	18	0
Oct. 16—Oldershaw	.....	5	58
19—Bidston	.....	3	14
23—Oulton	.....	0	22
Nov. 6—School Ship Conway (2nd)	.....	13	0
13—Wirral County	.....	8	10
30—St. Mary's College	.....	8	0
Dec. 4—Rock Ferry High School	.....		
11—Liverpool Collegiate	.....		
18—Park High School	.....		

2nd XV.		For.	Against.
Oct. 12—Bidston	.....	18	8
16—Oldershaw	.....	3	24
23—Oulton	.....	12	13
Nov. 13—Wirral County	.....	0	19
20—School Ship Conway (3rd)	.....	9	3
30—St. Mary's College	.....	5	5
Dec. 4—Rock Ferry	.....		
11—Liverpool Collegiate	.....		
18—Park High School	.....		

3rd XV.		For.	Against.
Oct. 16—Oldershaw	.....	3	23
Nov. 13—Wirral County	.....	0	21

BANTAMS.		For.	Against.
Oct. 16—Oldershaw	.....	0	17
23—Oulton	.....	23	6
Nov. 13—Wirral County	.....	17	13
30—St. Mary's College	.....	8	20
Dec. 4—Rock Ferry	.....		
11—Liverpool Collegiate	.....		
18—Park High School	.....		

## OLD BOYS' SECTION

### *A Word from Mr. Watts*

(At a meeting of over a hundred old boys arranged by the chairman of the B.I.O.B.A.F.C., Mr. Watts was presented, on their behalf, with a handsome wireless set and a cheque, by Mr. S. Scholefield Allen, barrister-at-law, himself an old boy of the Institute).

**H**AVE you ever witnessed the emergence of a dragon fly from its nymphal state? What a miracle of transformation? Yet in my opinion it is not more wonderful than the evolution of an Old Boy from the formless immaturity of his school days. When I saw that company of "dragon flies" in front of me on November 9th, at the Woodside Hotel, and listened to their speeches, and silently puzzled over their conversations, I found it hard to believe that out of the unpromising material upon which I and my hardworking colleagues had blunted our wits and sharpened our tempers, it had been possible to fabricate such finished and polished articles. Though I took great pains to conceal it, I could not help feeling a glow of pride over the product of our unremitting labours.

The old boys (bless them!) are the only justification for our existence as a school. For what is the main object of a school like ours? To turn out old boys, and those of the best possible quality. A school is judged by the character of its old boys, and if a school knows its business at all it will cherish and value its old boys as its most vitally important asset.

Like wines and ruins and other things, old boys increase in value as they increase in age. Though the Birkenhead Institute can hardly be described as old, yet we are collecting a very respectable cellar of crusted old port, and we have every reason to be proud of it.

So I would ask all Old Boys of the school who condescend to read this to do all they can to encourage and support the efforts that are being put forward to infuse new life into the Old Boys' Association, and to establish its goings.

We have some wonderful material, and any amount of available energy. What we want now is an efficient machine to absorb that energy instead of letting it run to waste.

Come then to the "Hot Pot" at the School on December 14th, and hear what is going to be done. *It will surprise you.*

Yours sincerely,  
W. H. WATTS.



## Notes and News

**D**OES this term mark the end of the B.I.O.B. depression? The Old Boys' Society is being re-fitted, a Rugger Club has been formed, and the Soccer Club is expecting a better season than it has had for some years.

\* \* \* \*

*The Visor* would like to get in on the ground floor of this recovery movement, not to draw unearned dividends, but as an active partner. For the last four years we have printed reports of O.B's. activities, and other interesting matter when we could get it. During that time more than 300 boys must have left the School. We wish our circulation had increased by half that number.

\* \* \* \*

*The Visor* can be a valuable link between O.B's. in all parts of the world, the various clubs and societies, and the School. It can contain something to interest every O.B. between 18 and 80.

\* \* \* \*

It can do none of these things without

- (a) your literary contributions (if you are bent that way) ;
- (b) a supply of news, gossip or chit-chat about O.B's. here, there, and in America ;
- (c) your criticisms, suggestions and views on how to run soccer, rugger, dramatic, or goose clubs (as well as school magazines) ;
- (d) your subscriptions.

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations to H. A. Wilmot, chairman of the O.B's. A.F.C., on his recent appointment to the managership of the Helsby Branch of Martin's Bank.

\* \* \* \*

And to G. E. Brame (1921-25), who has left Messrs. Lever Bros., to take a post as chemist to the British South Africa Co., near Salisbury, Rhodesia.

\* \* \* \*

J. Arthur who has for some time played for Birkenhead Park, has been picked for the Cheshire County XV.

J. E. Quaile left Liverpool University last term to join the R.A.F. He is stationed at Uxbridge, Middlesex.

\* \* \* \*

*Marriage*—August, 1935. R. F. Taylor (1917-21).

*Birth*—To the wife of E. Reid (1915-19), a son.

\* \* \* \*

Before these lines are read, everyone will have heard of the Hot-Pot to be held at the School on December 14th, to which all O.Bs. are invited. It will be preceded at 7-15 p.m. by a business meeting, the main business of which will be to set the Old Boys' Association on a sound basis and start it working.

\* \* \* \*

It is important that every O.B. should know of this function, and we ask anyone who knows an O.B. who has not received notice of it, to advise him to communicate at once with the Hon. Secretary (pro tem.) : Noel Lewis, 26 North John Street, Liverpool. Tel. : Bank 3976.

\* \* \* \*

What is officially described as a 'meal,' and conversationally as a Hot-Pot (from the *very* Low Latin *Hotus Potus*, corrupted from two words of obscure origin, *hocus*, a focus, and *pocus*, a pocus), what, we repeat, is thus described, will follow the meeting; and it is this which makes it necessary to inform the secretary of one's intention to be present, since the accommodation at the School is limited.

\* \* \* \*

Table d'hôte-pôte—2s. 6d.

\* \* \* \*

The proposal to hold this inaugural, or should we say revival meeting, was made at a similar meeting, or hokey-pokey, held at the Woodside Hotel on November 9th, for another purpose altogether, namely to make a presentation to Mr. Watts. This excellent object was achieved, not without oration, reported in the local press, and not to be repeated here.

It was then felt that it would be a great waste, having collected such a holus-bolus (cf. hocus-pocus) of O.Bs., to let them go without doing something collective, or forming something corporate. The idea was no sooner put into words than it caught the imagination of all present and, to be brief, was adopted.

\* \* \* \*

The hour, however, had by this time been wearing on, and the election of officers and taking of minutes appeared to most of those present but dreary tasks in an atmosphere so festive. The chairman, Mr. Wilmot, to whose energy and organising ability the success of the function and, indeed, its existence were due, then made the brilliant suggestion of a second Hot-Pot, hotter than before.

\* \* \* \*

So that was decided upon. And a wise man arranged that this time the business meeting should be held first. Candidates for vice-presidencies and more arduous offices should present themselves together with intending and existing and back-sliding members not later than 7-15.



### *Old Boys' A.F.C.*

**T**HE Old Boys' Football Club is in quite a sound position. Playing membership is as strong as last year, many of last year's School elevens have joined us, and the talent at our disposal is the best we have had for some time. The record for the club, involving five teams, is much more satisfactory than during the corresponding period of last season, but despite this fact there is room for improvement in the results of the lower teams, the second and fourth in particular. The opening two or three weeks of the season were a rather difficult period, since holidays prevented the fielding of regular teams, and further the programme included several night matches.

The first eleven opened in a shaky manner, but as soon as the fielding of a regular team was possible a marked change was noticeable, and their results to date show the best opening they have ever made. The side is a young one and given freedom from injuries, there seems no reason why the present should not be the most successful season in their history. Their progress is as follows :



Played 10, Won 6, Lost 2, Drawn 2, Goals for 45, Against 22. Eight of these are league matches, of which five have been won and two drawn. The remaining victory was over Old Oultonians in the first round of the Old Boys' Senior Shield. J. D. B. Thornton, the first team centre-forward, has scored in every game in which he has played, his total to date being twenty-five.

The record of the second eleven shows a slight improvement on that of the corresponding period of last year, but it is far from satisfactory. The I Zingari Combination consists chiefly of the reserve sides of I Zingari Division 1 clubs. The playing ability in this league is but little inferior to the I Zingari League, Division 2. Hence, our reserve side, to be outstanding in its league, must be almost as strong as the first eleven. This is far from being the case, so that it is not to be expected that we should meet with any marked success in the I Zingari Combination. They have however, the best part of their fixtures to fulfil, and we hope that their record will improve.

The third eleven has not yet completed many of its league fixtures, but a better start has been made than has been their lot for some years. Since taking over the fixtures of the second team in this league, the third eleven have found the opposition too strong for them. The side is a young one, but they are playing together very well, and as far as playing ability is concerned the side is greatly improved. To judge from their display so far, it does not seem over optimistic to expect a more successful season from them.

The success of the fourth team is no improvement on last season, but they are playing much better football. Although their results are not all that could be desired, they have one or two good victories to their credit, and there is no reason why they should not be more successful in the near future. The fifth team had a very bad season last year, but they have already shown an improvement. As yet only one-third of their fixtures is completed, but the number of victories registered ensures them a much better season than last year.

Following on the introduction of rugger into the School, the formation of an Old Boys' Rugby Football Club is very opportune, and we wish the new Club every success.

G.F.L.

## Old Boys' R.U.F.C.

THE Birkenhead Institute Old Boys' Rugby Club is now in existence. An inaugural meeting was held on Monday, 18th November, 1935, when a committee was elected to explore the ground and report to a further General Meeting, which will have been called by the time this appears in print. The names of those elected are—

Chairman : Mr. A. O. Jones.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. K. J. Rice.

Secretary : Mr. P. Burrell.

Treasurer : Mr. W. A. Brecknell.

Fixture Secretary : Mr. E. Todd.

Committee : Messrs. G. G. Wilson, H. T. Davies, and D. Rigby, together with one member of the school, yet to be elected.

In order to build up a strong team for next year, we intend playing a School team on as many Saturdays as possible between now and the end of the season, and good fixtures for two teams are being arranged for 1936-37. Optimism may be my strong suit, but I say with all confidence that we shall be a live force in District Rugby in less than five years' time. *But all this depends on the School.* From the School alone can we hope for that regular influx of members each season, which the club must have, in order that it may rank among the leading clubs of the district.

Our immediate needs are many, but two stand out above all the rest, enthusiasm and adequate financial support. If my estimate of the Institute is correct, there need be no fear with regard to the former; and knowing the generous reputation of many old friends of the School, there is no doubt that the Club will soon be on its feet financially.

Finally, may I once again stress the all-important point, that it is to the School that we are looking for the enthusiastic support so necessary to any club in its infancy.

P.B.

INVITATION from ...

# Plaza Sports Co.

---

Dear Everybody,

As you will shortly be making arrangements for the purchase of Christmas presents of various sorts, we should like to suggest that before making any arrangements you call and look through a few of the articles we have on view. Whatever may be said to the contrary, there can be no doubt that the most welcome presents are those that come from the SPORTS SHOP.

You will be very welcome to call even if you have no idea of making a purchase.

Yours faithfully,

PLAZA SPORTS CO.

T. Malcolm, proprietor.

PLAZA SPORTS CO.,

BOROUGH ROAD

(adjoining Plaza Cinema).

---

Telephone : 21 ROCK FERRY.

**E. A. MURRAY & SONS, Ltd.,**

**Printers and Stationers,**

---

**437 NEW CHESTER ROAD,**

**ROCK FERRY.**

**39 THE VILLAGE, BEBINGTON.**

---

Please Patronise our Advertisers and mention the "VISOR."