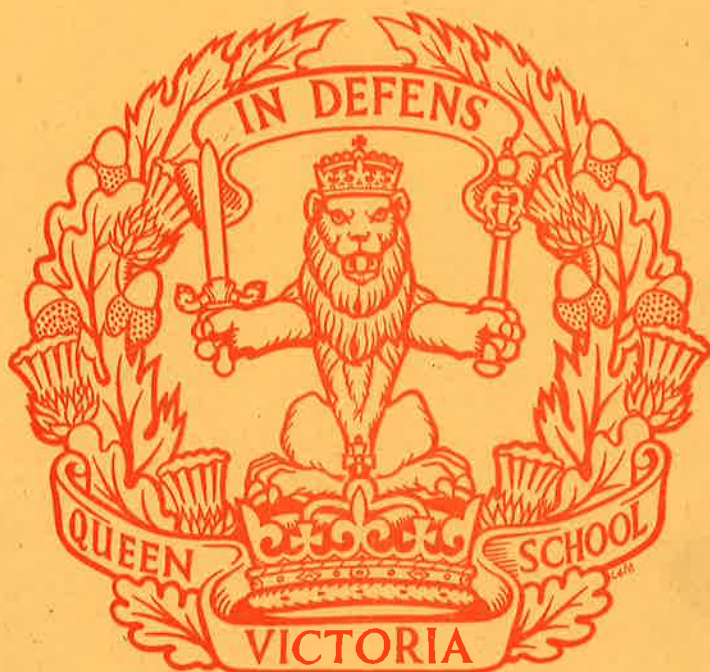


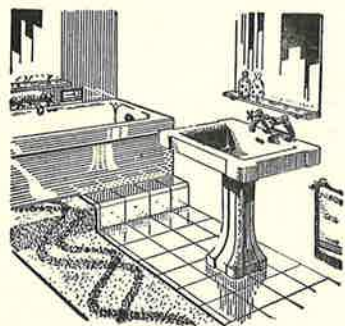
NUMBER 49

DECEMBER, 1952



THE VICTORIAN

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Queen Victoria School,
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STIRLING

Editorial

THE Queen Victoria School has, in recent years, had more than its share of changes of staff. The tempo has slowed in the last year, but we still have our changes to record.

Of Her Majesty's Commissioners, we regret to announce the retirement of Lieut.-Colonel W. J. Stirling, of Keir, owing to his many other commitments. His successor has not, as yet, been appointed.

A most important change has been that of Headmaster. Major D. G. Washtell, M.A. (Cantab.), R.A.E.C., Headmaster 1948-52, has now left the School for a post at the War Office. We wish Major and Mrs Washtell and their family every success in the years to come.

In Major Washtell's place, we welcome Major E. K. Morrison, M.A. (Aberdeen), R.A.E.C.. Our new headmaster, who is a graduate with Honours in French and German, comes to us from East Africa, where he has spent the last four years. We trust that the stay of Major Morrison and his family at the School will be a pleasant one.

In the last issue of "The Victorian," we announced the appointment of a resident chaplain, Rev. James A. Muir, who has now taken up residence in the School. Another new arrival this term is Mr W. Kelly, M.A., as Principal Teacher of Mathematics. A graduate of Glasgow University, Mr Kelly comes to us from Morgan Academy, Dundee. We take this opportunity of welcoming Mr Muir and Mr and Mrs Kelly to our midst.

We congratulate C.S.M. Loudon of "A" Coy. upon his appointment as Regimental Sergeant Major of the School, while at the same time we are all extremely sorry to lose the services of Mr W. Watson, B.E.M.

R.S.M. Watson retired in August of this year from the position of R.S.M. of the School. Having served for twenty-one years with the K.O.S.B., Mr Watson left that regiment in 1931 to come from Fort George to Dunblane as a C.S.M. In 1936, he was appointed R.S.M. He gave to the School 21 years of valuable and devoted service, which was recognised in 1946 by the award of the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours List of that year. Hundreds of Victorians respected him for his efficiency and loved him for his kindness. Present members of the School and Old Boys will join in wishing Mr and Mrs Watson a long and happy retirement.

C.S.M. W. Dunglison, who for a number of years was in charge of drums and bugles and, more recently, C.S.M. of "A" Coy., has left to take up a post in Glasgow. His work for the School will be missed greatly, as will that of Mrs Dunglison, who will be remembered for her production of an Annual Pantomime during her stay at Dunblane. Our best wishes go with Mr and Mrs Dunglison and the Misses Dunglison.

C.S.M. J. T. MacKenzie, an Old Boy of the School, and late Pipe-Major of the Scots Guards, joined us this term as C.S.M. of "A" Coy. and Instructor in Dancing. Unfortunately, his stay here will be extremely short owing to his appointment as Pipe-Major in the Canadian Forces. He leaves at the end of this term.

Two important events occurred this term during the same week-end. The first, on Saturday, 8th November, was the appearance of a team of dancers at the Royal Albert Hall, London, at the Festival of Remembrance. On Sunday evening, 9th November, a religious service was broadcast from the School Memorial Chapel. A report of the service appears elsewhere in this issue.

On the morning of Remembrance Day, a service was held at Dunblane Cathedral and at the Cenotaph in Dunblane, which was attended by the School.

The Scottish Country Dancing Club, formed last year, continues to flourish, and this year another new club has been formed: a Badminton Club, of some twenty members, with the addition of the School Monitors.

The camp in the Cairngorms during the summer holidays proved to be a success, and a report on the adventure is included in this issue of "The Victorian."

Visitors to the School

(Since Grand Day, 1952)

Miss A. S. Reid, H.M. Treasury, C.8, War Office.
Major-General A. D. Telfer-Smollett, C.B.,
C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Visiting Commissioner.
Major D. M. Carter-Campbell, O.C. Depot, The
Cameronians.
Lieut.-Colonel F. A. Cairncross, R.M., R.S.O.
(Scotland), R.N. and R.M.
Brigadier E. L. Percival, D.S.O., H.Q. Highland
District.
Colonel E. T. Heslop, O.B.E., H.Q. Highland
District.
Lieut.-Colonel G. Bowie, H.Q. Scottish Comd.
Captain. G. Wright, H.Q. Scottish Command.
G. T. Pringle, Esq., H.M. Senior Chief Inspector,
Scottish Education Department.
Major A. S. Clarke, R.A.E.C., War Office, A.E.4.
Lieut.-Colonel A. F. Bell, M.B.E., R.E., C.R.E.
Highland District.
Major-General T. Scott-Elliot, C.B.E., D.S.O.,
G.O.C. Highland District.
Sir William S. Murrie, K.B.E., C.B., Visiting
Commissioner.

Old Boy Visitors

(Since Grand Day, 1952)

1979 P./O. N. M. Dick, R.A.F.
16472 Mus. Peter L. Gile, R.A.O.C. Staff Band,
Portsmouth.
Lieut.-Colonel W. F. Hawkins, R.A.E.C.,
H.Q. 2 A.A. Group, Aldershot.
J. H. Stewart, Berwick.
F. R. James, Birkenhead.
J. C. Harvey, Glasgow.
2137 W. J. Duncan, B.A.O.R., 15.
2138 W. Duncan, Glasgow.
2212 T. Duncan, Glasgow.
1785 H. Harrison, Edinburgh.
1983 I. F. Morgan, R.A.F.
648 J. H. Slorance, Stirling.
2242 J. McN. Hughes, Glasgow.
Cfn. Alec. Cunningham, E. Lothian.

News of Old Boys

We have received a letter from Sgt. V. Dunn, M.M., 1st Bn. The Parachute Regt., M.E.L.F., 28, parts of which we reproduce below:—

It may be of interest to other Old Boys to know that I met C.S.M. John West of the Scots Guards. I entered our Sergeants' Mess to overhear Dunblane School mentioned, and the speaker and I had a grand chat over old times at Q.V. School. I should never have known John West if he hadn't been talking about the School, because of the heavy growth on his upper lip. I also heard from him news of two other Old Victorians at his camp, the Brothers Rowe, Pipe-Major and Sergeant respectively, who were at School from about 1930 onwards. By the time you receive this letter, John West will probably be settled down in his new post as Drill Instructor at Sandhurst.

Moascar, the place at which I am stationed

now, should bring back memories to quite a few Old Boys who served there about 1937-38. I know of a few Old Boys who served with me in the Cameron Highlanders: Norman Anderson, whom I would like to congratulate on his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Also serving were Peter and George Sandilands, and also, in the R.A.F., Pilot-Officer Ned Anderson, whom I was unfortunate not to meet. Norman Anderson I did meet, on an exercise when we were lifted by aircraft from Moascar to an isolated airfield in the Sinai desert and back again to Moascar.

My congratulations to Bandmaster Lax on being awarded the British Empire Medal. The award could not have been more justly deserved. From the Band Programme I saw in the magazine, it would seem that the Band has gone a long way from the time I was at School. I was sorry to read about R.S.M. Watson's illness, and I sincerely hope he is now out of hospital and in action once more.

[We thank Sgt. Dunn for his letter, and hope that his news will be of interest to Old Boys who may read this issue of the magazine, and who may be inspired to follow Sgt. Dunn's example.—Editor].

Valete

2276 Monitor J. B. Graham, "A" Coy.—To A.A. School.
2283 Monitor J. Barr, "B" Coy.—To A.A. School.
2324 Monitor J. Webster, "D" Coy.—To A.A. School.
2315 Cpl. J. B. Gordon, "B" Coy.—To A.A. School.
2209 Boy B. Reid, "A" Coy.—To Scots Guards.
2247 Boy A. Hutchison, "B" (Pend.)—Black Watch Military Band.
2232 Cpl. J. Yule, "A" Coy.—R.A.F. Apprentice Examination.
2244 L./Cpl. E. Clarke, "B" Coy.—R.A.F. Apprentice Examination.
2266 Monitor N. Lambert, "D" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
2256 Sgt. V. Scullion, "D" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
2242 Sgt. J. Hughes, "D" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
2246 Cpl. D. Jamieson, "D" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
2403 L./Cpl. J. Scott, "D" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
2356 Boy W. McLeod, "D" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
2250 Boy H. Morgan, "A" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
2245 Boy J. C. Howitt, "B" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
2274 Sgt. G. Cairns, "B" Coy.—Withdrawn by Parents.
2361 Boy L. Geddes, "D" Coy.—Withdrawn by Parents.
2392 Boy W. Morrison, "D" Coy.—Withdrawn by Parents.
2438 Boy M. Summers, "A" Coy.—Withdrawn by Parents.

Monitors' Notes

After losing many monitors at the end of last term, leaving four of us, the Commandant introduced a new idea of having only five monitors, one per company, and the Senior Monitor, Charlie Crombie, who goes to McLaren High School, makes a sixth. This small amount of monitors has kept us together very well, and has been enforcing better discipline.

Congratulations to David Edgar and John Wilson on being promoted monitors. Also, we wish Eddie Phillips and Edgar all the very best of luck when they leave School at the end of the term. Eddie is going to the R.A.F. Apprentice School, and "Eggo" to the R.A.C.

Through the efforts of the Commandant and R.S.M. Lowden, the monitors have been given a new recreation room, in the old A and C reading room, which had been turned into a W.R.I. Central heating has been installed. Our billiard table has been newly covered, and new pockets put on it. We have also been informed that the monitors will be receiving a table tennis table of their own.

The monitors now share the enjoyment of the over-fifteens, being permitted to play for their company in the sporting activities. I would like to mention the fact that the School rugby 1st XV three-quarter line consisted of five monitors, the other playing Lock in the scrum.

On behalf of the monitors and boys, I would like to welcome our padre, Mr Muir. We wish our readers a Merry Xmas and a very happy New Year.

R. F.

Pipe Notes

Once again it is time for us to record the doings of our pipers and dancers, famous or otherwise.

Since Grand Day we have suffered the loss of Sgt. Jamieson, Cpl. Gordon, and L/Cpl. Clarke. But we welcome to the band Boys MacDonald and Elliot, and L/Cpl. MacDade. This being the winter term the pipe band has had no engagements, but the dancers went to the Royal Albert Hall in London, for the Festival of Remembrance.

At the end of the term we lose five of our pipers, three of whom play in the band—Monitor Phillips to the R.A.F., P/M Ward, and L/Cpl. Cheyne to civilian life, L/Cpl. Hendry to A.A.S., and Boy Jenkins to A.C.C. Our good wishes go with them wherever they go.

We welcome Mr MacKenzie (an old School boy) to the School as C.S.M. of "A" Company, and dancing instructor.

For the high standard of our piping we thank our tutor, Pipe-Major Sanderson, whose patient and enthusiastic methods of teaching have kept our band capable and constantly progressing.

Before we close another term's notes we wish you all a Merry Xmas and the best in the future year.

P. W.

2544 Boy G. Verlander, "C" Coy.—Withdrawn by Parents.
2249 Monitor J. Raleigh, "C" Coy.—To Civilian Life.
D.Y.R.M.S.
16833 Cpl. H. Lacey, "A" Coy.—To A.A. School.

Salvete

2552 Boy A. D. MacLean, "A" Coy., Seaforth H.
2553 Boy R. J. Bevan, "A" Coy., Royal Scots.
2554 Boy G. S. Neilson, "A" Coy., R.E.
2555 Boy L. H. Harrison, "A" Coy., R.M.P.
2556 Boy M. A. Slorance, "A" Coy., R.A.F.
2557 Boy I. E. Carruthers, "A" Coy., R.E.
2558 Boy D. Gibbins, "A" Coy., R.A.S.C.
2559 Boy D. A. Glover, "A" Coy., R.S.F.
2560 Boy R. A. H. Fothergill, "A" Coy., B.W.
2561 Boy J. Maybury, "D" Coy., H.L.I.
2562 Boy J. Gourley, "B" Coy., R.A.
2563 Boy R. J. Marshall, "B" Coy., R.A.A.F.
2564 Boy E. A. Leigh, "B" Coy., R.A.
2565 Boy M. Burrows, "B" Coy., R.A.F.
2566 Boy J. Murphy, "B" Coy., Black Watch.
2567 Boy B. J. Carcary, "D" Coy., Black Watch.
2568 Boy N. K. Amers, "B" Coy., K.O.S.B.
2569 Boy D. M. Sheach, "B" Coy., Black Watch.
2570 Boy I. K. Tessier, "B" Coy., Scots Guards.
2571 Boy W. R. Culbard, "B" Coy., Black Watch.
2572 Boy E. Lawson, "B" Coy., R. Marines.
2573 Boy R. A. Veasey, "D" Coy., Seaforth H.
2574 Boy A. D. Leitch, "D" Coy., Pioneer Corps.
2575 Boy D. I. McNicol, "A" Coy., R.A.
2576 Boy G. M. D. Thomson, "D" Coy., R.A.M.C.
2577 Boy W. R. Wright, "D" Coy., Cameronians.
2578 Boy W. W. Collins, "D" Coy., H.L.I.
2579 Boy I. H. Forbes, "B" Coy., H.L.I.
2580 Boy A. Forbes, "B" Coy., H.L.I.
2581 Boy J. Nicholson, "A" Coy., R.A.C.

Re-admitted:—

2248 Boy R. Greenhorn, "B" Coy.

Company championship Shield, 1951-52

	Points			Winners of Trophy
	"A"	"B"	"D"	
Education	3	2	1	"A" Coy.
Rugby Football .. .	1	2	3	"D" Coy.
Association Football ..	3	1	2	"A" Coy.
Hockey	2	3	1	"B" Coy.
Cross-Country Running	1	2	3	"D" Coy.
Boxing	2	1	3	"D" Coy.
Cricket	3	2	1	"A" Coy.
Athletics	2	1	3	"D" Coy.
Swimming	2	1	3	"D" Coy.
Drill	3	1	2	"A" Coy.
Interior Economy .. .	2	1	3	"D" Coy.
Dancing	3	2	1	"A" Coy.
Totals	27	19	26	

Winners—"A" Coy.
Runners-up—"D" Coy.

GRAND DAY

1952

[Reproduced from the "Stirling Sentinel," August 5, 1952, by kind permission of the Editor.]

In all its near-half-century of existence Queen Victoria School cannot have had a day more gloriously sun-blessed, and at the same time so well-attended, as on the occasion of the annual inspection on Wednesday.

This was the Grand Day of all Grand Days, characterised by marching of the highest order and drill of a precision that could not fail to delight the inspecting officer, that lean, lofty and not-so-easy-to-please infantryman, Lieut.-General Sir Colin M. Barber, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C., Scottish Command.

During inspection and the "Troop" the School suffered some casualties in its ranks, and not all of the two hundred and forty or so boys who fell in on the markers at the outset were able to take part in the march past.

Instead there was a march back from parade to storehouse on no less than ten occasions by Mr McRobert, the storeman, who carried or escorted off the field those whom the heat struck down. All of them recovered quickly.

General Barber's aide-de-camp provided by the School, Boy George Welsh, of Kippen, instructed to "Keep going and never mind the inspecting officer," obeyed his orders to the letter and his lone advance down the front rank of the parade was as impressive in its way as was Sir Colin's.

Drum Major J. Barr led the pipes and drums in the Troop to the accompaniment of "oohs" and "ahs" from the watching throng of two thousand and more.

The ejaculations were occasioned by the sight of his staff, glittering in the sun as it reached record altitudes.

At least once the drum major was himself surprised at the height attained by his soaring silver stick, and the band was in danger of having to halt while it made its graceful way

down, but the staff was never in danger of going to ground.

The march past achieved, and even surpassed, its usual high standard, and none kept a straighter line and more rigid dressing than did the "babes," bringing up the rear with all the importance of being nine years old and soldiers true.

In the enforced absence, through illness, of R.S.M. W. Watson, the parade was presented to General Barber by Drum and Bugle Major W. Dunlison.

Forming three sides of a square the parade advanced to be addressed by the General, who won all hearts when he promptly ordered the boys to: "Sit down, you've done enough standing up."

Then, with the briefest of preliminaries, Sir Colin got down to brass tacks. Having congratulated the boys on their turnout and bearing, and marked the praise due to the permanent staff, he said:

"As you approach man's estate you can't learn early enough to master those things that matter later on."

Urging the boys to pay attention to what they learned here at school in the formative years, General Barber said that many things go to the making of a successful life. He would be content to stress three of them.

"First," he said, "put yourself right in the background and the team first. I know it is difficult—we are all selfish."

The selfish one might seem to have a better time, and get all he wanted; but he who put his side first was the better man, and in the end he succeeded.

"Second, always be upright, and of a tidy appearance. The Army Corps of Physical Training have a very good motto, which means 'A healthy mind in a healthy body.'"

"If you want a healthy mind, you must not listen to any evil or degrading talk. For a healthy body you must take some sort of exercise every day."

When they came to man's estate they should be moderate in matters of drinking and smoking.

"The third thing is, be loyal and courageous: loyal to your superiors, loyal to your equals, loyal to your subordinates."

Reminding the boys that they came from service families, General Barber emphasised his hope of their loyalty to their family corps.

Too many boys, he thought, were going into technical corps—he was not decrying the technicians, but as an infantryman he urged the boys to "Go into our grand Highland or Lowland regiments"—a sentiment greeted with loud and prolonged applause.

Lady Kinnaird, wife of Perthshire's Lord Lieutenant, presented prizes, and other distinguished guests included Lord Kinnaird himself; Admiral Sir Colin Cantlie, K.B.E., C.B.,

D.S.C.; Major-General Sir A. B. Ritchie, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G.; Major-General H. Hounsell, C.B., C.B.E., G.O.C. 3rd A.A. Group; Major-General A. P. D. Telfer-Smollett, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.; Air Vice-Marshal Sir Charles A. H. Longcroft, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C.; Air Vice-Marshal H. T. Lydford, C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C., Senior Air Officer, Scotland, and A.O.C. 18 Group, R.A.F.; Brigadier-General Sir Norman A. Orr Ewing, Bart., C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., D.L.; Brigadier W. S. Boddall, O.B.E., Director of Army Education; Colonel E. P. Buchanan of Touch, M.C., D.L.; Lieut.-Colonel C. L. Addison Smith, C.B.E., D.L., W.S.

In the enclosure at least one distinguished "Old Boy" of Queen Victoria School was well to the fore. He was Wing-Commander F. W. Kean, R.A.F., who led the notable "round the world" flight undertaken by the R.A.F. some time ago.

It WAS a "Grand Day"

July 30, 1952, will remain a memorable day for me throughout the remainder of my life. It was on this day I had the honour and privilege of attending my old school on "Grand Day."

Some 70 visitors, comprising the Glasgow Branch of the Old Boys' Association, gathered at the Camerons' Club in Queen's Crescent at about 10.30, on the morning of 30th July, and here we were made most welcome by the Steward and his wife, who both accompanied the party to the School. The Bar was opened especially for our party and once again we are indebted to the Committee of the Club for the hospitality extended.

We left the Club at 11.15 in two luxurious "Golden Arrow" coaches. In the particular coach I travelled we were no sooner under way than our good friend "Kate" got the singing in full swing and this continued until we reached Dunblane. It is some time since I have been in the company of such a happy crowd. It is most interesting to note that "Kate" has had six brothers in the School and quite a few of us have at one time or another come into contact with one of the "Quinn" family.

On arrival at Dunblane, we made our way to the Co-operative Hall and there enjoyed a most appetising meal capably arranged by Old School Boy "Strathdee." After lunch we had the opportunity of having a walk round the Cathedral grounds and other places of interest.

It was with great pride that I entered the

School grounds and I was immediately impressed with the excellent condition of the surrounding gardens, which speak for themselves regarding the careful attention they are receiving. The memories which came back to me as I made my way to the Playing Fields are far too numerous to mention but, I can assure readers, were mostly pleasant. Mingling with the visitors on the Playing Fields, it gave me quite a thrill to spot old faces, and it was good to see Major "Pat" Cosgrove sitting in the Old Boys' enclosure.

The display given by the Boys was in every way excellent and their bearing on parade, in a very hot and blazing sun, was equal to that expected of Guardsmen.

On conclusion of the parade we had a very nice tea on the Playing Fields and a vote of appreciation is due to the School for kindly arranging this excellent meal. Having been fed and watered we indulged in a variety of Sports, Sportsmaster being "Joe" McLeod, who put us all, from the youngest to the oldest, to the test.

To conclude a glorious day the School Staff kindly opened the doors of their Club to us and a most enjoyable evening was had by all.

To the School Staff, Boys, and Committee of the Glasgow Branch Old Boys' Association I offer my humble thanks for a wonderful day and sincerely hope I may have the honour and privilege of attending "Grand Day" on many more occasions.

"A PROUD OLD BOY."

Inter-Company Competition

Cricket Shield—"A" Coy.
Drill Cup—"A" Coy.
Dancing Shield—"A" Coy.
Whitehead Educational Shield—"A" Company.
Inter-Company Championship Shield—"A" Coy.

Presentation of Trophies

Primus Medal—J. Barr.
Dux Medal—A. S. Murray.
Batting Cup—J. B. Graham.
Bowling Cup—J. Barr.
Addison Smith Public Speaking Prizes—1, A. Quinn; 2, A. S. Murray.
Sir Robert Cranston Memorial Essay Prize—A. S. Murray.
Fowler Art Prize—J. Barr.

Military Band

We are sorry to see Monitor Edgar, who is leaving for the R.A.C., T. Gavigan and C. McKenzie, who are going to civilian life and R. Carcary and L. Caroll, who are going to the Naval School of Music, leaving us this term.

Owing to the fact that IVth and Vth Forms are doing extra periods from 3.5 - 4.35 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, Mr Lax is losing seven of his best players for two periods a week.

The Black Watch Band were up to give us a concert on 18th November, one which, I assure you, we appreciated very much. The solos were especially enjoyed, these being a post-horn solo, a bass-on solo, and a xylophone solo. The xylophonist told the boys that he had been taught to play the xylophone by one of Mr Lax's old boys, Willie Welch, who is at present playing in the Royal Tanks Corps Staff Band. On Thursday, 4th December, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Band came up, and as the Bandmaster of the A. & S.H. promised, the two old boys Band/Sergeant Percy McKilligan, and Band/Cornet Parkinson, were given some outstanding pieces to play. B/Sgt. McKilligan is a clarinet and saxophone player, and B/Cpl. Parkinson a flute and piccolo player. B/Cpl. Parkinson has registered for a Bandmaster's Course at Kneller Hall, and we wish him the best of luck. Among the other Old Boys known to be registered for B.M. Courses are Cpls. Cyril and David Watering of the Royal Scots, to whom we wish success in their course.

Another ex-player from the A. & S.H. Band is Robert Quinn, who has just passed his B.M. course and has received his "T.I.P." as Bandmaster of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. He left the School about 1936. The Bandmaster received a letter from him requesting any Army enthusiasts to join his R.I.F. Band. We congratulate Robert on his achievement.

A letter has also been received from Bland Reid, who joined the Scots Guards in September. He is now taking a Pupil's Course at Kneller

Hall; he tells us there are quite a number of Old Boys there on courses. We wish Bland and all Old Boys every success.

We have, as is usual this term, played down at the Dunblane War Memorial on Armistice Day.

We have been requested, as usual, to play at this year's Christmas Concert. It gives the boys great pleasure to play for their School chums. Amongst the items to be played are a few popular Christmas Carols and Olympia Overture.

We are at present working hard for the summer programmes, and expect to be busy with engagements, as next year is Coronation Year. Many requests have already been sent in for our services.

In spite of many losses, the band is maintaining a very high standard.

Our late Headmaster and Band President, Major Washtell, has now left us, and we now welcome Major Morrison and family, our new Band President and Headmaster, to the School. We hope Major Morrison and family have a very pleasant stay here.

Ronnie Smith was here to visit the School in September from Sandhurst, where he is doing very well.

On Grand Day we were pleased to see a number of Old Boys up, and as an Old Boy remarked:

"Mr Lax is still as full of fire and energy, in spite of advancing years, as ever he was. He still carries a 'Big Punch' in that wee stick." (As we Band boys know in more ways than one!!)

The Boys are glad to see Mrs Lax improving in health as time goes on.

We will always be delighted to hear from Old Boys from far-off lands. Well, I will close by wishing Mr and Mrs Lax, and everyone a very Merry Xmas and a Guid New Year.

JOCK (Jnr.)

Drum Notes

We of the drums and bugles miss very much Mr Dungleison, who has left the School and is now living in Glasgow. We wish him and his family a successful future.

The boys who are leaving this term are:—Cpl. Milne, R., Cpl. Aitken, M., Cpl. Clarke, J., Boy McIntosh, H., and Boy Riddell, D.

Drum-Major Barr, who left in the summer, has been replaced by Cpl. Adams. Amongst the Juniors we have a fine bugler in Boy Colburn, who will be a Senior next term. And, of course, we still have with us Boy Sim, best of drummers.

We have no engagements this term, but we are looking forward to going to Murrayfield next term.

As it is very near Christmas we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

T. B.

"A" Company Notes

On the retirement of R.S.M. Watson, our C.S.M., Mr Lowdon, was appointed as his successor. He has now filled the post for a term. Our new C.S.M. is late of the Scots Guards. He is C.S.M. MacKenzie, and he is also an Old Victorian.

There has, in fact, been a complete change in our administration and Lieut. Drew, R.A.E.C., has now taken over from Capt. Jordan, R.A.E.C. Capt. Jordan is studying very hard for Staff College, and has our best wishes.

As is usual in the Coy., the main interest is sport, and this term it is rugger which occupies our attention. Even though we haven't been successful in the inter-company rugger championship we are still practising and enjoying the game, with bright prospects for the future. There is also a very keen interest being taken in the boxing and cross-country practices, for both of these events will be decided next term. We are very well represented in the School rugger teams by S/Mon. Fairbairn (full-back and capt.), Mon. Edgar (left-centre and kicker), L/Cpl. Cheyne (a very energetic scrum-half), and many more.

We have recruited several boys from C Coy. and they are all settling down exceptionally well. At the end of this term we say "au revoir" to our monitor, David Edgar, who departs to the R.A.C. Training School; L/Cpl. Hendry to the Army Apprentice School, Harrogate; and to civilian life go P/Major Ward and L/Cpl. Cheyne. Whatever they do, wherever they go, they will be always in our thoughts.

At our Hallowe'en Celebrations this term our comedians and artists came to the front again. Mon. Edgar disguised himself as Charlie Chaplin and gained 2nd prize in the Guising Competition. The lanterns entered from the Coy. were awarded 1st prize, and altogether we came 2nd for the evening.

As usual we end this term with a party, and this time, as well as the food and entertainment, Santa Claus is giving us all a small present. On this note of festivity we send out our wishes to you all, and may you all enjoy yourselves as we intend to do. There is every prospect of a white and Merry Christmas, so let us make sure that "Auld Lang Syne" is merrier still.

A. S. M. and D. E.

"B" Company Notes

At the beginning of this term the Company had a few replacements from "C" Coy. to bring us up to strength. They were G. Welsh, R. McKenzie, J. Orr, M. McDonald, A. McDonald, J. Brannon, R. Copeland, and T. M. Burns from "A" Coy.

This year we started off with a triple triumph in the Hallowe'en competitions, winning the seven-a-side rugby (all four Companies took part in this), the apple dookin', and the guiser. The guisers were "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" (Cpl. Milne and A. Quinn). Consequently we won the Hallowe'en Trophy.

Another important item to mark the beginning

of this term, was the doing away with the age limit in competitions so that people over fifteen were eligible to play for their Companies. This was a benefit both to "A" and "B" Companies and no doubt in later years "D" Coy. will find it useful.

So far in the rugby competitions "B" Coy. 1st and 2nd Fifteens have played one game each against "A" Coy. The firsts were victorious, winning 10-3 and the seconds drew 3-3.

Soon we play "D" Coy., who have two points, so we start off with the advantage of one point.

At the end of this term we are losing three members of the Company, namely, Monitor Phillips, Cpl. Milne, and Boy Jenkins.

Now, as there is nothing more of note that has happened this term, it only leaves me to say on behalf of the Company "A merry Christmas to one and all."

E. C. P.

"C" Company Notes

True to tradition I commence with the lists of names of newcomers to our little community, namely the "Recruits." Of these boys, several are already showing promise. Since our last issue of "The Victorian," Mon. J. Raleigh went to civilian life, Sgt. C. MacKenzie is going to be a game warden up North, and Cpl. J. M. Clarke leaves us for the Royal Scots Pipe Band. This term we lost C.S.M. Dungleison, who retired, and in his place we have Pipe-Major Sanderson. "C" Coy. wishes both of these gentlemen and their families the best of luck in 1953.

A memorable occasion this term was "Hallowe'en" when "C" Coy., for the first time in years, took part in the seven-a-side rugby. We did well in this event, drawing with "A" Coy. and "D" Coy., but we were beaten by "B" Coy. "C" Coy. took part in the other competitions, but with little success.

We have several notable sportsmen in "C" Coy., as every N.C.O. has played for either the 1st or 2nd Rugby XV's of the School. Even the recruits have their notables, one of whom is Sheach, who played for his Company in the Inter-Company Rugby Competition.

As the day draws to an end, so these notes draw to an end, and I wish my readers "A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

HUMPHREY.

"D" Company Notes

The term opened without three of our previous N.C.O.'s—Monitor Webster, Sgts. Scullion and Hughes. But with promotions to Monitor of Cpl. J. Wilson, and to Sergeant's of Cpls. Williamson and A. McDonald, their loss was soon forgotten. To replace them we received our usual quota of recruits from "C" Coy., most of whom are established in the "Napier" dorm., under Sgt McDonald and L/Cpl. McLecd, who are gradually licking them into shape.

We did very well in the Hallowe'en Cup, coming second to "B" Coy. in the seven-a-side rugby, but we were very unlucky to be placed only third in the whole series. Well, such is

bad luck, and we must not begrudge other companies their successes in the competition.

Even so, in the Company rugger, we still beat "A" Coy. 1st XV, although our 2nds lost. We have high hopes of repeating our success against "B" Coy.; but, as the final has been postponed, we cannot do anything about it yet.

Our Company fund (for buying indoor games and small articles of kit), is in the region of between £3 and £4 so we can expect such games as "Monopoly" very soon. In the meantime, we are looking forward to the Xmas Party.

We wish Capt. Ross and C.S.M. White and their families, and all boys, a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. J. W.

Educational Prizes, 1952

Form VI Prize—D. McArthur.
Form V Prize—C. Crombie.
Form IV—Form Prize, English, Maths.—A. S. Murray; 2nd Prize, 4th year—E. Phillips.
Form IIIA—Form Prize, English—W. A. Jones; Maths.—N. Poulson; French—J. M. McArthur.

Form IIB—Form Prize, Woodwork—H. Lacey; English—J. B. Graham.

Form IIA—Form Prize, French—P. Dempsey; English—R. Adams; Maths., Art., Woodwork—K. Gavigan; Art.—J. Wilson.

Form IIB—Form Prize—R. Hastie; Form Prize (2nd)—P. Ward; English, Woodwork—A. McArthur.

Form IIC—Form Prize, Geography—A. Nelson; Form Prize (2nd)—W. Cunningham.

Form IA—Form Prize, English—C. Douglas; Geography—M. Summers; French—C. Carcary; History, Art.—R. Anderson.

Form IB—Form Prize—J. Fairbairn; English—B. McHugh; Maths.—W. Beveridge.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

P. VIIA—Form Prize, Maths.—W. Morrison; All-Round Excellence—G. Welsh; English—E. Gardner.

P. VIIB—Form Prize—M. Wood; Maths.—R. Tasker; Art.—I. Wood.

P. VIA—Form Prize, English, Maths., Geography—A. I. Hamilton; History—R. Watson.

P. VIIB—Form Prize, Maths., History—P. Hughes; English—G. Morrison.

P. V—Form Prize—D. McK. Aitchison; English—A. C. McDonald; Maths.—J. Rennie; Prize for Progress—I. F. Scott.

Piping and Dancing Prizes, 1952

Boyd Prizes—Piping—Class "A"—Slow March—S. Robertson; March—S. Robertson; Open Strathspey and Reel—S. Robertson.

Dancing—Class "A"—Highland Fling—S. Robertson and P. Ward (1st equal); Sword Dance—D. McDonald.

Other Prizes—Piping—Class "B"—Slow March—A. McDonald; March—A. McDonald.

Dancing—Class "B"—Highland Fling—A. McDonald; Sword Dance—W. McColl.

Piping—Class "C"—Chanter Competition—A. C. McDonald; Highland Fling—G. Ferrier.

Inter-Company Dancing (Shield)—1st "A"; 2nd "B"; 3rd "D."

The Shaw Stewart Prize—"A" Coy.—P. Ward, A. Airnes, W. Cheyne, W. McColl.

Cups—Best Piper—S. Robertson; Best Dancer—P. Ward.

Military Band Prizes

Grade I—T. Gavigan, G. Cairns, V. Scullion, N. Poulson.

Grade II—J. Wilson, K. Gavigan, W. Jones, A. Gibson.

Grade III—A. McArthur, J. Fairbairn, J. Findley, J. Morgan.

Junior Grade—T. Simpson, G. Welsh, R. Rennie, J. McKillop.

Special Prizes—R. Fairbairn, A. Murray Application—J. McArthur, J. Simpson, J. McKellan, R. Carcary, A. Hutchison, A. Grieve.

Cup for Best Progress of the Year—Senior—B. Reid; Junior—A. I. Hamilton.

Drumming and Bugling Prizes, 1952

Side Drumming, Senior—J. Hughes.

Bass and Tenor Drumming—A. F. Brown.

Bugling, Senior—I. Nicholson.

Side Drumming, Junior—D. Riddell.

Bugling, Junior—J. Carcary.

Silver Bugle—I. Nicholson.

Cup for Best Drummer—J. Hughes.

Best Drummer and Bugler—T. Burns.

Tailor's Prize—H. McIntosh.

Regimental Prizes, 1952

R.A.—F. McLeod.

R.E.—B. Williamson.

Scots Guards—B. Reid.

Royal Scots (R.R.)—J. McArthur; E. Clarke.

Royal Scots Fusiliers—J. Barr; J. Wilson.

King's Own Scottish Borderers—J. Morgan.

Cameronians (S.R.)—R. Fairbairn.

Black Watch (R.H.R.)—Wauchope Prize—J. Raleigh.

Black Watch (R.H.R.)—MacKenzie Prize—A. Hutchison.

Highland Light Infantry—E. Phillips; D. Edgar.

Gordon Highlanders—Sir George White Prize—J. Jamieson.

Gordon Highlanders—W. Cheyne.

Seaforth Highlanders—C. Mackenzie; W. A. Jones; J. McKellan; W. Corcoran.

Cameron Highlanders—R. Adams.

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders—J. White.

Other Regiments—P. Gibson.

Corps—S. Robertson.

Details—P. Dempsey.

R.A.F.—J. Yule.

D.Y.R.M.S.—N. Poulson.

"C" Coy.—C. McNicol; E. Bruce.

Jock Stewart Prize—A. Hutchison.

Boxing

New rules concerning the Individual and Inter-Company Championships have now been drawn up, and will be put into operation next term when this year's championships will be held. In accordance with the new rules the Inter-Company Championships will now be conducted in conjunction with the Individual Championships—the winners, runners-up and losing semi-finalists in each age and weight class claiming points for their respective Companies. The positions of the Companies will then be determined by totalling these points.

Although no competitions have been held this term, a party of enthusiasts have been training regularly. Six of these boys have now been entered for the Scottish Schoolboys' Amateur Boxing Association Championships to be held in Glasgow on Saturday, 13th December. Our representatives are:—

Senior Class—R. Greenhorn and E. Phillips.

Intermediate Class—D. Edgar and J. Findlay.

Junior Class—K. MacCrimmon and A. Quinn.

Rugby Football

We started the season with the idea that our 1st XV would be a very light side, but judging by the matches that have been played, the team, although lighter than last year's, has shown better teamwork than it has done during the past two seasons.

In all our matches, our forwards have more than held their own, with Williamson, our pack leader, and Greenhorn always prominent; Willie Jones has given grand performances in the loose, and they have always been well supported by Crombie and Murray—greatly improved forwards—while MacKenzie, Milne and Gavigan have always given us of their best. Our problem in this department has been our inability to find a hooker who can be equally as good in the loose as in the set scrums. Cromar was very promising at first, but faded away towards the end of the season with the recurrence of an old tendency of his to "hang about" between his pack and the scrum-half.

The backs, although often smaller and less experienced than their opponents, have done well against such odds. Cheyne has always given grand service at the base of the scrum, and young Wilson, with more experience, should develop into a very useful stand-off. Phillips, Robertson and Edgar in the "threes" have played well, both in attack and defence; although primarily individuals, they have at times (but not often enough) shown occasional brilliance in combination; Edgar can also be a first class kicker when on form. The right-wing berth has been shared by Burns and Coulson, both of whom are good in defence but lack speed in attack. The team's captain, Fairbairn, at full-back has improved with each match; a fearless tackler, a safe kicker and a strong runner, he should develop into a fine full-back once he has succeeded in overcoming his hesitancy in "taking the ball on the run."

Others who have made an appearance in the 1st XV are H. Fairbairn, P. Sutherland and D. McInnes—three young forwards who have been giving yeoman service to our 2nd XV.

Our 2nd XV, captained by P. Ward, have had their good and bad games in turn, and on one occasion they really excelled themselves by beating Stirling High School 3rd XV by 10 pts. to

3 pts. at Torbrex. A grand game—one of the best exhibitions of teamwork and forward play since the Springbok tour!

The "Babes" successfully lived up to the high standard set by their predecessors and once again enhanced the name of the school on the sporting map. They have been ably led by J. Morgan, a very promising forward, who has been well supported by Hunter, Quinn and MacCrimmon in the pack, and by McLeod, Simpson and Beveridge amongst the backs. They created a record in beating Dollar Academy 10th XV by 50 pts. to nil.

On behalf of the teams and the School in general, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Messrs J. Sutherland, R. I. W. Bowen and R. E. Hughes and Capt. J. A. Ross for ensuring yet another happy and successful season.

FIXTURES AND RESULTS

1st XV.

v. Morrison's Academy, Crieff, 3rd XV (away): Lost, 6 pts. to 11 pts.

v. Stirling High School 2nd XV (home): Won, 31 pts. to 5 pts.

v. Alloa Academy 1st XV (away): Lost, 11 pts. to 14 pts.

v. Dollar Academy 4th XV (away): Lost, 8 pts. to 12 pts.

v. Trinity College, Glenalmond, 4th XV (home): Drawn, 11 pts. to 11 pts.

v. Perth Academy 2nd XV (home): Lost, 3 pts. to 5 pts.

v. Dollar Academy 4th XV (home): Won, 17 pts. to 5 pts.

v. Alloa Academy 1st XV (home): Cancelled.

v. Trinity College, Glenalmond, 4th XV: To be played 13/12/52.

Played 7, won 2, drawn 1, lost 4; 87 pts. for, 63 pts. against.

2nd XV.

v. Morrison's Academy, Crieff, 4th XV (away): Lost, 3 pts. to 12 pts.

v. Alloa Academy 2nd XV (away): Lost 0 pts. to 12 pts.

v. Alloa Academy 2nd XV (home): Lost 8 pts. to 12 pts.

v. Dollar Academy 7th XV (home): Lost 3 pts. to 14 pts.

v. Stirling High School 3rd XV (away): Won, 10 pts. to 3 pts.

v. Stirling High School 3rd XV (home): Cancelled.

v. Dollar Academy 7th XV (away): Cancelled.

Played 5, won 1, drawn 0, lost 4; 24 pts. for, 53 pts. against.

JUNIOR XV.

v. Stirling High School 4th XV (home): Won, 9 pts. to nil.

v. Dollar Academy 10th XV (away): Won 50 pts. to nil.

v. Hurst Grange Prep. School 1st XV (away): Won, 29 pts. to 11 pts.

v. Perth Academy Junior XV (home): Won, 21 pts. to nil.

v. Stirling High School 4th XV (away): Won, 30 pts. to 3 pts.

v. Dollar Academy 10th XV (home): Cancelled.

Played 5, won 5, drawn 0, lost 0; 139 pts. for, 14 pts. against.

COLOURS

Already in possession—Full Colours—R. Fairbairn (capt.) and R. Greenhorn (vice-captain).

Half Colours—C. Crombie, E. Phillips, S. Robertson and B. Williamson.

New Awards:—Full Colours—C. Crombie, E. Phillips, S. Robertson and B. Williamson. Half Colours—W. Cheyne, D. Edgar, W. Jones, A. Murray, J. Wilson.

INTER-COMPANY RUGGER CHAMPIONSHIP

The Championships have reached their final stage but owing to the hard frost, which has put a stop to our rugby for the past fortnight, we have been unable to play off the final matches between "B" and "D" Companies' 1st and 2nd Division teams. Present positions in the League table are:—

"A" Coy.—Played 4, won 1, drawn 1, lost 2 — 3 pts.
 "B" Coy.—Played 2, won 1, drawn 1, lost 0 — 3 pts.
 "D" Coy.—Played 2, won 1, drawn 0, lost 1 — 2 pts.

HALLOWE'EN SEVEN-A-SIDE INTER COMPANY COMPETITION

"B" Company, with a well-balanced team, were too strong for the other companies and won all their matches. They played well throughout and adopted the right tactics for such a competition. Final positions:—"B" Coy., 6 pts.; "D" Coy., 3 pts.; "C" Coy., 2 pts.; "A" Coy., 1 pt.
 "B" Coy. team:—E. Phillips, R. Greenhorn, H. Fairbairn, R. Hastie, P. Sutherland, J. Quinn and A. Quinn.

Attention Old Victorians

We like to think that this magazine acts as a link between you and your old school and between you and your former classmates. That is why we are always asking you to write to us and tell us what you are doing and where you are doing it.

Unfortunately, time and money do not allow us to print the magazine more often than twice a year. To fill the gap, therefore, we are proposing to issue a "newsletter." This will be compiled from letters received by Old Victorians between magazine times, and will also contain any notices or intimations of interest to Old Boys which we feel cannot wait till the following issue of the Magazine.

What we want you to do, then—all of you—is to write to the Headmaster at the School (and to keep writing), and give details of your present job, whether in the Services or civilian life. Remember, to you it may be just routine, but to someone else who knew you at school and who has lost track of you, it may be NEWS. Now then, let's have those letters!

Remember, at school it was: "Left, right!" Now that you've left, write!

Religious Service

[The following report is reprinted from "The Stirling Sentinel" of 11th November, 1952, by kind permission of the Editor].

The Queen Victoria School had the honour on Sunday evening of having a service of remembrance to those who fell in battle relayed by wireless from their Memorial Chapel.

The service, which lasted 40 minutes, was well

heard. It was conducted by the School's new resident chaplain, the Rev. James A. Muir.

L/Cpl Gavigan read the Scripture lesson, which was in the 11th Chapter of Hebrews. It was followed by prayer.

Rev. W. Gorin, the Episcopal chaplain, delivered the sermon, which was highly appropriate.

Many of those who were listening had probably, he said, some connection with the School, perhaps a parent or friend of one of the sixty boys who had given their lives in one or other of the two wars which had taken place since the School was opened in 1909.

Perhaps they might have heard the School Bands at Murrayfield, Ibrox, or one of the innumerable towns or villages where their services had been called for, and that they had been impressed by the manly bearing of the boys as well as the remarkable quality of their musicianship.

The School, he stressed, was not a charitable institution. Every boy had been paid for by his father's service to the State—service which had been crowned in many instances by death.

When they saw or heard the boys he asked them not to be content to admire them but to remember all that they stood for and St. Paul's exhortation: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

The organist was Mr D. Campbell.

Festival of Remembrance

On Thursday morning, 6th November, a party of 26 boys left Dunblane to represent the School at the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall, London. We arrived in London that evening at nine o'clock and we were met by a bus at Euston Station. We travelled to the Union Jack Club in Waterloo by a round-about route while our new dancing instructor, C.S.M. McKenzie, pointed out the important buildings and places of that area. We were well received at the Union Jack Club and we were given an excellent supper of fish and chips, all the boys agreeing that the catering at the club was exceptionally good.

Next morning we were up early and away to the Albert Hall to begin our rehearsals, which lasted until early evening. After tea, we were promised a television show, but, unfortunately, the set broke down so we had to entertain ourselves in other ways.

When we went along to the Hall next morning, we had our last rehearsals and went to a hall nearby to have lunch. We returned in the afternoon and evening performances. This was the first time some boys had danced in front of large audiences and had appeared on television.

Sunday was our last day in London and, in the opinion of most boys, the best. Some of the boys who had relatives in the London area went to see them, and when they came back that night they all claimed that some relative had seen them on the television all the time! The remainder of us

went for a walk to Buckingham Palace. On the way we saw the bands and squads taking part in the Cenotaph parade. We received a pleasant surprise when we saw the Queen leaving the Palace to go to the Parade. The afternoon was spent packing, and we went to the cinema in the evening, after which we played billiards and snooker for an hour.

We left London on the night train, but the engine developed trouble and we arrived in Stirling two hours late. We came back to the School by bus and, after having a late breakfast, we went to bed for an hour.

A. A.

"Shakespeare—But not in the Classroom"

On 13th November a party of boys from Forms IIIa, IV, and V left the School by bus for the Theatre in Perth.

On our arrival there we made our way into the stalls. Everyone was looking forward to the production of "Julius Caesar," by the Perth Theatre Company. There was much talking . . . and suddenly the curtain rose . . . but nothing happened, except of course, the levelling of the front cloth, which was made of good marble!

A striking march was played and slowly and waveringly the front cloth rose. I do not want to bore you with a story you all well know. The play, as a whole, was well produced and held my attention throughout.

The first point worthy of comment was the clear speaking, sometimes rapid, but always understandable. This mainly applies to the actor playing the part of Cassius; an actor who portrayed his meanings by loud voice and suitable actions. The costumes were attractive, colourful and well worn; the women's dresses, especially, caught the eye because of their bright colours. Steps, walls, balconies, and other parts of settings, besides being well placed, looked real. The most striking feature, to my mind, was the crowd scenes, which were done extremely well, particularly during Mark Antony's famous oration over the dead body of Caesar.

J. McA.

From the Examination Room

A water-spider is a hibernated mammal.

Q.—Supply words for the blank spaces in the following sentences and underline.

A.—Water spiders make their nests at the bottom of the sea. The nests are shaped like a bag and are made of ice. Like all spiders, the water spider has short legs and blue eyes.

The Tundra is a river that flows past the Mississippi.

The parts of an insect's body are: head, thorax and abraham.

Q.—What happens to annuals, biennials and perennials in the winter?

A.—(i) Annuals hibernate, biennials migrate and perennials do not survive. (ii) Perennials sit by the fire.

Unpublished Correspondence by E. J. D.

The following letter was discovered by an inquisitive boy N.C.O., who, instead of haring with proper keenness round the cross-country course, was discovered knee deep in a wastepaper basket looking, presumably, for examination papers. With great reluctance he was "invited" to return the documents he had found. No one has yet discovered who is responsible for what follows!

To:—All Boys.

From:— ? ?

Subject:—Discipline—Dying.

I have been instructed to bring to the notice of all boys the following extracts from a circular by the Ministry of Mortification.

It has been brought to the notice of the Chief Mortician, that boys in various military schools have been dying without the consent of their superior officers. It must be fully understood that the manpower shortage is still acute; anyone therefore who dies without first obtaining a permit, can be subject to severe disciplinary action.

In order to ensure that all necessary precautions are taken, the following instructions are to be carried out forthwith:—

The person intending to die will be known as the "victim."

Under no circumstances whatsoever will a boy be allowed to die in his own time; the following drill movements will be strictly adhered to:—

1. On receipt of the command "Victim die by numbers—Victim One," the boy will stagger a full pace of 30 inches, at the same time allowing his eyes to glaze.

2. On the command "Victim Two" he will sink down slowly and smartly to his knees, count a pause of 2-3, then fall forward on his face, arms outstretched and thumbs in line with his ears.

3. On the command "Victim Three," he will lower his legs, ensuring that his toes are at an angle of 30 degrees with his shoulder-blades.

4. The victim may then draw his last breath, in his own time. The death rattle will not be used except on ceremonial dying parades or unless authorised by an officer not below the rank of acting unpaid Field Marshal.

5. Before dying, a map with the best route to heaven will be drawn from the stores and clearly marked with the owner's name and number. The route will be strictly adhered to.

6. Officers who are passed on their way down to the subterranean depths will be paid the usual compliments.

7. On arrival at their destination boys will report to the R.S.M. of the Angelification Corps, where they will receive:—

Wings, pairs—1

Harps, basic playing—1

Clouds, fleecy and/or cumulus—1.

8. Wings will be blanched daily with Stardust, clouds checked for condensation and filled with antifreeze when necessary. One hour after arrival boys will parade for halo-fitting.

Signed (I. L. LEGIBLE).

The Legend of LLYN Y VAN

In a certain mountainous district of South Wales there lies a lonely lake, surrounded by hills, which is called Llyn y Van, or the Van lake.

Hundreds of years ago a shepherd youth was grazing his flock on the grassy verge of the lake, when suddenly he was aware of a person advancing towards him, gliding over the smooth surface of the lake. He soon saw that it was a beautiful maiden, dressed in fine and costly garments. Yellow was her hair as the flower of the broom plant; blue were her eyes as the summer sky, and so white were her feet that the daisies looked dark beside them. The young shepherd fell utterly in love with her from that moment, but could do no more than to stand spellbound, speechless, unconsciously holding out to her the bread and meat which his mother had provided for his midday meal. The maiden smiled bewitchingly, shook her head, and said, "Cras dy fara."

Nid hawdd fy nala."

("Your bread is hard baked: I am not so easily caught"). Then she disappeared beneath the surface of the lake. The youth waited for the rest of the day, but saw no further sign of the maiden.

When he returned home in the evening, he told his mother what he had seen, and she said that for the next day she would prepare some very, very lightly baked bread, which he could take with him. The young man hardly slept that night, and by the time that the earliest rays of the sun were gliding the eastern sky, he was standing by the shore of the Van lake. The sun mounted in the sky, the hours crawled by, while he waited in a fever of impatience. At last, when he had almost given up hope, the maiden appeared again, gliding towards him over the silver water. He held out to her his offering of lightly baked bread, but once again she smiled, shook her head, and said:

"Gwyn dy fara"

Nid hawdd fy nala."

"Your bread is too lightly baked: I am not so easily caught"). Then she disappeared below the surface of the lake.

In the evening the shepherd returned home despondently and told his mother of his ill-success. She bade him to be of good courage, and said that for the next day she would prepare some bread neither hard baked nor lightly baked. The hours of darkness seemed very long to the lad as he lay sleepless, and no sooner had the first light appeared than he was away to the shore of the lake, bearing with him his offering of bread. At noon the water maiden reappeared once more, and once more, speechless with love and anxiety, the shepherd held out to her the bread of his mid-day meal. How great was his delight when this time she said:

"Iawu dy fara."

Hawaa fy nala."

("Your bread is right, so I am easily caught.") Then she disappeared once more, and the shepherd, almost mad with disappointment, was about to hurl himself into the depths of the lake, when suddenly she reappeared, accompanied

this time by a grey haired and grey bearded man of a kingly and dignified mien, who addressed the shepherd thus. "Know, shepherd, that I am the king of the lands below the surface of the lakes, and that this is my daughter. Long has she loved you from afar, and has wearied me with pleas and intercessions that she might speak with you, which heretofore I have forbidden; but she overcame my resistance. Now she is yours; take her in marriage, but remember well this warning; that if at any time you give her three blows without cause, she will forsake you and return to me; not only herself, but all she has." The shepherd could not imagine that he would ever give even one blow to his beloved, let alone three, and gladly consented. Then the king turned to his daughter, and said that as a dowry she could have as many cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and horses as she could count in the space of a single breath. The princess adopted the method of counting as rapidly as possible in fives, thus:—"One! two! three! four! five! . . . One! two! three! four! five! . . ." As soon as she had finished counting, so many animals as she had counted in one breath came out of the lake. She bade farewell to her father, and then turned joyfully towards her young lover.

The two were soon married, and with the princess's dowry were able to set up a well-stocked farm. Soon a son was born to them, and then two more. Their life was happy, and their love increased. During the first months of their marriage, the young farmer bore in mind the king's warning concerning the three blows, but as time went on he remembered less and less frequently.

One day, he and his wife had decided to visit a neighbouring fair, to buy some stock. Early in the morning they left the house and went down to a field, intending to catch a horse to harness to their cart. When they reached the field, the farmer discovered that he had left his gloves behind, so he asked his wife to catch the horse, while he returned to the house for his gloves. When he came back, expecting to find the horse caught, he found his wife standing in the middle of the field and the horse still uncaught. Jocularly he struck his wife on the shoulder with his glove, saying "Why did you not do as I bade you?" She turned to him and said: "That is the first of the three blows." Then the farmer remembered the warning of the king, her father, and resolved to be more careful in future.

Many months later, they were invited to a wedding feast. All was merry and joyful, with the guests laughing and feasting and dancing, when the water princess burst into weeping. They asked her why she wept so bitterly, but received no answer; and since her tears were bringing the merriment to an untimely end, her husband tapped her on the shoulder and asked why she wept. She turned to him and said: "I weep because I foresee that this marriage which has begun in joy will end in sorrow. This is the second of the three blows."

For a long time after the farmer was mindful that he had struck two out of the three blows. But the months passed, and the memory faded. Then one day he and his wife were asked to

attend the funeral of an old man who had lived an unhappy life. At the church, all the mourners had solemn faces, and spoke in quiet, hushed tones. Suddenly the wife began to laugh and be merry, and continued to laugh in spite of the indignation of the mourners. The farmer turned to his wife, and, forgetful of the fact that two blows had already been struck, tapped his wife on the shoulder, and bade her be quiet, asking why she was so merry. "Why should I not be merry," she asked, "when he who has had so long and so sorrowful a life should now have left behind his sorrow and his grief, and should be enjoying everlasting peace and felicity? And now you have struck the third causeless blow, and I must leave you, and all that is mine must go with me."

So saying, she left the church, and went back to the farm. From thence she took the path to Llyn y Van, not heeding the cries and pleas of her sorrowing husband and sons. As she went, she called on the descendants of the horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats that had originally come with her from the Van lake, and they left their pastures and stables and sties, and went with her. Even a little black calf, which had been slaughtered the previous day, and which was hanging on a hook, came to life, and jumping from the hook, followed her. When the water princess came to the shore of Llyn y Van, she, and all the animals, walked into the water and disappeared.

Her husband never saw her again. For many days he haunted the shores of the Van lake, calling in sorrow and grief for his lost wife; but gradually the bitterness of his loss grew less keen, and he resumed his normal way of life. When his sons grew to manhood, they sometimes saw their mother on the shores of Llyn y Van, and she imparted to them much knowledge of the medicinal qualities of herbs and simples, so that they became famous as physicians for many miles round. It is said that their descendants throughout the ages, have also been renowned as physicians, and that, to this day, some of the foremost physicians of Wales count the Lady of Llyn y Van as their ancestress. CYMRO.

Summer Camp

Army Ski Hut,
Aviemore,

31st July to 13th August, 1952.

The hut, situated on the slopes of Castle Hill at the entrance to the Lairig Gru in the Cairngorms, affords an excellent site for a camp. The School party under Captain Ross, ably assisted by Captain Bruce, C.S.M. White and Mr Girvan, enjoyed an eventful holiday there. The weather throughout was most unkind, but we were indeed fortunate in having excellent, one might even say luxurious, quarters in which to shelter.

The adverse weather, especially the persistent low cloud, considerably curtailed our climbing activities. Nevertheless, almost everyone had climbed something before the end of the camp. Even Messrs Girvan and White boldly attacked Castle Hill one evening. The ascent was eagerly

watched from the hut by many pairs of eyes and one pair of binoculars. In answer to an urgent call a stretcher was sent out to meet them on the return journey. However, they found it easier, and definitely safer, to walk the last few hundred yards.

Cairn Gorm (4,084 feet). The first party to climb Cairn Gorm included Monitors Fairbairn and Phillips, Sgt. McDonald, Cpls. Jones and Dempsey, Boys Cowie, Gavigan and McIntosh. This was also Capt. Bruce's introduction to the hills. After the heat of climbing it was too cold to sit on top. We returned via the tops of the coires and Creag an Leth-choin (3,448 feet) which afford a magnificent and almost frightening view of the Lairig. A little orange tent, 2,000 feet directly below looked like a scrap of coloured paper. Creag an Leth-choin is commonly called Lurcher's Crags. It was promptly re-christened "Luscious Crags" and so it remains to Q.V.S.

Ben Macdhui (4,296 feet). Everyone was keen to conquer Ben Macdhui, the highest in the group. One party (Clark, Jones, Ferrier, Cowie, Burns, Hughes, Jamieson, Howitt) did it via "Luscious Crags," and the Plateau, where snow lay in crevices and ice cold water quenched the mounting thirst. The return, via the March Burn which cascades into the Lairig near the Pools of Dee, proved very rough going. Another party (Barr, Edgar, Wilson, White, Gavigan, McIntosh and Hendry) tackled Macdhui from Tailor's Burn. Here, Macdhui goes up 2,300 feet in about a mile and a half. Legend has it that three Tailors from Aviemore, on the way to a dance in Braemar, lay down there in the snow and died. On the way up we could all willingly have followed their example. However, as we climbed, the ever increasing grandeur of the view of Braeriach and Cairntoul made our efforts worthwhile, quite apart from providing an excuse for a rest.

Shelter Stone and Loch Avon. These were visited one day, when, apart from the early morning visibility was nil. Crossing the Plateau in a gale force wind and thick swirling cloud provided an experience not likely to be forgotten. One of that party, who had never been on the hill before, still remembers the trip as:

"The hill that never was . . ."

With some trepidation and not a little fear in my heart, I set off to conquer my first hill. The summit of Ben Macdhui was our goal but we were destined not to reach it on that particular day. The first hour is always the worst, I was told, but at the end of the first half-hour and after the ascent of the north shoulder of Castle Hill I felt that nothing could be worse than that first agonising effort. I was glad of an excuse to rest and admire the view of Loch Morlich from this height. The mists of the morning had rolled away and it lay there shimmering and beautiful in the early sunshine. But its cool waters were not for us that day, we turned our backs on the loch and our faces towards the imposing crags of Cairn Lochan. A fierce struggle lay ahead, but for the moment my legs had stopped trembling and I had some breath to spare. This was a world I had not seen

before, and I was glad to be alive. We pushed on, through heather, over rocks, imperceptibly climbing until we reached the shoulder of Cairn Lochan. There the wind hit us with gale force. It grew colder and swirls of mist appeared on the top of the coire and surrounding hills. The day had lost its warmth and brightness and my head was bowed against the wind as it tore fiercely at my clothes. We climbed and climbed, round the shoulder. All my thoughts and efforts were devoted to putting one foot in front of the other and trying to draw my breath naturally instead of in the wheezing pants which seemed to be all I could manage. After what seemed like several hours, to me at least, we reached the Plateau. I had been longing for this. A plateau has one great virtue—it is flat, and after these weary miles, my aching leg muscles needed a change of scenery.

The plateau was an eerie place. Bare and deserted of heather it reminded me of walking on shingle at the beach on other less strenuous days. In front of us, startled by this invasion of their privacy, rose a family of ptarmigan, the only bird life to be found at this height. We had anticipated an excellent view from this eminence but the mist was too thick. It had been decided earlier that we should descend to Loch Avon and the Shelter Stone rather than risk Ben Macdhui in the mist. We crossed the Plateau and found ourselves on the rim of hills looking down—a long way down—into Loch Avon. This loch has been called the loveliest in Scotland. It is certainly the loneliest and most majestic. Seen even on this dull day it had a grandeur—a remoteness—that held me spell-bound. Somewhere in the depths was our new target—the Shelter Stone. The thought of going down instead of up was very pleasant to me and I set off in the wake of the leaders with a happy heart, confident that I could accomplish this without much difficulty. Alas! for my hopes. 2,000 feet is a long way down and granite is an unfriendly rock, bruising even a hand stretched out seeking aid. Our path lay down a waterfall and it was not until I was about one third of the way down that I realised just what lay ahead. I am no chamois and leaping from rock to rock is not a pastime in which I am at my best. At times I despaired of reaching level ground. To me it was a nightmare—I slipped and fell and saw only too well how easily it would be to hurtle downwards and never regain control. It was clear, however, that I could not stay there, neither up nor down, I must go on and so at last, bruised, battered, but triumphant I gained the shores of Loch Avon, remotest spot in Britain, and saw with my own eyes the

fabulous Shelter Stone. There we inscribed our names in an old school jotter—a sort of Visitors' Book—evidence that like a popular comedian "we had arrived."

The re-ascent of the precipice taxed me to the uttermost but the appearance of cloud drifting in our direction hurried me as no entreaties could. Once more on the plateau I felt my troubles were over. For our leader they were only increasing. On that unfriendly waste, hardly able to see 10 yards away, a false step could mean disaster. By a miracle of judgment, or so it seemed, we were led to our homeward path, and with each downward step which brought us into sunlight again our spirits soared and we felt the glow of achievement pervade us. We were the "first of the few"—the first party from Queen Victoria School to reach the Shelter Stone. The ultimate victory for me lay in the descent of the Feith Buidhe and with me one thought remains—"I shall return."

Some of us were lucky enough to see Loch Eilean with its island and ruined castle. Probably we all enjoyed a romp on the sandy shores of Loch Morlich, but not all braved the chilly waters. We spent all our "spare" moments, when it was not raining, collecting wood for the winter pile. Rations and all our kit had to be man-handled along three miles of muddy track to the hut. As time went on and rain came down, the path became a stream. On one occasion a dump was made half-way along the path. Next morning we found that cattle had very quickly found our potatoes and devoured half a sack of them. Next time we carried the rations all the way.

The journey there and back was completed by motor coach, for which we are indebted to the Stirling Branch of the Old Boys' Association, who generously donated the proceeds of a dance to the Camp funds.

Motor travel does not agree with all, and en route one noted sufferer was finding that "bully beef" sandwiches would not stay down, when a very old lady looked out of her cottage door, and offering solace, said, "The laddies wud be far better aff at hame!" Would the same "laddies" agree?

R. Smith (Senior Monitor, 1950-51) and now at Sandhurst, is a regular member of the second XI Association Football Club there.

D. McArthur (Senior Monitor, 1951-52), who is now at Cranwell, has been selected for the College boxing team in a match against Oxford University.

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