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THE VICTORIAN

Editorial

THIS has been a comparatively quiet year in the history of the School, but none the less, we hope, a year of steady progress.

It is now nearly three years since the teaching staff of the School was reorganised in its present form, and the work which had formerly been done by Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the R.A.E.C. was handed over to Civilian Masters and Military Officers, so that the School would be in a position to provide instruction up to the standard of the Scottish Leaving Certificate. At the time, though it must have been foreseen that the change would be a big one, and that it would take a long time to accomplish, it is probable that it was not realised just how long it would take, nor what other changes and readjustments would have to be made en route. Even today the answers are still not clear, though some of the results are beginning to appear. It is at least significant that last term three boys were presented for the Scottish Leaving Certificate and this term no less than ten have been presented for the General Certificate of Education.

There is always a danger when changes occur in an organisation—and a boarding school is a very delicate and highly-organised institution—that the conflict between the old and the new can often provoke undue differences and dissensions in the minds of those who are most affected.

Fortunately, however, we live in a country and among a people who have always shown a genius for avoiding extremes, and for trying to find a sensible and workable compromise in all their difficulties. There was only one occasion on which they failed absolutely, and then we had a Civil War. But that was some three hundred years ago. We have not repeated the mistake since.

When this School was founded in 1908 conditions were vastly different from those which prevail today. In years to come it is probable that historians may look back on the first half of the twentieth century as being the most eventful and rapidly-changing period in the history of our country. But, in spite of this change and even though a great many ideas and institutions have been discarded throughout the length and breadth of the land, a great many remain, and these, for the most part, are the best and most valuable. We believe that this is true also of our School.

The Queen Victoria School was founded, as so often happens in the first instance, as the result of the initiative of a few people, in this case a small body of Army Officers. Their enterprise secured the support of the people of Scotland, and, eventually, that of the War Office as well. The object was, and still is, to provide a school for the sons of Scottish Sailors and Soldiers which would educate boys in the best traditions of the Service and our race.

There is no doubt that if all those who were instrumental in establishing the School could see

the life of the Services now, and compare it with what they knew some 50 years ago, they would find, on the surface at least, many changes. No doubt they would find cause for disapproval and regret in many cases, but since they must have been men with an eye to the future—their action in founding a school shows plainly that they were—they would probably be the first to admit that in most cases the changes were the result of reason and necessity. One thing, we hope and believe, they would find unchanged. The spirit and morale of the Servicemen are the same then as as now, and it does not need a Napoleon to remind us that these are what matter most.

So, too, with our School. Educational ideas, like military theories, have advanced by leaps and bounds since 1908. Indeed, there has been a revolution. And just as he would be a poor Commander who would refuse stubbornly to adopt new ideas, and new tactics because he considered that those on which he had been brought up had been good enough for him then, and would always be good enough for him, so it would be a poor apology for a school which would not learn to adapt itself to new ideas and to take advantage of them when necessary.

Somebody has said somewhere that a bad general is one who lives in the past, an indifferent general is one who lives in the present, the good general is one who looks to the future. A school, above all, is a place where one must look to the future, and usually to a future further away than that envisaged by the generals.

So we see that it is not merely a case of change now, and then settle down again. We must be always on the move, and we must be certain that we are moving in the right direction. We can only be certain of this if we are certain of our aim and if we keep it clearly before us.

Our aim is twofold; to give every boy who comes here the best possible chance in life by exercising and developing all his abilities to the full, and also to see that he fully realises and is best equipped to carry out, his responsibilities as a citizen of this country, whether by making his career in the Services, or in some other, but no less important way.

Fifty years hence perhaps our successors will be able to say whether we went about our job in the right way.

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It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Sir John Falconer, D.L., LL.D., W.S., who was one of Her Majesty's Commissioners for the School until his resignation in October, 1953.

We also announce with regret the resignation of another of Her Majesty's Commissioners, Sir John Muirhead, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., LL.D.

We are pleased to welcome as their successors, Mr G. T. Stewart, M.C., C.A., and Mr R. G. K. Way, C.B.E., Director of Finance (b), the War Office.

Visitors to the School

The following have been among the visitors to the School since Christmas, 1953:—

Major-General A. L. Collier, C.B.E., M.C., Visiting Commissioner.
 Lt.-Col. A. C. Luffman, O.B.E., Chief Inspector of Army Education.
 Lt.-General Sir Colin M. Barber, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command.
 James T. Dicken, Esq., Melbourne, Australia.
 Brigadier Alasdair Maclean.
 Lt.-Col. G. F. Hall, M.C., M.A.
 Col. G. T. Salusbury, R.A.E.C., H.Q., Scottish Command.
 Brigadier A. R. Aslett, D.S.O., Chairman, Army Sport Control Board.
 Mr R. G. K. Way, C.B.E., Director of Finance, the War Office.
 J. S. Brunton, Esq., Scottish Education Department.

Old Boys Visiting the School

8/1/54 J. A. Docherty, Glasgow.
 31/1/54 M. C. Cowe, Bucksburn, Aberdeenshire.
 28/2/54 G. N. Coad, Eardieland, Herefordshire.
 17/4/54 K. Nicolson, Harrogate, Yorks.
 17/4/54 E. Davies, Glasgow.
 17/4/54 J. Johnston, Glasgow.
 17/4/54 R. McCraig, Glasgow.
 17/4/54 M. Stewart, Glasgow.
 18/4/54 M. Davie, Kew Gardens, Surrey.
 18/4/54 F. McEvoy, Glasgow.
 18/4/54 J. Meldrum, Glasgow.
 18/4/54 A. Ramsay, Glasgow.
 18/4/54 J. Ritchie, Glasgow.
 18/4/54 G. Ritchie, Glasgow.
 3/6/54 D. Walker, Edinburgh.
 20/6/54 F. Cox, York.
 19/2/54 2/Lt. R. Smith, Hong Kong.
 23/2/54 P./O. N. Dunstanan, Watchet.
 27/2/54 A. Bain, Knellar Hall, Twickenham.
 27/2/54 B. Reid, Knellar Hall, Twickenham.
 14/3/54 G. McKay, Chapelhall.
 14/3/54 R. Fairbairn, Lanark.
 21/3/54 A. McArthur, Kirkcaldy.
 9/4/54 C. Wilson, Watford.
 13/4/54 A. McVicar, Portsmouth.
 17/4/54 W. A. Duncan, Clydebank.
 17/4/54 W. J. Duncan, B.A.O.R. 15.
 17/4/54 J. Duncan, Portland.
 17/4/54 F. Kirkpatrick, Glasgow.
 17/4/54 R. Stewart, Glasgow.
 17/5/54 Lt.-Col. J. C. Harvey, Glasgow.
 17/4/54 P. Sandilands, Glasgow.
 17/4/54 Bdr. Carruthers, Dunblane.
 2/5/54 H. Duff, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 G. Maitland, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 J. Cosgrove, Larkhall.
 2/5/54 W. Anderson, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 J. K. Plumbly, Penicuik.
 2/5/54 J. Myles, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 J. Nicol, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 J. McLeod, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 R. W. Smith, Methil.
 2/5/54 R. V. L. Stewart, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 Captain R. C. Shaw, Poughill, Bude.

2/5/54 J. M. McLeod, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 F. A. Dupez, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 W. P. Carrigan, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 W. A. Duncan, Clydebank.
 2/5/54 F. Kirkpatrick, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 G. Munro, Edinburgh.
 2/5/54 H. Claughan, Edinburgh.
 2/5/54 T. Mitchell, Dunfermline.
 2/5/54 G. Malloy, Edinburgh.
 2/5/54 G. Stewart, Doune.
 2/5/54 J. Meenaghan, Stirling.
 2/5/54 E. McCann, Leith.
 2/5/54 W. R. J. McLeod, Dunblane.
 2/5/54 A. C. Thomson, Edinburgh.
 2/5/54 J. C. Jamieson, Edinburgh.
 2/5/54 W. R. Geddes, Glasgow.
 2/5/54 A. Barker, Thornhill.
 10/5/54 D. Peachey, New Malden, Surrey.
 7/6/54 G. Gillies, Portsmouth.
 17/6/54 G. Mooney, Edinburgh.

MINUTES of a MEETING of the QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION held in the LIBRARY on SUNDAY, 2nd MAY, 1954, at 2 p.m.

Present:—The Commandant, Lt.-Colonel R. F. Nason; the Headmaster, Major D. H. McNeill; the Administrative Officer, Major J. Allison; the Regl. Sgt.-Major, R.S.M. G. Lowdon.

The Commandant opened the meeting, welcoming those present and saying how gratifying it was to see a still further increase in the number of young members attending. The Commandant regretted, however, the failure of the Edinburgh Association—this made it difficult to get news around. He hoped it would soon get going again and said that he was quite sure the Seaforth Club would give any assistance necessary. He then read the Minutes of the last meeting, which was held on the 2nd May, 1953, followed by a brief survey of the School activities, etc., since the last meeting. Points covered were as follows:—

STAFF CHANGES

Major D. H. McNeill, the new Headmaster, and Major J. Allison, the new Administrative Officer, were introduced, and the following additional changes were announced: C.S.M. Quirie to be P.T.I. vice C.S.M. Gutteridge, whom we retain as groundsman; C.S.M. Mortimer to be Dancing Instructor vice C.S.M. McKenzie to P.M., C.R.A.F. Pipe Band; Mr Lake to be Woodwork Master vice Mr McKay, whom we retain as School Carpenter; Captain Priddle vice Capt. Jordan; Captain Naulty, extra establishment. Mrs H. Beck has retired from her employment in the sewing room on reaching the age limit.

With regard to staff changes, the Commandant remarked how sorry he was to lose the services of Mrs Beck, who had given the School 20 years' good and faithful service in many capacities. She will be suitably rewarded by the Commissioners.

EDUCATION

The undermentioned boys were mentioned for their outstanding achievements, and all continue to do well:

D. A. McArthur—A Cranwell Boxing Blue and hopes to be commissioned to the R.A.F.

- A. Murray—Hoping to get a Sandhurst nomination in the near future.
- R. Smith—Commissioned from Sandhurst to R.A.
- B. Williamson—Now at Welbeck.
- A. R. Williamson—Now at Sandhurst.
- J. F. Phillips—Now at Dundee University to become a Dental Surgeon.

SPORT

A new development is now taking place whereby boys will play soccer until they are 13 and rugger from 13 until they leave the School. The Headmaster, in explaining the reasons for this, pointed out that it did not mean that boys who were soccer enthusiasts could not play soccer after 13, as inter-company games would still go on.

CORONATION

Forty boys saw the Coronation procession. They were accompanied to London by Captain Ross and R.S.M. Lowdon. The remainder lined the route inside Edinburgh Castle during the State visit; this meant that all the boys had the opportunity of seeing the Queen during Coronation year.

Special church services were held on Coronation Day. A bonfire and fireworks display was held on Coronation evening.

The Commissioners presented each boy in the School with a Coronation Crown Piece in commemoration of Her Majesty's Coronation. Five trees were presented by the Glasgow Branch, and in all 60 hawthorn trees have been planted in the School grounds.

DANCING

A School team of 40 dancers had the honour of performing at the Earls Court Royal Tournament during the summer. The team have again the honour of performing at this year's Edinburgh Tattoo.

CHAPEL

The Commandant described the proposed re-decoration of the Chapel and said that he hoped the ceremony of unveiling the window would take place in October. He also mentioned that the hangings to be placed behind the table were made from the actual materials which formed part of the decorations of Westminster Abbey at Her Majesty's Coronation.

Two wedding services were held in the School Chapel during the year. One was that of Mr McVicar, an old boy of the School, and the other that of C.S.M. Quirie to Helen, daughter of C.S.M. White.

SUMMER CAMP

A number of boys, together with four officers, will again attend a summer camp in the Cairngorms from 2nd to 16th July.

CAMERON CLUB

The Cameron Club, Glasgow, was thanked for their continued interest in and assistance given to the Glasgow Branch and the School in general.

SCHOOL RE-ORGANISATION

As the School is not now up to modern

standards, there is a proposal taking shape to have it brought up to scale. The Commandant pointed out, however, that to date there is nothing official about the project, it is merely in the planning stage in the hope that some day it may be realised, particularly as the school is overcrowded when compared with modern standards. The major changes and additions visualised are:—

- (a) A new educational block that would contain all class rooms, workshops, etc., thereby releasing the existing main block for accommodation, cooking and dining only.
- (b) Provision of a modern swimming pool.
- (c) Provision and installation of a new heating system.
- (d) Construction of a new primary block to house the younger boys.
- (e) Construction of a new Staff Club to release existing accommodation for changing rooms, showers, etc.
- (f) When complete the scheme would abolish four Companies as at present and introduce four Houses, which would require two married and two unmarried resident Housemasters, all of whom would have an unmarried assistant; also two resident House Matrons, i.e., one per two houses. The present House Matron would be retained and re-designated Housekeeper.

REDECORATION

Internal decoration of the whole School will be carried out this summer.

GRAND DAY

will be Wednesday, 30th June, this year.

The representatives of the various branches were then asked to give an account of their branch activities.

Glasgow Branch.—Mr J. McLeod read to the meeting the Glasgow Branch report. Mr McLeod also asked that the Branch be given ample warning of the ceremony of unveiling the Chapel Window.

Mr McLeod mentioned how grieved his Branch were to know of the ever diminishing number of members interested in the Edinburgh Branch. The Commandant congratulated the Glasgow Branch on their very satisfactory report.

Mr McLeod then introduced the following old boys who were present:

Captain Shaw (School No. 102) "C" Company, who was making his third attendance in 30 years. Ian Dean, Q.O.C.H., home on leave from his regiment in Malaya. Fredrick Plumbly, recently retired from the Newcastle Police, late Seaforth Highlanders.

Mr McLeod also said that Mr Plumbly was very keen to reorganise the Edinburgh Branch as he, Mr Plumbly, was now domiciled there.

Edinburgh.—Mr Munro regretted the small following from Edinburgh and said how glad he was to hear that Mr Plumbly was prepared to get the Edinburgh Branch on its feet again, and offered every assistance. He also thanked the Commandant for the kind offer of help from the

Seaforth Club, but thought it would be better if they first tried to get a place of their own as opposed to an associated club. The Commandant then expressed his delight at the prospect of getting the Edinburgh Branch reorganised and tendered his thanks to Mr Plumbly for his interest and efforts in this respect, and said that he could expect every possible support from him.

Stirling.—The Stirling Branch had nothing to report.

London.—Captain Shaw, who is now domiciled in London, said he would leave his address and would be glad to see and do anything he could for Old Boys visiting London. Mr McLeod (Glasgow) suggested that Captain Shaw should get in touch with P.M. Robertson of the Guards, and between them they could no doubt form a working London Branch.

Founders' Day.—The Commandant announced Sunday, September 26th, as Founders' Day and said that it was for consideration whether or not Founders' Day and Old Boys' Day should be combined. This would lessen the expense of travel for those who could ill afford the expense of two trips, it could then be one large show on one day. No firm decision was arrived at.

Ties and Blazer Badges.—Mr Maitland (Glasgow) raised the question of blue Blazer School Badges and also said that Forsyth's were sending sample ties, price 18/- and 20/- each.

Records.—Mr Maitland (Glasgow) pointed out that the name of Lt.-Colonel Hardy, Q.O.C.H., was not yet on the board, and Captain Shaw mentioned the name of Colonel Hetherington, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, late Ghurka Rifles.

The Commandant said this would be done at the same time as the interior decoration, together with any others which are not yet on the board.

Newsletter.—The Headmaster said the intention was to issue a newsletter each term, but the present one was being held up for this meeting. He produced the card index and asked all present to look through it and leave the name and address of any old boys they knew whose names did not appear in our card index.

Conclusion.—The Commandant answered questions on the school reorganisation to the satisfaction of all concerned and the meeting was brought to a close at 3.30 p.m.

Old Boys' Day

On Sunday, 2nd May, I was again very happy to have the opportunity of visiting my old school on Old Boys' Day. Along with a party of about 25 from Glasgow, we arrived in nice time to take our seats in the Royal Chapel. The Chapel, after its redecoration, was looking lovely and I felt mighty proud as I sat beside my young and old comrades. At 2 o'clock the Old Boys' Meeting was held in the Conference Room—the Commandant, Col. Nason, presiding. I was not very happy about the turnout of Old Boys—particularly the absence of the Edinburgh and Stirling branches. I missed seeing and hearing those grand old stalwarts—Harrison, McKinnell and Edmons, and Slorance from Stirling. So Glasgow had more or

less the stage to themselves, and what a report they had to make—a report of hard work and progress, and a fine bank book despite the fact that in general the Old Boys in Glasgow are not very interested, and the work is being done by a small party of really enthusiastic Old Boys, helped by their women folk and some friends. It was good to hear the report, and I hope and trust that next year the Glasgow branch will have bigger results for the work that their committee seems to be doing.

Despite the small numbers at the meeting, it was fine to meet three old friends (two of them very old friends)—Captain Shaw (Pally) who left the school in 1916, visiting his old school for the third time since he left—he had a lot to tell us and we were all very interested. Fred Plumbly, who also left the school in 1916 to join the Seaforth Highlanders, then joining the Newcastle Police—how disappointed Fred was at the news from Edinburgh, and now that he is resident near Edinburgh he promised that he would certainly do all in his power to try and again bring the Edinburgh branch back to their rightful place. All power to you, Fred, and the good wishes of the Glasgow branch. Ian Dunn, just home after three years in Malaya where he was with the Gordon Highlanders. From Malaya to Dunblane—wonderful, Ian—we are proud of you—why, some Old Boys find difficulty in coming to their old school on Old Boys' Day and they only live locally.

It was good to see Jock Malloy and Munro from Edinburgh along with some younger members—they had come through independently. The Commandant had a lot to tell us, and from all accounts it appears that we will see many changes in our old school before many more years have passed.

Our annual football match was a flop, the game having to be abandoned after only 15 minutes. For the first time for many years the weather clerk was not with us—not only was it bitterly cold, but it rained so heavily for many hours. At tea-time we were again entertained by the Military Band and their grand show was much appreciated by the Old Boys—what a worker Mr Lax is and what response from his youthful musicians—a fine Bandmaster and a grand crowd of boys. Talking about tea-time—where did all the people come from? Looking around the dining hall, I could not help thinking about the number at the meeting! Why, I nearly forgot to mention the Pipers and Dancers—what a terrible mistake that would have been. A display was given by the Pipe Band and Highland Dancers. I think they were terrific and a credit to their instructors, Pipe-Major Sanderson and Sgt. Mortimer. It was interesting to learn that the school dancers will be performing in Edinburgh at the Military Tattoo. On 21st August there will be a miniature Hampden Roar at Edinburgh Castle when 320 of us from Glasgow will welcome our young dancing friends from Dunblane.

After tea we all made our way to the Staff Club, where a very enjoyable couple of hours were spent by all—and so another Old Boys' Day had come to an end, another memory.

"CATHKIN BRAES."

Valete

- 2277 Cpl. B. Williamson to Welbeck College.
 2407 P/M A. McDonald to Scots Guards.
 2330 Sgt. P. Sutherland to R.A.F. Apprentice School.
 2321 Cpl. A. M. Steele to Civilian Life.
 2320 Cpl. A. B. McArthur to Civilian Life.
 2378 Boy F. Dick—Withdrawn.
 2536 Boy R. Copeland—Withdrawn.
 2410 Boy T. Calder—Withdrawn.
 2399 Boy A. Gibson—Withdrawn.
 2425 Boy J. McFadyen—Withdrawn.
 2207 S/Monitor R. Fairbairn to O.C.T.U., Eaton Hall.
 2337 Boy R. Palmer to Infantry Boys' Battalion.
 2411 Boy J. C. Smith—Withdrawn.
 2480 Boy A. B. Smith—Withdrawn.
 2581 Boy J. F. Nicolson—Withdrawn.
 2318 Boy M. Stewart to A.A.S., Harrogate.
 2425 Boy A. Hutchison to Civilian Life.
 2559 Boy D. Glover—Withdrawn.
 2591 Boy D. Cameron—Withdrawn.
 2427 Boy G. Henderson to R.A.F. Apprentice School.
 2373 Cpl. D. Craggs to R.A.F. Apprentice School.

Salvete

- 2629 Docherty, J.—"B" Boy.
 2630 McGrory, J. D.—"B" Coy.
 2631 McAllister, S. G.—"B" Coy.
 2632 McMillan, M.—"A" Coy.
 2633 Meechan, T. A.—"B" Coy.
 2634 Maxwell, R.—"D" Coy.
 2635 Scott, R. C.—"B" Coy.
 2636 Miller, G. J.—"A" Coy.

Military Band

Music is Love in search of a word

The Band suffered the loss, in February, of Robert Fairbairn, baritone, but we have a worthy successor in Peter Gibson. Robert left us to join the Cameronians, and almost immediately he was recommended for a commission. He is now at O.C.T.U., Eaton Hall. Good luck, Robert! The only other loss so far this year is Arthur Murray, Bb Clarinet. He has been our Band Sergeant for several years, and also our soloist upon the Bells. His successor upon the Bells, Keith Gavigan, looks as though he is going to have the same success. Arthur left us at the beginning of June, just before our season of engagements opened. He is following in the steps of Robert Fairbairn, because he also is to become an officer cadet, only at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

On Old Boys' Day we once again produced a programme which was played during tea. A new addition to this band was Terence Gavigan, aged nine, and hence the youngest present. He sang, to everyone's delight, "O Mine Papa." His success did not stop there, however, because he later had the pleasure of singing upon the wireless. At the beginning of May, the Bandmaster was told that recordings were to be taken for a wireless

broadcast. Five minutes after this warning the recordings were taken, and on May 27th we had the pleasure of hearing ourselves upon the wireless. We played "O Mine Papa" and the march, "Men of Might." Our engagements this season were at Dundee, Slamannan, Stirling, Maddiston, Perth.

On behalf of the Bandmaster, I would like to thank Mr Boyson Clarke, Bandmaster of the 9th Lancers, for the selection of Military Band pieces we have just received. By a coincidence these pieces were packed by one of our old Band Sergeants, J. Isdale, solo bass. He sends his best wishes to all and also gives us good tidings of another two old boys, A. Spence and D. Vallance. They are both progressing extremely well with their music. Vallance is leaving the Service for a year's course at the London Academy of Music. We wish him every success in his musical career.

The Bandmaster has also received news from Ronald Smith, Bb Sax., who wrote from Singapore on his way to Hong Kong as an officer in the Gunners. He sends his best wishes to the Band.

The Bandmaster and his wife are both in good health, and Mr Lax looks forward most eagerly to hearing from, or seeing, all who have been under his tuition.

And now, for the last time, I bring this epistle to a close. I have enjoyed collecting news for you to read, and I only wish I could continue to do so indefinitely. I wish you all the best of health, wealth, and happiness.

A. S. M.

Pipe Notes

The Band has had a good season, and Pipe-Major Sanderson has been keeping the Band up to a very high standard, a great effort after his recent illness. At the beginning of the year, we lost one of our best pipers, Brian Williamson, who has gone to Welbeck College.

During the winter months the Band played three times at Murrayfield and once at Hampden Park, and there have been some engagements during the summer term.

At the end of this term we shall be losing some more boys, so it's cheerio to Ian McKenzie, Robert Scott, Alastair Munro, Kenneth MacCrimmon, Francis McLeod, and William Pirrett. A few of the older boys, notably Stewart Robertson and Robert Greenhorn, are staying on at School, so we hope that they will remain in the Band, giving their best (as they always have done.)

K. MacC.

Drum Notes

The drummers have been doing very well since the last issue of the "Victorian." We have had very few engagements this term. We have been to Meadowbank, Bonnybridge and Slamannan. We had our competitions for bugling and drumming on the 8th June. E. Gardner won the Silver Bugle, B. McHugh won the trumpeting, and J. Sim won the side drumming. Moore-Hemsley won the tenor drumming. In the

Juniors, C. Murray won the side drumming and W. Coburn won the bugling. The best all-round drummer was J. Sim and the best Junior was J. Fee. This term we say good-bye to three of our regular pipe band drummers. They are D. Bethune, C. Carcary, W. Beveridge. They are all leaving for civilian life and we sign off by wishing them all the best of luck.

D. M.

"A" Company Notes

Since the last issue of the "Victorian" we have been unsuccessful in the soccer and rugby, gaining a second place in the former and a third place in the latter. Besides this, we came second to "D" Company in the athletics. Of course, we have not lost heart and we keep trying, practising hard and earnestly for the cricket, swimming and drill. We have had a first and second position in the kit inspection and ought, with a bit of perseverance, to manage another first place.

In the last "Victorian" I mentioned Bob Fairbairn's leaving and since then we have had word that he passed into Eaton Hall. We wish him all the best for the future.

Recently we were unfortunate enough to lose Band Sergeant Arthur Murray, who starts his basic training for the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, soon. We sincerely hope that success will be his lot. As well as losing Murray, we are losing our other sergeant, Jim Morgan, to civilian life, and two corporals. Good luck to them.

All that remains now is to thank those people who have helped us through this year, mainly the Company Commander and the Company Sergeant Major. And, of course, all the boys.

J. M. McARTHUR.

"B" Company Notes

Although this has been a very eventful term, "B" Company are, as yet, unsuccessful in their bid to capture the championship. We have only one first to our credit, dancing, so our congratulations go to these eight young boys who won us this trophy. In the other competitions we have had seconds in rugby, cross-country, table tennis, and second equal in football.

To date, there has been only one kit inspection, which we won, so we have high hopes in the interior economy competition.

Mr Martin, our C.S.M., is slaving us for the drill and kit in a desperate attempt to get us to win the drill competition.

Even although we have not been very successful, the morale of the Company has increased greatly, mainly due to Mr Bruce, our Company Commander, and Mr Martin, who have been both patient and understanding.

After much hard work, Mr Bruce has succeeded in obtaining a private room for the Company's N.C.O.s.

The congratulations of the Company go to Monitor Robertson and Sgts. White and Greenhorn, who have been selected to represent the School in the Inter-Scholastic Sports at Glasgow: three "B" Company out of a team of four.

There is no more to say except that we thank Mr Bruce and Mr Martin for all they have done for the Company during the past year (including the floggings we have had), and that next year we hope to give you old "B" Company boys better news and show your "our" championship shield.

S. R.

"C" Company Notes

The "C" Company boys have had quite a profitable time since the last issue of the "Victorian." As we could not have our Christmas party, we had an outing to the pictures. We saw "The Sword and the Rose" and had our tea afterwards in a restaurant. The boys are utilising the Wauchope dormitory as a play-room. We have a new table tennis table and plenty of magazines and daily papers as well as the usual indoor games. Most of the boys have now passed out in drill and all are taking part in the Grand Day parade. A few of the boys have done well in the School sports. Boy Dunbar, J., came second in the Junior cross-country. Boys McMillan, M., McLaughlin, J., and Wilkie, J., did very well in the under-twelve group. Boy Docherty, J., won the 10-11 table tennis championship, and Monitor Adams, R., reached the finals of the open table tennis championship.

This term we welcomed two new N.C.O.s to the Company. They both came from "A" Company and have settled down very well. Last term, Monitor Robertson was transferred back to "B" Company. Drum-Major Adams took his place, and Cpl. Hunter was promoted sergeant. Most of the Company's older boys will be leaving for their parent Companies at the beginning of the new School year.

"D" Company Notes

So far, "D" Company has put up a good show in the sports and we shall, if we work hard, get the Championship Shield this year.

In the events already run off, we have won the rugby through good work in the scrum. At the end of the rugby season we lost our captain, Brian Williamson, who went to Welbeck College, and has been doing very well since he went there.

In the football, we came first after a good, clean game. We have a young goalkeeper in the thirds, MacKinnon by name, who is up and coming.

The cross-country was won by the boys grouping together and doing their best to get their group in first, which they eventually did with F. MacLeod second in the senior division. The rest were kept together by D. Cromar who, in his last year at the school, has managed the sports for "D" Company admirably, and has nearly always led the boys to victory.

In the boxing we had a close second to "A" Company, our rivals for the Championship, and against whom we had to fight for the Athletics Cup. We turned out to be first in the athletics, with S/Monitor Wilson as Senior Champion, R. Watson as Intermediate Champion, and G. G. Ferrier runner-up in the Juniors. Again our Sports Captain gave the boys a big hand and helped them in their training.

At present, the boys are training hard for the swimming, cricket, drill and dancing competitions. Mr Mortimer, our C.S.M., has managed the dancing teams well and has been putting in intensive practice with the dancers. The two Carcary brothers did well in getting a place in the drumming.

After working hard and doing a grand job in the sports, the Company has saved up for an outing, which they will be having at the end of term. This has been supervised by our Company Commander, Captain Ross, a very capable person, who has been managing the Company very well and has done a great deal for us in preparation for the sports.

Monitor Jones had his appendix out in March and has made a speedy recovery since then. Unfortunately, he missed quite a few of the sports, and was not able to represent the Company.

As the term closes, we are expecting to lose most of the older boys, who must leave, among whom is our Sports Captain. We who are staying feel sorry to see them go and wish them every success in their new lives. At present we are hoping that the boys who will fill in their places will be as successful as they were.

K. GAVIGAN.

School Notes

We offer our congratulations to A. S. Murray on his success in the recent Sandhurst examination.

|| || ||

R. S. Fairbairn (late Senior Monitor, who left in January to join the Cameronians) has entered Eaton Hall O.C.T.U., Chester.

|| || ||

P. Gibson, in his first match for the 1st XI, carried his bat through the School innings and was undefeated with 15 runs to his credit after 70 minutes' batting.

|| || ||

Several visits have been made by various forms to places of interest during the School year—to a coal mine, a distillery, to the hydro-electric scheme at Pitlochry, to the locomotive yards at Springburn, Glasgow, and to a Clan Line ship. Also, the whole School went to Stirling to see the Everest film.

|| || ||

The Librarian would like to thank those boys who, during the last school year, have presented books to the Library. He warmly recommends the idea to others!

Various School Clubs and Societies have been formed which function during the Christmas and Easter terms. It is hoped to include reports on the activities of some of these clubs in the next number of "The Victorian."

|| || ||

Please remember that contributions of essays, stories, poems, can be handed to the Editor at any time. Don't bring along your effort a week before the magazine is due out!

|| || ||

We announce with deep regret the death of Mrs McAllister, a member of the kitchen staff of the school, which occurred recently, as a result of a sudden illness. We wish to offer our deepest sympathy to her family and relatives.

|| || ||

During the term we said goodbye to Mrs Beck, a member of the staff of the sewing room, who had been with us for some twenty years.

|| || ||

We congratulate Captain and Mrs Maxton on the birth of a son, and Mr and Mrs Quirie on the birth of a daughter.

Tailors' Notes

I have long wished to write these notes and bring back news from the tailor shop and from the people who work in it. We have five new tailors who joined us at the beginning of the year. The four juniors who joined us were: Dunn, I., Davidson, Dallas, and Chilcott; the senior is Dunn, J. All of these boys are getting on well, and we only have to thank the Master Tailor for the progress they have made. Dunn, J., the new senior, has worked very hard in the shop to catch up with the more experienced seniors. Simpson takes great care in his work, and I hope he gets on in civilian life as a tailor. As for me, you can ask the other tailors how I work. I only hope we give a good display of tailoring on Grand Day. I can assure you any boy who goes to the tailors need not worry about making a mistake when he is getting trained by Mr Henderson!

D. CRAMB.

Caledonian Games

The following are some of the results at the recent Caledonian Games, held at the White City, London:—

Solo Pipng—1, Pipe-Major J. B. Robertson, M.B.E. (late Scots Guards); 2, Pipe-Major J. R. McKenzie (Royal Canadian Air Force); 3, J. Robertson, jun.

Solo Drumming—1, Gordon Shand.

Winning Pipe Band—The Robertson Highland (Pipe-Major J. B. Robertson, M.B.E.).

All those mentioned are Old Boys of the School.

ANNUAL INSPECTION, 1954

Wednesday, 30th June, at 3 p.m.

Inspecting Officer :

AIR-MARSHAL R. L. RAGG

C.B., C.B.E., A.F.C., Senior Air Officer, Scotland

INSPECTION

The Guards are drawn up in line with the School Colour in the Centre, both Bands in rear of line, Military Band on right, Pipes and Drums on left.

The Air Marshal is received with the General Salute, "The Garb of Old Gaul." The Air Marshal inspects the parade and returns to the Saluting Base. The Band plays Inspection Troop "The Eton Boating Song."

Before the commencement of the "Troop," Colours and Bands move to position. The Assembly is played in quick time and Pipes and Drums move from left to right, playing "Kitchener's Army."

TROOP

On the command "Troop," the Band, Pipes and Drums move right to left in slow time, the Pipes and Drums playing "The Highland Cradle Song." They countermarch and halt, and march back from left to right in quick time, the Band playing "Men of Might." The Drummer's Call is beaten and the Bands take up position in front of No. 1 Guard, the Escort for the Colour.

The Escort for the Colour, No. 1 Guard, moves out of line in quick time, forms to the left and, headed by the Bands, the Pipes and Drums playing "The Earl of Mansfield," moves to a position in front of the Colour and halts.

Cpl .W. Corcoran receives the Colour.

The Escort salutes the Colour, the Band and Buglers playing "The Salute."

The Colour is trooped in slow time through the ranks of the Guards, who receive it with the Salute, the Band playing "Logie o' Buchan."

MARCH PAST

The Parade forms Column of Guards, the Band playing "Officer of the Day," and marches past the Air Marshal in quick time, the Pipes and Drums playing "Hielan' Laddie."

The Parade forms Close Column and marches past to "Hielan' Laddie" again, re-forms line (the Band playing "Imperial Echoes") and then advances in Review Order (the Band playing "Scotland The Brave"), halts and gives a General Salute.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

The Parade forms three sides of a square.

The Air Marshal addresses the Parade.

The following prizes are presented by Mrs Ragg:

Dux Medal, Primus Medal, Champion Company Shield, School Trophies, Addison Smith Prizes for Public Speaking, Sir Robert Cranston Memorial Essay Prize.

The Commandant calls for three cheers for Mrs Ragg.

The Parade re-forms line and marches off to "Captain Norman Orr-Ewing," played by the Pipe Band.

TEA INTERVAL

Musical Programme follows (see opposite page)

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Exhibitions of work done by the boys are on view in the Band Shed.

Musical Programme

1. TRUMPETS:—

Fanfare.

2. MILITARY BAND:—

Selection, "Scottish Melodies" Scholes

Waltz, "The Quaker Girl" L. Monckton.

3. DANCING:—

Single Swords.

4. PIPE BAND:—

Slow March—"The Rowan Tree."

March—"Farewell to the Creeks."

5. MILITARY BAND:—

Selection, "White Horse Inn" R. Stolz.

6. DANCING:—

Highland Fling.

7. PIPE BAND:—

Set. Slow March—"The Mist Covered Mountains."

March—"Invercauld."

Strathspey—"Bonnie Woods and Braes."

Reel—"The Kilt is my Delight."

March—"Pibroch o' Donal' Dhu."

8. MILITARY BAND:—

Two Popular Numbers—"Answer Me" G. Winkler.

"Oh! My Papa" P. Burkhard.

9. PIPE BAND:—"Hielan' Laddie."

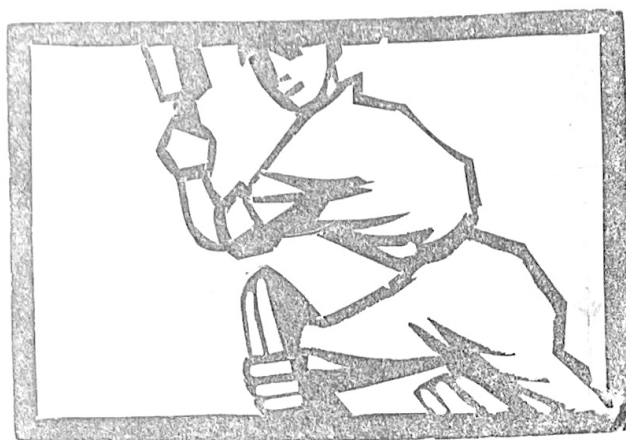
10. BUGLES:—Retreat.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Bandmaster—Mr F. E. Lax, B.E.M.

Pipe-Major—Mr J. McC. Sanderson.

Drum Major—Mr T. McDonald.



Cricket, 1954

At the time of writing, the 1st XI have three more matches to play and the 2nd XI have completed their programme.

The 1st XI have quite a good record, having won all their matches to date except the first, when the team was weakened because of a Pipe Band engagement. The batting has improved during the season in spite of the general weakness of hitting across the straight ball, and I should very much like to see more evidence of the ability to drive to the off and through the covers, instead of constantly pulling the loose ball to leg. Nevertheless, the season has shown us sound performances by Cromar, Morgan and Gibson.

Morgan has bowled steadily and well, and has been ably backed up by Carcary.

The fielding generally has been keen, and, where a catch was dropped, usually the effort to get the ball at all was a good one. Cromar, the captain, set a good example behind the stumps, and on one occasion when he did not keep wicket, bowled quite successfully.

The following have played for the 1st XI this season: D. R. Cromar (capt.), J. Morgan (vice-capt.), A. S. Murray, N. T. Poulson, J. Wilson, W. A. Jones, W. Haggart, R. Anderson, R. A. Greenhorn, P. Gibson, S. Robertson, C. Carcary, W. Alexander, W. Corcoran, A. Bell.

Results:—

Q.V.S. 1st XI v. Stirling H.S. 2nd XI (a):

Q.V.S. 28; Stirling 34 for four (Anderson three for 13). Lost by six wickets.

Q.V.S. 1st XI v. Alloa Tech. School 1st XI (h):

Q.V.S. 42 (Gibson 15 not out, Cromar 14; Alloa 20 (Morgan three for 6, Carcary four for 8). Won by 22 runs.

Q.V.S. 1st XI v. St. Modan's H.S. 1st XI (a):

Q.V.S. 53 for seven (Morgan 12); St. Modan's 47 (Morgan five for 15). Won by six runs.

Q.V.S. 1st XI v. Stirling High School 2nd XI (h):

Stirling 48 (Morgan six for 18); Q.V.S. 51 for six (Cromar 16). Won by four wickets.

Q.V.S. 1st XI v. Falkirk Tech. School (h):

Q.V.S. 54 (Morgan 25, Cromar 18); Falkirk 31 (Morgan six for 14, Cromar four for 15). Won by 23 runs.

Q.V.S. 1st XI v. Alloa Tech. School 1st XI (a):
Q.V.S. 84 (Cromar 19, Wilson 15, Gibson 12, Greenhorn 12); Alloa 48 (Carcary seven for 21).

2nd XI

The following have played for the 2nd XI this season:—R. Adams (capt.), A. Quinn, W. Alexander, M. Duncan, J. K. Sim, R. Scott, W. Corcoran, W. McGoldrick, I. McKenzie, A. Bell, R. Phillips, T. Hunter, C. Douglas, C. Carcary, P. Gibson, R. A. Greenhorn, S. Robertson.

Results:—

Q.V.S. 2nd XI v. Morrison's Acad. 4th XI (h):
Q.V.S. 18; Morrison's 36 for nine.

Q.V.S. 2nd XI v. Alloa Tech. School 2nd XI (h):
Q.V.S. 101 (Duncan 21, Bell 16, Scott 15, Adams 13, Sim 12); Alloa 60 (Corcoran six for 23, Adams three for 5).

Q.V.S. 2nd XI v. Stirling H.S. 3rd XI (h):
Q.V.S. 44 (Duncan 10); Stirling 19 (Adams five for 12, Corcoran three for 6).

Q.V.S. 2nd XI v. Alloa Tech. School 2nd XI (a):
Q.V.S. 71 (Scott 39, Adams 10); Alloa 76 (Adams four for 29, Corcoran four for 35).

CRICKET COLOURS, 1954

1st XI—Old Colours—J. Morgan.

1st XI—New Colours—D. Cromar, C. Carcary, P. Gibson.

2nd XI—Old Colours—D. Cromar, J. Wilson, R. Adams, C. Carcary.

2nd XI—New Colours—W. Corcoran, M. Duncan, R. Scott.

Association Football, 1954

Result of match played during Easter term:—

Q.V.S. 2; Falkirk H.S. 4.

Inter-Company Association Football Championship

Winners—"D" Company.

Runners-up—"A" Company.

Cross-Country, 1954

Senior: 1st—"D" Coy. (136 pts.)

2nd—"B" Coy. (145 pts.)

3rd—"A" Coy. (210 pts.)

Junior: 1st—"A" Coy. (125 pts.)

2nd—"D" Coy. (157 pts.)

3rd—"B" Coy. (203 pts.)

Individual Placings:—

Senior—1, Greenhorn (B); 2, Beveridge (A); 3, F. P. McLeod (D).

Junior—1, B. Scott (A); 2, Dunbar (D); 3, G. Hamilton (A).



Athletics, 1954

The Combined, Individual and Inter-Company Sports were held on the afternoon of Wednesday, 9th June. Weather conditions were not too promising at first, and the early events were run off in a thin drizzle which, however, cleared away and left us a reasonably fine afternoon. Some of the times and distances were very good and several records were broken, as can be seen from the results which follow:—

100 yards: Open—1, White (B); 2, McArthur (A). Time 10.3 seconds (record). Senior—1, Wilson (D); 2, MacCrimmon (A); 3, Neilsen (A). Time 11.2 seconds. Intermediate—1, Watson (D); 2, Hamilton (A); 3, Alexander (B). Time 12.3 seconds.

75 yards: Junior—1, Ferrier (D); 2, Thomson, F. (D); 3, Leigh (B).

High jump: Open—1, Greenhorn (B); 2, Adams (D); 3, Poulson (A). Height 5ft. 2ins. Senior—1, Wilson (D); 2, Scott (A); 3, MacCrimmon (A). Height 5ft. Intermediate—1, Paterson (B); 2, Watson (D); 3, Scott (A). Height 4ft. 7ins. Junior—1, Leigh (B); 2, Airnes (A); 3, Ferrier (D). Height 3ft. 11ins.

Throwing the cricket ball: Junior—Leigh (B); Dunbar (D); Docherty (B). Distance 124ft.

440 yards: Open—1, Greenhorn (B); 2, Robertson (B); 3, Poulson (A). Time 60 seconds. Senior—1, Gibson (D); 2, Scott (A); 3, Hemsley (B). Time 61.4 seconds.

75 yards hurdles: Open—1, White (B); 2, McArthur (A); 3, Poulson (A). Senior—1, MacCrimmon (A); 2, McColl (A); 3, Corcoran (D). Time 11.5 seconds (record). Intermediate—1, FitzPatrick (B); 2, Sim (A); 3, McNicol (A). Time 14.3 seconds.

Putting the weight: Open—1, Greenhorn (B); 2, Adams (D); 3, Cromar (D). Distance 38ft. 10ins. Senior—1, Wilson (D); 2, Hastie (D); 3, MacCrimmon (A). Distance 41ft. 8ins. (record). Intermediate—1, Morrison (D); 2, Alexander (B); 3, Sim (A). Distance 27ft. 5ins.

220 yards: Open—1, White (B); 2, McArthur (A). Time 24.2 seconds. Senior—1, Neilson (A); 2, Scott (A); 3, Gibson (D). Time 27.3 seconds. Intermediate—1, Watson (D); 2, Alexander (B); 3, Bethune (D). Time 29.3 seconds.

Long jump: Open—1, White (B); 2, Robertson (B); 3, McArthur (A). Distance 17ft. 6ins. Senior—1, Corcoran (D); 2, Scott (A); 3, Neilson

(A). Distance 17ft. 6ins. Intermediate—1, Paterson (B); 2, Bethune (D); 3, Chessar (D). Distance 14ft. 5ins. Junior—1, Ferrier (D); 2, Leigh (B); 3, Thomson (D). Distance 14ft. 3ins.

One mile: Open—1, Greenhorn (B); 2, Robertson (B); 3, Cromar (D). Time 5 minutes 5 seconds.

880 yards: Senior—1, Gibson (D); 2, McLeod, F. P. (D); 3, Beveridge (A). Time 2 minutes 39 seconds.

Javelin: Open—1, Robertson (B); 2, Adams (D). Distance 123ft. 5ins. (record). Senior—1, Scott (A); 2, MacCrimmon (A); 3, Hastie (D). Distance 122ft. 4ins.

Boys' race—1, J. Lowdon; 2, C. Mortimer; 3, J. Ross.

Girls' race—1, J. Girvan; 2, C. Watson; 3, J. Culbard.

Ladies' race—1, Miss Mackay; 2, Mrs McNamee; 3, Mrs Milne.

Discus: Open—1, Greenhorn (B); 2, Adams (D); 3, Poulson (A). Distance 92ft. 2ins. Senior—1, Wilson (D); 2, Morgan (A); 3, Mackenzie (D). Distance 98ft. 2ins. (record).

Inter-Company relays: Junior—1, "D" Coy.; 2, "B" Coy.; 3, "A" Coy. Intermediate—1, "B"; 2, "A"; 3, "D." Senior—1, "D"; 2, "A"; 3, "B."

Staff race—1, Mr Diamond; 2, Capt. Ross; 3, Mr Bruce.

Trophy Winners

Dandy Ninth Cup and Inter - Company Championship—"D" Coy. (runners-up—"A" Coy.)

Hurdles Cup—"A" Coy.

High Jump Cup—"B" Coy.

Long Jump Cup—"D" Coy.

Weight Cup—"D" Coy.

John Williamson Cup—J. W. White.

Relay Cup—"D" Coy.

Individual Champions, 1954

Open Champion and Victor Ludorum—R. A. Greenhorn.

Senior Champion—J. Wilson.

Intermediate Champion—R. Watson.

Junior Champion—E. Leigh.

Athletics Colours, 1954

Already in possession—J. Wilson.

New Awards—J. W. White, R. Greenhorn, S. Robertson, K. MacCrimmon.

Individual Table-Tennis Championships, 1953-4

Open—D. R. Cromar; runner-up, R. Adams.
 14-15 years—R. Scott; runner-up, J. Morgan.
 13-14 years—J. Dunn; runner-up, A. McDade.
 12-13 years—B. FitzPatrick; runner-up, A. S. Hamilton.
 11-12 years—G. Hamilton; runner-up, G. McNamee.
 10-11 years—J. Docherty; runner-up, G. G. Ferrier.

Rugby Football, 1954

Results of matches played during the Easter term:—

Q.V.S. 1st XV 0 pts.; Dunfermline H.S. 3rd XV 0 pts. (a)
 Q.V.S. Junior XV 3 pts.; Dunfermline H.S. 5th XV 9 pts. (a)
 Q.V.S. 1st XV 25 pts.; Stirling H.S. 2nd XV 8 pts. (a)
 Q.V.S. Junior XV 9 pts.; Stirling H.S. 4th XV 14 pts. (a)
 Strathallan School 3rd XV 0 pts.; Q.V.S. 1st XV 3 pts. (a)
 Old Colours—R. S. Fairbairn, R. A. Greenhorn, S. Robertson, B. Williamson.
 Colours, 1954—J. Wilson, D. R. Cromar, A. S. Murray, W. A. Jones.

Inter-Company Rugger Championship

Winners—"D" Company (7 pts.)
 Runners-up—"B" Company (5 pts.)

The Hunter

*With a leap and a bound, he covered the ground,
 With his eyes on the trail of the deer,
 For he could tell,
 By the track so well,
 That a herd of wild deer were here.*

*Then he waited in the bushes
 Till the deer had crossed the glade,
 Then straight and true his arrow flew,
 The hunter's kill was made.*

*The birds in the trees proclaim him,
 For he's a merry man today,
 Not returning alone to his far-distant home,
 But carrying with him his prey.*

A. R. BETHUNE, Ia.

30 Years Ago

(From "The Victorian," 1924)

"We are having electric light installed throughout the School buildings and quarters, so that the rooms and passages have been full, for the last two or three months, of innumerable men clad in dungarees, carrying innumerable hammers, while the dulcet clamour of making holes through the concrete walls of the premises has mingled pleasantly with the discordances associated with a boys' school, adding zest to the tedium of the otherwise placid classroom. It is said that ten miles of wire have been expended in wiring the School buildings."

|| || ||

"The Commandant has presented a small billiard table to the Monitors, so that quite phenomenal skill is being acquired in such things as losing hazards and long jennies."

|| || ||

From "The Chronicles of *Simplicitas,"
 Chapter 1 v. 43-46

"Now there arose the sound of a mighty trumpet, yea, a hefty blast; and upon the instant the sound of running feet, for the multitude of the children of the north did rush suddenly with one accord unto a place.

"And Simplicitas also was there, whether he would or no, for they did sweep him along with them, neither did his feet touch the ground; the chatter of many tongues did fill the place where they were, nor could any hear other; but each and all did cry out with a loud voice.

"Then came one bearing chevrons upon his arm, a beardless youth, and the hair of his head it did gleam with the shine that cometh from the fat of the bear; the scent thereof did shine like incense.

"And, behold, he spake in a mighty voice like unto thunder, saying unto them: 'Shurrup!' and, lo! they did shurrup; all them that were within that place, and there was a great calm."

* Any new boy.

Summer

*Summer is here again,
 So we'll get more sun than rain.
 Now, all the flowers are out,
 And all the children shout—
 "Summer is here again."*

*The grass on the hillside is such a lovely green,
 You just have to look and it all can be seen.
 All the trees their leaves do show,
 So I'm sure all the people know,
 Summer is here again.*

N. BURROWS, P. V.

The New Boys : A Personal Experience

As he trudged along the road to his new school, he thought a great deal—about his new school. His aunt broke the silence with, "There's the school!" He looked and saw a large building with rows of windows on top of a hill. There was a drive with large iron gates at the bottom; beside the drive, parts of a chapel could be seen.

They entered the gates, and walked up the drive, which was rather steep. On reaching the rather imposing main door, his aunt rang the bell, upon which a tall man with dark hair let them in and showed them into a room which had a brass plate above its swing doors proclaiming it to be the R.S.M.'s office. The tall man then went away, but, after a while, a little man with white hair entered the room and started laying a fire. They chatted to him for a while and suddenly there was a burst of movement. A bugle blew. Hordes of boys in blue shorts and jerseys went pouring into a dining-hall, but the new boy and his aunt were taken to the school hospital, where the boy received a "medical."

After that, things happened in swift, bewildering succession; he found himself visiting the Commandant, visiting men with moustaches in uncomfortable little offices, visiting kitchens, and finally a large room, where he was fitted out with his "kit." Then he was shown his dormitory by the man who was to be his "C.S.M.," his aunt departed by taxi, and he was left to fend for himself in a new world of boys in blue shorts and jerseys, and of men in uniform; a world where everyone seemed constantly on the move.

That afternoon, he went to class and met his classmates. Life at a boys' boarding school had begun.

C. F. D.

A Hot Summer Afternoon

There had been no rain for three weeks, and the sun beat down on the brown grass and thirsty flowers drooped their heads solemnly. The cows swatted the annoying flies with their long tails. Even the ducks in a nearby stream felt the strong rays of the sun upon their downy backs. The trees hung lazily over our heads as if to be begging for water. Everything was so still and silent. The glittering stream tried to creep away slowly towards the cool, refreshing shade of trees.

ALAN C. MacDONALD, P. VII.

The Metric System

"How many metres in a kilometre?" It was that same old question again, and I did not know the answer. DO YOU? Why should we go to the trouble of learning the Metric System, if it is not used outside the Maths. lesson? BUT, that is where I was mistaken! The Metric System is used in practically all civilised countries, except Russia, U.S.A., and the British Empire, although

Russia and the United States have a decimal coinage. Metres are also used at the Olympic Games for measuring the distances.

The Metric System came into being when Charlemagne, the Emperor of France, made attempts to unify the existing system. A metre is the ten millionth part from the North Pole to the Equator. To justify the exact length of a metre, a platinum rod was made and placed in the Bureau des Archives in Paris. The Metric System is so called because its unit is a metre. Four of the units in the Metric System are of Greek origin:—deca (Dekra) which is ten times the unit; hecto (Hecton) which is one hundred times the unit; kilo (Kilivi) which is one thousand times the unit, and myria (murios) which is ten thousand times the unit. Three others are of Latin origin:—deci (Decem) which is one tenth of the unit; centi (Centum) which is one hundredth part of the unit, and milli (mille) which is one thousandth part of the unit.

The English equivalents are:—1 metre = 39.37 inches = 3 feet + 3 inches . . . But I'm getting far too mathematical; which reminds me, I must go away and memorise the Metric Table for my next mathematics lesson. Or else . . .

W. PIRRET, IIIb.

A Visit to John o' Groats

One bright sunny day during the holidays, my father brought home a trailer on which a large tent could be pitched. He told us that we were going to go camping in the North of Scotland. We were busy making preparations for the rest of that day.

The next day we set off for Invergordon, and camped there for a few days, and we visited my uncle's house. We left Invergordon and went on to Rogart, a little village further north, and visited my aunt there. We didn't stay long there, and when we were down the cart-track road my father remembered he'd left something behind and I had to run about a quarter of a mile back for it.

The best part of the journey to John O' Groats was when we left Rogart and went on to Wick. We could see the sparkling sea and the railway running on the other side. We stopped at Wick and camped there for the night.

The next day we started off and arrived at John O' Groats about dinner time. We had our dinner and then went to visit the lighthouse. When we arrived there we could hear the foghorn blaring because it was a foggy day. The gates across the entrance to the lighthouse were locked, so my father peeped the horn and a man came out. I think he had only just got up. He showed us round the lighthouse and from the top I could see the dim shape of an island a good way out. Then he showed us the foghorn room and, once inside, you could hear the noise about as half as loud as outside.

After he had showed us round the lighthouse, I gave him a tip and we went back to the tent. The next day we journeyed back after a good holiday.

A. D. MACLEAN, Ia.

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