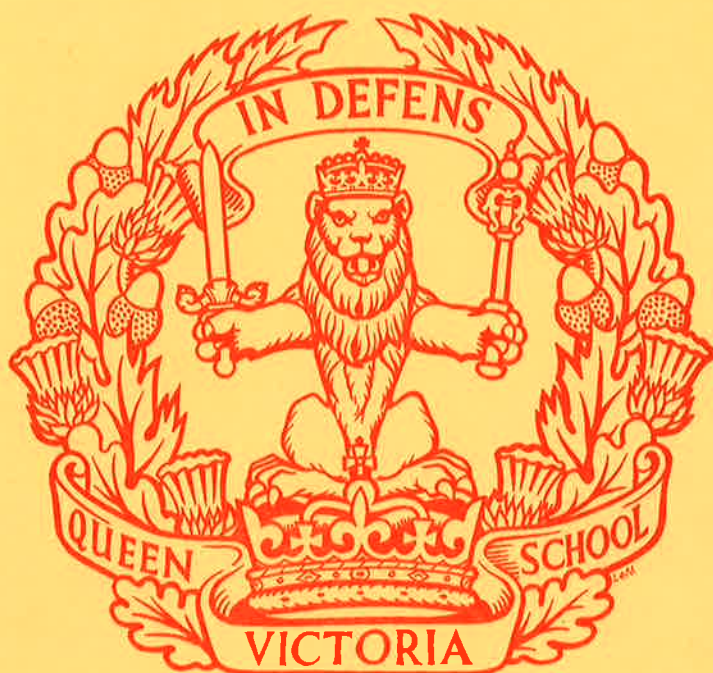


NUMBER 58

DECEMBER, 1957

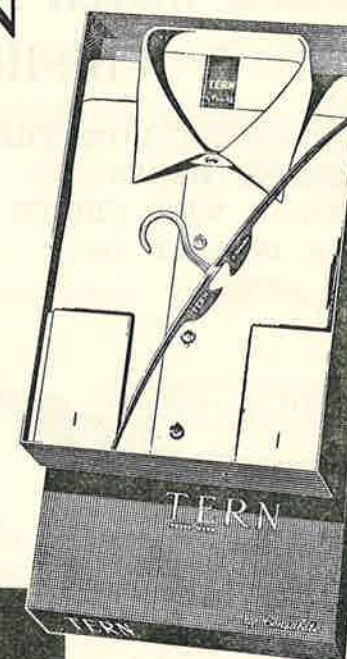


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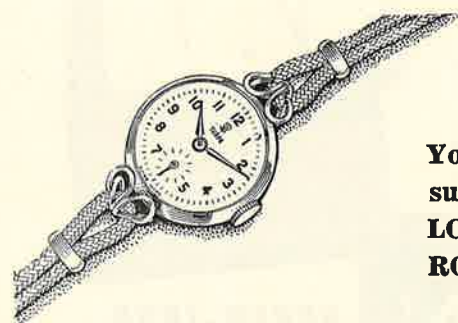
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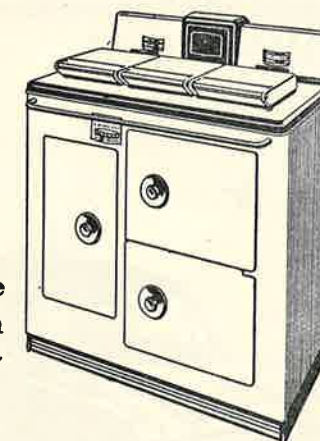
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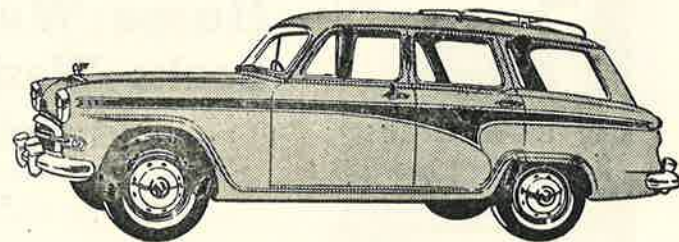
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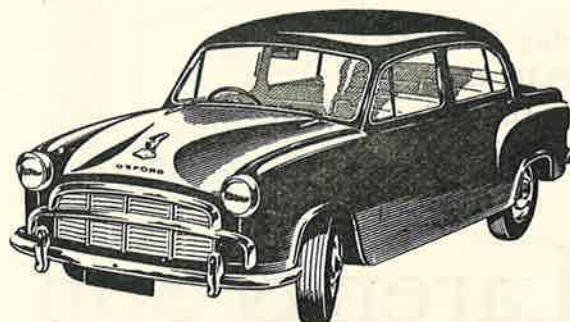
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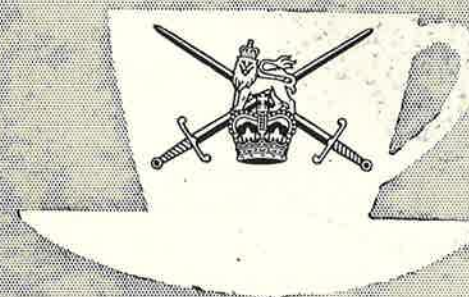


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The Journal of the Queen Victoria School

No. 58

DECEMBER 1957

Editorial

"Change and decay in all around I see." So runs one line of a famous hymn, and with a little adaptation this line might well describe the progress of the School. Change? Yes. It is of the essence of any school that change is inevitable; change of pupils, change of staff, change of personnel, change of ideas and conceptions and definitions of education. Decay? No, except in the sense that as new personalities emerge, as new conceptions of the meaning of "school" and "education" are brought and are accepted, the old ideas and attitudes are discarded. Not that these old ideas were necessarily evil in themselves; in their time and in their environment they fulfilled their function; but as the environment changes the old ideas and conceptions become obsolete. Perhaps we may best compare this business of change with a river, where the banks and surrounding features change but slowly, while the water itself is in a more rapid and continuous change. And as any sudden or violent change in the environment of a river may bring about for the river a new course, so in a school new ideas and conceptions bring about a change, gradual or violent. The new House system, the A.C.F., the introduction of Scouting, the Hobbies night, are changes which are making themselves felt in the life of the School.

First we welcome our new headmaster, Major A. L. Fowler, M.C., M.A. On another page will be found details of Major Fowler's previous career. We wish him well, and hope that he will be long with us, since continuity of staff, especially at the highest level, is one of the vital

elements in the well-being of a school. We hope, too, that Mrs Fowler and the children will not find Caledonia too stern and wild! We notice that as far as the children are concerned there has already been a considerable amount of fraternisation with the natives!

We welcome also Mr J. Finlay, who has come to us as woodwork master in place of Mr Lake. For him at least the change of environment is not so complete, since he lives in Dunblane.

We hope that the Rev. Mr Jamieson and his family are settled in and fully acclimatised. We still refer occasionally to Mr Jamieson as our "new" chaplain, and in connection with this we relate a humorous incident which took place last term. The Staff cricket team were playing against a local team. Mr Jamieson, who had only very recently joined us, was batting. The light was poor, the wicket was hard, the bowling was fast and hostile. Two or three times the ball whizzed near or over the reverend pate. Then a boy's voice rang out: "Don't damage our new padre! We've only just got him!"

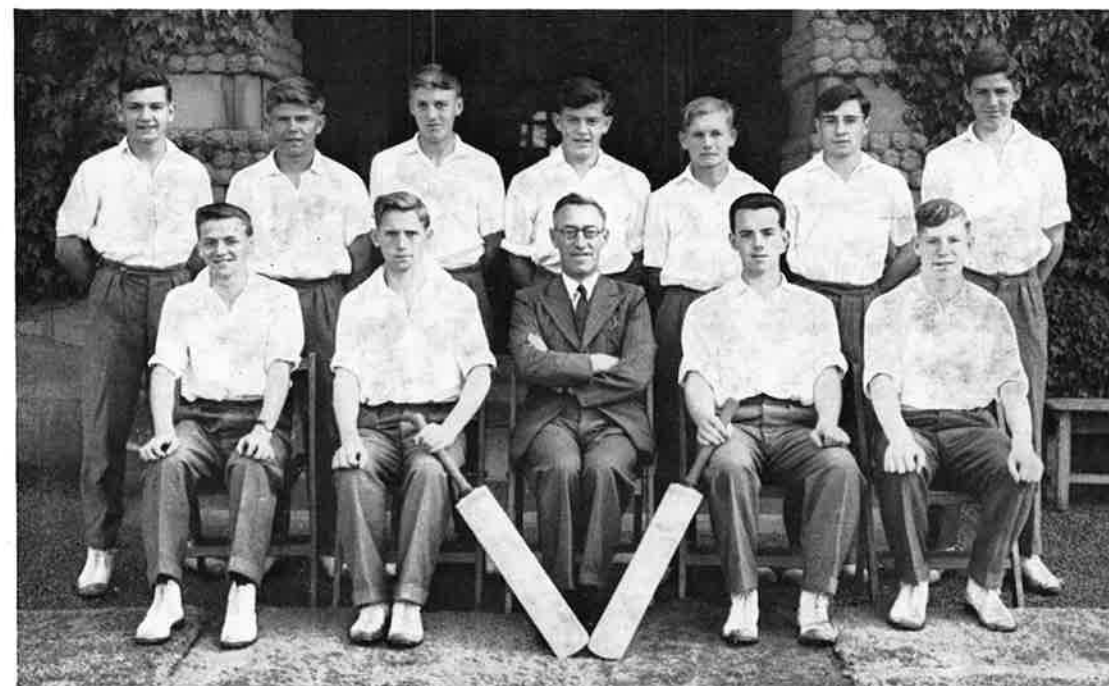
Next year, 1958, will of course be the 50th anniversary of the School opening. It will be a memorable year in the annals of the School and plans are already afoot to ensure that the occasion will be fitly honoured, although at the present time it is too early to give any details.

We cannot finish this editorial without some reference to the fact that the "Victorian" is now "under new management." We hope that this will not have an adverse effect on the quality of the "Victorian" nor on the quantity of copies sold. This is a fitting opportunity to express our gratitude to the retiring editor, Mr V. H. Le Maistre, D.A., for the excellent work he has done in the past.

We conclude with the perennial wish that all our readers, young and not so young, will experience a joyous Christmastide.



Air Vice-Marshal P. D. Cracroft, C.B., A.F.C., Senior Air Force Officer Scotland, was the inspecting officer on Grand Day this year. Here he is seen saluting the Victorians' Colours during the course of his inspection. Brigadier A. M. Finlaison, C.B.E., D.S.O., Commandant of the School, accompanies the inspecting officer.



1st XI, 1957—Standing—Right to Left—I. F. Scott, A. A. Blackie, B. Fitzpatrick, J. McKillop, G. A. Welsh, D. Ray, I. A. Fairbairn. Sitting—A. Quinn, P. R. Gibson (captain), Mr R. E. Hughes, R. Anderson (vice-captain), J. K. Sim.

Obituary

MAJOR L. D. COWLEY

Most readers will know of Major Cowley's sudden death on Grand Day while he was making the Headmaster's Annual Report. In this he pointed to the progress that the School had made during the year, noting the development of the House system, the formation of the School Army Cadet Force Company, and of the Scout Troop, the developments in the Primary School, and the academic achievements of the Secondary School. These developments and the plans for the future were a source of great satisfaction to him, since he was in full sympathy with the changes that were designed to keep the School abreast of modern thought while keeping faith with its distinctive traditions, and his whole desire was to enhance its reputation. To his endeavours Major Cowley brought high ideals, great firmness of character and a true sense of loyalty. Some few knew both that he laboured under a physical threat and that it was not in his nature to admit the limitation.

Major Cowley was the senior Major in the Royal Army Educational Corps. He was educated at Roborough School, Eastbourne, and became captain of the school. After graduating in Modern History at King's College, London, he was on the staff of Ardingly College, Sussex, for ten years. There, the O.T.C. and boxing were his great interests and under his coaching the school boxing team won renown amongst public schools. He was commissioned in the Supplementary Reserve of Officers attached to the 2nd Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment, and went to France on the outbreak of the second World War. He was one of the thousands rescued from the beaches in "The Miracle of Dunkirk." Subsequently he served in Ireland and India, transferring to the R.A.E.C. towards the end of the war. On demobilisation he became a tutor at Nottingham University, but his twin interests of the Army and Education led him to rejoin the Corps as a Regular Officer. After further service in the Far East and Germany, he came to Queen Victoria School in January, 1956. Major Cowley was a Doctor of Philosophy of London University and held the Emergency Reserve Decoration.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Mrs Cowley and her baby daughter in their tragically sudden loss.

E. H.

MR ERIC J. DREW

Eric Drew was drowned last July in a raging mountain burn. He was thirty years of age and had been at this School for six years.

These are perhaps the essential facts of a tragedy which was, in fact, the last act of a double tragedy. But they give no idea of what he meant to this School.

He came here six years ago as an inexperienced but tremendously willing R.A.E.C. lieutenant. He took over the teaching of French and became Company Commander of "A" Company. He was promoted Captain and later, when he left the Army, he was appointed French Master and became one of the two resident civilian Housemasters when the School was re-organised on a House basis.

Eric Drew did not suffer fools gladly; he had no time for the second rate. He worked in his

classroom with untiring zeal and enthusiasm and expected the same from his pupils. The surprising thing is that he so often got it, and his pupils found themselves the possessors of S.L.C.'s and G.C.E.'s almost in spite of themselves. When they failed he always felt the failure was partly his.

As a Housemaster he gave of himself unstintingly. He was tireless in his efforts to provide interests and activities for the boys, not only of his own House but of the School. No House team had a finer champion.

His interests, apart from his profession, lay in music, the stage and the art of the cinema. Even these he liked to share with the boys whenever possible.

When he died so much of his life was before him. We of this School should be grateful for those brief six years.

V. H. LeM.

MEMORIAL TO MR ERIC DREW

Major P. T. Drew, late 14th/20th Hussars, the father of Mr Drew, has made the most generous gift of £100 to provide, in perpetuity, a prize for French studies which were Mr Drew's particular concern and interest. This handsome donation, which has been gratefully accepted by Her Majesty's Commissioners, will undoubtedly keep the memory of Mr Drew fresh in the minds of boys at this School so long as it is in being.

MR OGILVIE

We regret to announce the death of an old and faithful servant of the school, Mr Henry Ogilvie, or Harry, as he was affectionately known to his friends, who died suddenly on Thursday, November 7th.

Mr Ogilvie had had a serious illness some time before his death, and had made a remarkable and rapid recovery from this set-back, which makes his sudden collapse all the more tragic.

He was in his 68th year, and although born in Ardoch may be counted as a native of Dunblane, since he spent the greater part of his early life in Ramoyle. It is interesting to note that he was concerned with the building of Q.V. School, since his first job after leaving school was that of "nipper," looking after cans of tea, and doing odd jobs, for the workmen engaged in building.

From 1914 to 1918 he served in the 8th Battalion the Black Watch, mainly as a Lewis gunner, in France, where he was wounded. His early work was gardening, and this occupation, interrupted by his war service, he took up again after 1918, working on the Toward Point Estate. He also worked for some time on the construction of the Edinburgh-Glasgow Road. He was a keen and appreciative football supporter, and although he did not support any one particular club, preferring to choose his matches, Falkirk was perhaps his main attraction.

In 1931 he took up a post as pioneer in Queen Victoria School; and to the school he gave 24 years' faithful service. He was a quiet and unostentatious man, but he always had a ready smile and a kind word, and he will be deeply mourned by a wide circle of friends who valued his quiet sincerity. He leaves a widow, who is Head Laundress at Queen Victoria School, and two sons; John, an apprentice plumber at

Dunblane, and James, who works at Ashfield Mill.

To Mrs Ogilvie, and to John and James, we extend heartfelt sympathy in their loss.

R. E. H.

Old Boy Visitors

- 6/6/57 —A. Neilson, R.A.F., Hereford.
 12/6/57 —R. Brash, Aldershot.
 19/6/57 —C. Coid, Glasgow.
 " —A. Ross, Motherwell.
 18/6/57 —A. Isdale, 9th Lancers, B.A.O.R. 15.
 30/6/57 —J. Ferguson, Edinburgh.
 " —E. Taylor, Edinburgh.
 " —M. Lochlin, Edinburgh.
 9/7/57 —B. Dornell, Shrewsbury.
 " —R. Maitland, Glasgow.
 " —J. McAllister, Glasgow.
 " —R. Young, Dunbar.
 " —P. Dakas, R.S., Penicuik.
 " —E. Gardiner, Perth.
 " —D. Gibson, Edinburgh.
 " —A. Scott, Foyers.
 " —W. McColl, 1st Batt. Scots Guards.
 " —R. McColl, Fallin.
 " —R. Tasker, Stirling.
 " —J. Morgan.
 " —H. Duff, Glasgow.
 " —J. McLeod, Glasgow.
 " —L. Georgeson, Dunfermline.
 " —A. Ross, Edinburgh.
 " —G. Archer, Ormiston.
 " —E. Gavigan, Glasgow.
 " —K. Gavigan, Glasgow.
 " —W. Brannan, Glasgow.
 " —V. Carroll, Inverness.
 " —I. Forbes, Glasgow.
 12/7/57 —H. Duff, Glasgow.
 " —J. Harvey, Glasgow.
 25/7/57 —J. Holmes, Edinburgh.
 31/7/57 —W. Carruthers, Rhyl, North Wales.
 5/8/57 —J. McCann, Edinburgh.
 6/8/57 —M. Lawrie.
 22/8/57 —C. Fennessey, Swains.
 4/9/57 —D. Liddell, Somerset.
 " —R. Skelton, Bolton.
 5/9/57 —G. Cameron, Kenya.
 " —J. Archer, Perth.
 6/9/57 —R. Matheson, Rainford, Lancs.
 15/9/57 —C. Barron, Edinburgh.
 " —J. Officer, Edinburgh.
 30/9/57 —I. Reid.
 18/10/57 —A. Beattie, Aberdeen.

Valete

- 2329 Gibson, P. R.—St. Andrews University.
 2371 Quinn, A.—Civil Service.
 2536 Dallas, W. C.—Apprentice electrician.
 2556 Siorance, M. A.—R.A.F. boy entrant.
 2509 Barr, R. L.—Apprentice engineer.
 2508 Fairbairn, I. R. A.—Apprentice engineer.
 2586 Keenan, P.—R.N. boy mechanic.
 2512 Lovatt, J. V. R.—Trades School, Dundee.
 2539 McNamee, G. P.—Apprentice fitter.
 2517 Quinn, J.—Apprentice ship's carpenter.
 2640 Battye, D. A. J.—Withdrawn by parent (going to Australia).

Visitors to School

General Sir Charles F. Loewen, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Adjutant General to the Forces.
 Major General E. C. Colville, D.S.O., Commanding 51st Highland Division.
 General Sir Richard O'Connor, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., LL.D., D.L., Chairman, Army Cadet Force, Scotland.

Salve

- 2745 Allan, J.—Royal Dragoon Guards.
 2746 Baillie, J. D.—H.L.I.
 2747 Bowes, H. R.—R.E.M.E.
 2748 Brough, J. M.—Royal Signals.
 2749 Cockburn, Iain—Royal Scots.
 2750 Donnelly, J.—Seaforth Highlanders.
 2751 Fallone, A. D.—Royal Corps of Signals.
 2752 Faulds, A. R.—R.A.O.C.
 2753 Gillespie, E. D.—R.A.S.C.
 2754 Gillespie, M. W.—R.A.S.C.
 2755 Hide, J.—W.A.A.F.
 2756 Kay, A. C.—R.A.S.C.
 2757 Keltie, D. T.—Seaforth Highlanders.
 2758 Kilcullen, R. T.—R.A.
 2759 Lorimer, Ian—Scots Guards
 2760 Mackie, A. E.—R.A.
 2761 Marshall, Ian—R.A.F.
 2762 Matheson, R. I.—R.E.M.E.
 2763 Mayo, E. J.—R.E.
 2764 Menzies, N. A.—Q.O.C.H.
 2765 Miller, R. J.—Black Watch.
 2766 Milne, T. A. G.—R.E.
 2767 Monaghan, T.—R.E.
 2768 McCormack, M. J.—K.O.S.B.
 2769 McDonald, J. McF.—A. & S.H.
 2770 McFarquhar, W.—Gordon Highlanders.
 2771 McGregor, I. S. A.—Black Watch.
 2772 McKenzie, J.—R.A.S.C.
 2773 McMillan, K.—R.E.
 2774 MacRae, R. M.—R.A.F.
 2775 Nimmo, J.—Royal Corps of Signals.
 2777 Richardson, A. D. M.—R.A.F.
 2778 Ritson, W.—R.A.P.C.
 2779 Russell, T. M. W.—Pioneer Corps.
 2780 Sinclair, A. J.—R.A.
 2781 Stewart, C. G. N.—R.A.F.
 2782 Tait, R. D.—R.E.M.E.
 2783 Turnbull, D.—R.A.S.C.
 2784 Williamson, J. C.—Black Watch.
 2785 Wright, J.—Cameronians.

Mr J. Finlay

Mr J. Finlay, our new Woodwork Master, is a "Son of the Rock," a native of Stirling. He was educated in Stirling, and his first appointment as Woodwork Master was at Newton Stewart, in the bonny countryside of Galloway. After successive posts at Fallin, Riverside (Stirling) and Dunblane, he was appointed to his present post with us. Naturally, as a Stirling man, he saw five years' war service with the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, finishing his military career as a C.Q.M.S. His active service was carried out in Africa, Italy, France and Belgium. We extend a very hearty welcome to Mr Finlay, and we know that his frank and genial personality will make him most popular with his colleagues, and with the boys.

R. E. H.

Grand Day 1957

Major L. D. Cowley, E.R.D., B.A., Ph.D., headmaster of Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, collapsed while submitting his annual report during Grand Day ceremonies on Tuesday afternoon, and shortly afterwards died. News of the headmaster's death, at first known only to a few, was kept from the Victorians and their guests while the day's proceedings went on.

Major Cowley had served in his appointment for less than two years, and came to Queen Victoria School from B.A.O.R., where he was second-in-command and chief instructor at No 3 Higher Education Centre.

He had been speaking for fifteen minutes on Tuesday, before he fell unconscious on to the stage of the crowded play hall. Those close to him immediately went to his assistance, while the curtain was drawn across the front of the stage. Brigadier A. M. Finlaison, Commandant of the School, was at the headmaster's side in an instant, and others nearby included several of H.M. Commissioners—Lieut.-Gen. Horatius Murray, G.O.C.-in-C., Scottish Command, Lord Thomson, Admiral Sir Colin Cantlie, Maj.-Gen. N. McMicking, Gen. Sir A. F. Philip Christison, Bt., Colonel E. P. Buchanan of Touch, Maj.-Gen. A. L. Collier, Air Commodore E. S. Burns, Rear-Admiral J. H. F. Crombie, Air Vice-Marshal R. L. Ragg, and Mr D. Crichton-Miller, M.A.—as well as senior members of the teaching staff, and Maj.-Gen. D. A. H. Graham, who was attending to present academic awards.

After welcoming the parents attending prize-giving, Major Cowley had begun by saying that the year gone by had been one of experiment, as had been forecast. The curriculum of the School had been re-organised to accord with recommendations from the Scottish Education Department, a House system had been introduced in place of the former division into Companies, and out-of-school activities had been developed, especially Scouts and Army Cadet Force. It had altogether been a busy year.

Most important among the staff changes had been the departure, after seven years' devoted service, of Lt.-Col. and Mrs Nason, and in their place the Victorians welcomed Brig. and Mrs A. M. Finlaison.

In October of last year Mr James Muir had left after four years as resident chaplain, and recently Mr A. N. Jamieson had arrived in his stead. In the meantime the Rev. A. A. Macpherson, of Doune, had given freely of his services, and the school was grateful to him.

Capt. Priddle had left in December and Mr Lake was going away to Canada this summer. Mr Finlay, of Dunblane Junior Secondary School, had accepted the appointment in place of Mr Lake and would take over at the beginning of the new term. Earlier arrivals were Major Hitchman, Capt. Blakemore, Capt. Turner, and Staff Sergeant Batt on attachment.

On the administrative side Major Bradley had retired in May of this year, and Major J. R. C. Cosgrove, an Old Victorian and ex-Monitor, had

arrived. This appointment had given very great pleasure to Old Boys of the School.

Miss Macpherson had relinquished her post as hospital matron, after fifteen years, and was replaced by Miss E. M. Neale, while Miss Wilson was ending ten years as housekeeper.

There was good reason to be pleased in the field of educational progress. In the Senior Secondary School those who gained the Scottish Leaving Certificate in March of this year numbered 57—similar to last year—while seven candidates gained 23 passes (higher and lower) among them.

In the G.C.E. examinations last year there were eight candidates with 17 passes. One candidate for G.C.E. (adv.) had two easy passes. Candidates for the G.C.E. last month were thirteen, and the results of their efforts would be made known in August.

There were only two leavers from the fifth and sixth forms. Senior Monitor P. R. Gibson was going to St. Andrews University with four S.L.C. Highers at one sitting—no mean achievement this—and Prefect A. Quinn had been placed 53rd out of more than a thousand sitting the entrance examination for the Civil Service (Clerical).

Here Major Cowley gave a reminder that the School now had a small scholarship fund for universities, etc., as for Welbeck and Sandhurst.

Six boys had gained the Junior Secondary Certificate after completing the three years' course. In the Junior Secondary School a full technical course was being introduced now that metalwork had been strengthened. The aim was to broaden the "B" side with civilian and service exams and enable the School eventually to present technical subjects for S.L.C. on the "A" side.

During this term pottery had been added to the pursuits of the art department, with an electric kiln and furnishings, in which a great deal of interest had been evinced by the boys.

Candidates for the Services, other than for commissions, from the Junior Secondary School were two into the Senior Service, six passed R.A.F. or Army Apprentice examinations. Queen Victoria School was anxious to have as many Service candidates as a military school, and much was expected from the success of the Army Cadet Force.

At the May interviews for entry to the Primary School in September, 33 had been accepted. In addition, eight special entries into the Secondary School had been accepted. Once again less than half the candidates had been successful, and the demand continued predominantly of 9-plus boys.

As expected, the promotion examination from Primary to Secondary School had not this year been equal to Mr Bruce's record of eleven in 1956 recommended for the Senior Secondary course—but six had been placed, with fewer candidates, and it was a gratifying fact that only two (in place of the previous 12) were considered suitable only for the modified Junior Secondary course.

Major Cowley went on to say that the Senior Secondary School had been re-organised into three Houses—Cunningham, Haig and Trenchard—while the Primary School was consolidated into Wavell. The ranks of boy sergeant, corporal, etc., had been abolished, and there were prefects in addition to monitors now. The smooth transition from Companies to Houses was due to the house matrons (whose appointments were new ones), the adaptability of the C.S.M.s, and their willingness to undertake different tasks, and especially the hard work of Mr Brown, Mr Drew, Major Hitchman and Major Baker, the House-masters.

Now the headmaster turned to games and out-of-school activities, marking the way in which the Scouts linked with many activities developed in the Primary School, and giving an assurance that Capt. Blakemore, the Scout-master, with assistance, would develop the Scouts to include boys in the Secondary School below the A.C.F. age of 14. Since there were not enough younger boys to form a Wolf Cub Pack, there would be pre-Scout training for them instead.

As Major Cowley was referring to the "remarkably early progress" of the Army Cadet Force, formed in September of last year, he faltered and fell.

Very soon afterwards Brig. Finlaison said he was very sorry that the headmaster had been taken ill, and thereupon introduced Maj.-Gen. D. A. H. Graham, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Colonel of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), who presented their awards to the School prize-winners.

In his address following the prizegiving, Gen. Graham told the Victorians that those who had not been in the prize list that day could count on many further opportunities for winning prizes, and that character and conduct were the two most important things in life.

He hoped some at least of the boys would turn their steps towards the Scottish regiments, as their fathers had done before them. Although science and technology had wrought wonders undreamed of when he was young, there was still plenty of scope for the adventurous.

At half a minute to four o'clock, the Victorians having mustered on parade and their guests adjourned to their allotted places as spectators, a large yellow helicopter came into sight, flying from the east—from Leuchars, in fact.

Prompt on the hour its distinguished passenger, Air Vice-Marshal P. D. Cracroft, C.B., A.F.C., Senior Air Force Officer, Scotland, was being greeted by the Commandant. From the time the helicopter was first sighted, to the point when it flew out of view on its way back, three minutes only had elapsed.

There were 140 Victorians on parade under Senior Monitor P. R. Gibson, and every one was a credit to everything for which Queen Victoria School stands. Their turnout, deportment and drill, and the quality of their pipes and drums cannot have failed to move with pride any who beheld them.

Their own pride and pleasure in the occasion was manifest, refusing to be hidden under the sternest expression each young face could contrive. The Commandant, Brigadier A. M. Finlaison, C.B.E., D.S.O., on his first Grand Day

parade, made no attempt to conceal the appreciative gleam in his eye.

None of this was lost to the keen scrutiny of the inspecting officer. If he was impressed by his first glimpse of scarlet and green from the air (and he can hardly have failed to have been so) Air Vice-Marshal Cracroft found ample confirmation when he came down to earth.

Arrived at the saluting base he was received with the "General Salute" sounded on the bugles, and then S.M. Gibson came forward to report the Victorians' strength on parade and their readiness for inspection.

After the inspection, during which the inspecting officer was attended by the diminutive Boy Kenneth Hill, came the march past, the parade first forming column of guards to the left of the saluting base, as the pipes and drums played "Bonnie Dundee," then passing by in slow time to the plaintive air of "Neuve Chapelle" to return in quick time to "Hielan' Laddie," the march past of the School.

Now the parade re-formed in line, advanced in review order, and gave the General Salute. Followed the forming of three sides of a square and the march-up to the saluting base for the Air Vice-Marshal's address.

Having expressed his unstinted admiration for their appearance and performance, Air Vice-Marshal Cracroft asked the Victorians to consider for a few moments the present and the future—he was going to say nothing just now about the past.

They may have heard it said there was no future in the Services. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Service wanted technicians, they had the equipment and they wanted skilled men to work it. They knew what qualities they wanted in their recruits, and were well aware that one volunteer was worth ten conscripts.

"Judging on what I have seen here today," he vowed, "I would recruit any one or all of you immediately"; and it was with some reluctance that he said he was not going to pitch his recruiting tent on the spot there and then.

So the scene was set for Mrs. Cracroft to present the awards. The salute to Mrs. Cracroft was three resounding cheers called for by S.M. Gibson, and while the echoes were still ringing the parade forced once again in line and, headed by the band, marched off the ground to the strains of "Scotland the Brave."

With justice done to tea, activities were resumed on the playing field, beginning in time-honoured fashion with Scholes's Trumpet Fanfare, and so to an eightsome reel stepped with verve and grace. Next, a display of physical training followed by a Highland Fling that offered proof positive of its belonging to men only... no girl, however dressed up in masculine style, could hope to perform this dance in the proper manner of a virile Victorian.

As ever, the beating of Retreat moved the crowd to raptures and, the programme altogether, to solid appreciation of the joint and individual training successes of Pipe-Major J. McC. Sanderson, Drum-Major R. Niven, and Mr J. Mortimer, the dancing instructor.

One regretful note may be sounded in recording the cutting down of the trees on the brae behind the playing field, which of recent years have made a handsome backcloth for the Grand

Day proceedings. However, it is understood that replanting is in hand and so in the fullness of time the slope will again be timberclad.

On the brighter side, it must be chronicled that the weather clerk obeyed tradition and allowed a lovely day, albeit cooler than is customary, while for once turning the breeze to direct the School smokestack's outpourings away from the ceremonial scene.

In the band room the annual exhibition of arts and crafts would have done John Ruskin's heart good. This year had nothing to show like the versatility of John Wilson and Keith Gavigan (leavers in 1956), but the literally overwhelming evidence of untrammelled imaginations and disciplined fingers was splendid to see.

There is an embryo Van Gogh in Form 1b, whose triumph is a tattie bogle in watercolour, and in the "middle-age" group is an artist-craftsman, A. A. Blackie, who might well explode and speed from his laboured technique to a defter touch. A little line drawing by A. C. Whyte spells a natural draughtsman.

"School project Quivis" was the piece de resistance of the budding apprentices (not a sign of a garden seat this time), a stout, broad-beamed boat equipped with a pair of workmanlike oars. The "Quivis" was due to be launched in the School swimming pool on Wednesday morning and if Mr Lake did not decide to ship himself and family aboard her for their Canadian departure next month, it is expected that on Grand Day, 1958, the inspecting officer will arrive in her, via the burn, thus proving that helicopters are only one means of direct transport.

Other woodwork and metalwork showed approach to an increasingly adept standard, and there was no lack of ingenuity in the choice of articles made.

As interesting as anything else were the products of the newly-introduced pottery. There are likely to be plenty of pleasant surprises in this field when examples of the first full year's endeavours are shown a twelvemonth hence.

Modernisation

When the Queen Victoria School was opened in 1908, nearly fifty years ago, its buildings represented all that was most modern and convenient in the design and construction of a school of the type that was intended. Since then tremendous advances have been made in the standards of education given to Scottish boys and much more space, both for living accommodation and classrooms, is needed nowadays. From time to time various additions to the buildings have been made. A science laboratory was provided very soon, then the woodwork and metalwork shops were added. More recently we have had new band and drums practice rooms, the three new hatted classrooms, the miniature range and the Playhall. Despite all these temporary expedients, however, the School has inevitably slowly fallen behind modern standards in its accommodation, until it has now had to be limited to 220 boys instead of its proper figure of 250, in order that the existing rooms may not be overcrowded according to present-day requirements.

Planning has been going on for some time on a major building programme which would again put the School well into the forefront of modern

school development and let us again give to 250 boys at a time every possible educational facility. The main proposals include a new House between the Chapel and the south gate to provide dormitory accommodation for a Junior School of 80 boys, a new classroom block of eleven classrooms between the Playhall and the Headmaster's house, a new technical block on the north side of the parade ground to hold art, metalwork, woodwork and technical drawing rooms, and five new married quarters for officers or masters, one in the new Wavell House and one on each floor of the main building. When these projects are finished the six classrooms round the main hall and dining hall are to be converted into four common rooms, one for each House, in which boys can sit and play, and the three Senior Houses will be self-contained for dormitory accommodation, each on one floor of the main building with a flat for each Housemaster at one end of his House.

The War Office have already agreed to the broad plan of these proposals, and we have been told that the necessary money will be forthcoming when we are ready to start building. We are now well on with the detailed planning and have the advantage that the plans have been considered and discussed by two separate Commandants and at least two Headmasters. This is important because we are reaching the last stage at which alterations and additions can be made. Once the detailed plans have been agreed no further changes are possible without great waste of time and previous effort. If all goes well we hope that building may begin in 1959 and that the work may be finished at least by 1962. This may sound a slow business but it does mean that boys who are already in the Senior School may still be here to see the modernisation completed.

A. M. F.

School Concert Programme

Flute—Pooke, F. A.; clarinets—Anderson Fitzpatrick, Pooke D. A.; Rennie, Leitch; saxophone—Veasey; trumpets—Fairbairn, Hamilton, Finlay, Maxwell, Collins; Horns—Quinn A., Bethune; baritones—Gibson, Cummings; basses—McKillop, Watson, Culbard; timpani—Sim; side drum—Lorimer; tenor drum—Docherty; cymbal—McGill; pianos—Mr N. Bruce, Capt. A. Bennett; conductor—Mr P. Batt.

The programme consisted of the following:—
The National Anthem.

Overture "Olympia," Zamecnik J. March "The Pennant," Zamecnik J.; Waltz "Semplice" Godfrey D.

Melody for Three — I Study, Chopin; II Gentle Maiden Trad; III Yeomen of England, German.

Heritage of Song. Traditional Songs. Arr. Batt.

Piano and Quartet. Two Preludes. J. S. Bach.

Choir, Piano and Quartet. "Syke Boat Song."

Arr. Batt. Choir, Primary 7; piano, P. Batt;

quartet horns—Quinn, Bethune; baritone,

Gibson; bass, McKillop.

Piano Duet. I, Humoresque, Dvorak; II, Hun-

garian Dance, Brahms.

Waltz "Mello," Waldteufel. Songs of the

Hebrides. Kennedy-Fraser.

Piano Solo—I, Sonata, Mozart. (N. Bruce).

Melodies of Brahms. Arr. Batt.

Prize List

Dux Medal—P. R. Gibson.
Primus Medal—R. C. Chessar.
Sir Robert Cranston Memorial Essay Prize—
R. Anderson.

Addison Smith Memorial (Public Speaking)
Prizes—1, A. Quinn; 2, A. S. Hamilton; 3, D. McK. Aitchison.

CLASS PRIZES

Form VI—P. R. Gibson.
Form V—G. H. Welsh, J. K. Sim.
Form IV—1, A. S. Hamilton; 2, A. R. Bethune;
3, A. A. Blackie.

IIIa—1, D. McK. Aitchison; 2, R. J. V. C. Logan.

IIb—1, R. Lovatt; 2, R. L. Barr.
IIa—1, A. S. Leitch; 2, J. A. Ross and G. C. Ferrier.

Ib—1, J. Airnes; 2, R. Cumming.
Ic—1, E. G. Lawson; 2, A. McKinnon.

Ia—1, N. Burrows; 2, A. McGill; 3, J. G. Kay.
Progress prize—J. L. McLaughlin.

Ib—1, D. J. McArthur; 2, H. Miller; 3, D. J. Battye.

Primary 7a—1, M. Nixon; 2, P. Finlay. 7b—1, J. McLaughlin; 2, R. J. Craggs. 6a—1, P. W. Roy;
2, W. A. Aitken; progress prize—C. Brown. 6b—
1, S. T. Marshall; 2, K. M. Davidson.

Art—Senior—P. Keenan; junior—D. Bethune.
Special Art Prize—A. A. Blackie.

Woodwork—I. F. Scott. Metalwork—E. Lawson.
Junior Secondary Certificates — R. Barr, W. Dallas, I. Fairbairn, P. Keenan, R. Lovatt, M. Slorance.

General Certificates of Education—J. Fairbairn,
B. Fitzpatrick, J. McKillop, J. K. Sim, G. H. Welsh.

Scottish Leaving Certificates (Lower)—B. Fitzpatrick, J. McKillop, J. K. Sim, G. H. Welsh.
Scottish Leaving Certificates (Higher) — R. Anderson, P. R. Gibson, A. Quinn.

TRADES PRIZES

Best piper—J. Airnes. Best drummer and
bugler—D. T. Nisbet. Best dancer—J. Murphy.
Best instrumentalist—A. Quinn. Best junior
piper—T. Miller.

Pipes (Boyd Prizes) Class "A" March—A. C. McDonald; Class "A" Slow March—A. C. McDonald.

Strathspey and Reel—J. Airnes. Class "B"
March—J. A. Dunbar; Class "B" Slow March—
J. A. Dunbar.

Drums and Bugles—Senior drumming—B. J. Carcary. Tenor drumming—D. J. Battye. Senior
bugling—D. T. Nisbet.

Dancing—Class "A" Fling—R. Mannion. Class
"B" Fling—K. Hill. Class "A" Sword Dance—
J. Murphy. House dancing—Haig House. Shaw
Stewart prizes for winning team—J. Murphy, J. Quinn, R. Mannion, D. Orr.

Band—best progress—J. W. E. Finlay.
Shooting—best shot—D. McK. Aitchison.

REGIMENTAL PRIZES

R.A.—J. A. Wilkie. A. & S.H.—D. MacLennan.
R.A.F.—A. A. Blackie. R.A.C.—G. H. Welsh.
B.W.—1, G. Ferrier (Wauchope Prize); 2, F. Pooke (McKenzie Prize). Cameronians—J. A. Fairbairn. Cameron Highlanders — A. C. McDonald. Corps — B. Fitzpatrick. R.E. — A.

Quinn. R.S.F.—R. L. Barr. Scots Guards—J. K. Sim. H.L.I.—E. R. Bruce. R.N. and R.M.—G. R. Leaman. Royal Scots—W. Dallas. Seaforth Highlanders—1, A. R. Bethune; 2, J. Rennie; 3, I. R. A. Fairbairn; 4, R. Veasey. Other Regiments —P. R. Gibson.

TROPHIES

House Dancing Shield — Haig House (J. Murphy).

House Competition — Drill — Cunningham. Shooting—Cunningham. Swimming—Trenchard. Cricket—Trenchard. Dancing—Haig. Champion House—Haig.

A Builder's Yard

If you are ever passing down Capstick Lane in the heart of the City, your attention may be arrested by the sight of an odd-looking old building. Above its ancient door hangs a sign, "Ephraim Rickets & Son." It is an old-established firm of builders, although you would not think so from its outward appearance. Through the battered, dust-stained door, you would find a dim and ancient passageway. At the end of this passageway lies the yard.

Old Eph's yard is not very big. Hemmed in on three sides by gaunt walls it seems wearily overcrowded with all the paraphernalia of the building trade.

At one end of the yard, leaning heavily against a high brick wall, is a vast number of rickety ladders of all shapes and sizes. The smallest of them is barely seven feet long, while the largest is a great tall monster thirty feet high.

A short way off from the ladders lies an army of fallen drainpipes, covered with a skin of grime and rust, apparently useless and weakened by age. However, when a burly plumber, after scrutinising the pile, suddenly stoops and heaves one out the pipe seems to shake off the dirt while its purple line appears, shining dully in the wan sunlight.

Looking to the right of the passage you will notice a vast assortment of paint tins lying in a forgotten chaos. Tins of jade green and wood-smoke blue rub shoulders with battered square cans of stove-black. Scattered amidst the sand and dirt are hundreds of rusty nails and screws, so many per square inch that you can barely distinguish the grimy soil of the yard itself. You can feel the crunch of rust underfoot, and a hazy, reddish dust rises a few inches behind you.

Stacked neatly in one corner is a pile of orange and yellow bricks. Probably they will be part of some house or building next week. They make their exit the quickest from Ephraim's yard. As the labourers fill their hodds the high-pitched clinks of bricks knocking against each other form a rude harmony. Next to the bricks, piled near a huge heap of sickly-looking sand, lie dozens of portly bags of lime, whose sour dust makes the surrounding atmosphere heavy.

In the evening, when the dome of St. Paul's perches like a velvet blob in the sky, the yard takes on a bizarre appearance. The deep shadows make it look like a scene from one of Poe's novels, with the silhouettes of the ladders resembling black gallows, and the pile of sand a freshly-dug grave, waiting to receive the bloated corpses of the cement bags.

R. Anderson (VI).

SCHOOL ROLL

FORM VI

Anderson, R., Prefect, S.L.C. (Lower), G.C.E.; Sir Robert Cranston Memorial Essay Prize, 1955-56; Captain 1st XV, 1st XI; 3rd in Javelin, Scottish Schools A.A.

Fitzpatrick, B., Prefect, S.L.C. (Lower), G.C.E., 1st XV, 1st XI; represented A.C.F., Scotland, in 100 yards hurdles.

McKillop, J., Prefect, S.L.C. (Lower), G.C.E., 1st XV, 1st XI; represented A.C.F. Scotland in Discus; 3rd, and standard medal Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Sim, J., Monitor, S.L.C. (Lower), G.C.E.; 2nd Form Prize, Form IV, 1955-56; 1st XV, 1st XI; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Welsh, G. H., Monitor, S.L.C. (Lower), G.C.E.; 1st Form Prize, Form IV, 1955-56; 2nd XV, 1st XI.

FORM V

Bethune, A. R., Monitor, G.C.E.; 2nd Form Prize, Form IV, 1955-56; Junior Art Prize, 1955-56; 1st XV.

Blackie, A. A., Prefect, Pipe Major, G.C.E.; 3rd Form Prize, Form IV, 1955-56; Special Art Prize, 1955-56; 1st XV, 1st XI.

Fairbairn, J. A., Senior Monitor, 1st XI, 1st XV (vice-captain); School Swimming Champion; Bronze Medallion, Scholars' Instructor's Certificate, Instructor's Certificate, Award of Merit, Royal Life Saving Society.

Hamilton, A. S., Prefect; 1st Form Prize, Form IV, 1955-56; 2nd Prize, Addison Smith Memorial 1955-56.

Pooke, F. A., G.C.E.; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Watson, R., Prefect; 1st XV; School Athletic Champion. 5th in Final Scottish Schools' 220 yards. Won Scottish and National A.C.F. 440 Yards. Represented British A.C.F. 440 Yards, White City, London, 1956.

FORM IV

Aitchison, D. T. McK., Prefect; 1st Form Prize, IIIa, 1955-56; 3rd Prize, Addison Smith Memorial, 1955-56; School Champion Shot; Bronze Medallion, Scholars' Instructor's Certificate, and Award of Merit, Royal Life Saving Society.

Bruce, E. R. C.; 1st XV; Bronze Medallion and Instructor's Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society. Chessar, R. C., Prefect; Primus Medal, 1956-57, 1st XV.

McDonald, A. C.; 1st XV; Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Scholars' Instructor's Certificate, Instructor's Certificate, and Award of Merit, Royal Life Saving Association.

McDonald, M. B.; Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Scholars' Instructor's Certificate, and Instructor's Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.

McLennan, D. A. M.
McKenzie, R., Prefect, Drum Major; 1st XV; Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, and Award of Merit, Royal Life Saving Society, Instructor's Certificate.

Masterson, R. N.
Rennie, J.; 1st XV.

Scott, I. F., Prefect; Woodwork Prize, 1955-56; 1st XV, 1st XI; Bronze Medallion, R.L.S.S.
Logan, R. J.; 2nd Form Prize, Form IIIa, 1955-56.

FORM IIIa

Carcary, B. J.; Docherty, J.
Ferrier, G. C., Prefect; 3rd Form Prize, Form IIa, 1955-56; 1st XV; Bronze Medallion, R.L.S.S.

Finlay, J. W. F.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Geary, C. J.; 1st XV; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Johnston, H. B.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.
Leaman, G. R.

Leitch, A. D.; 1st Form Prize, Form IIa, 1955-56. Milne, A. G. W.; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Ross, J.; 2nd Form Prize, Form IIa, 1955-56.
Thomson, G. M. A.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.
Wilkie, J. W.; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

FORM IIb

Airnes, J. P.; 1st Form Prize, Form IIb, 1955-56; Best Piper, 1955-56.

Amers, N. K.; Burrows, M.; Collins, W.; Culbard, W.

Cummings, R. R.; 2nd Form Prize, Form IIb, 1955-56.

Dunbar, J.; 1st XV; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society. Forbes, A.; Kerr, James.

Lawson, E. G.; 1st Form Prize, Form IIc, 1955-56; Metalwork Prize, 1955-56.

Johnstone, I.; Leigh, E. A.
McColl, P.; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

McDonald, A. J.
McKinnon, A.; 2nd Form Prize, Form IIc, 1955-56. McNicol, D.; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Marshall, L.; Bronze Medallion and Scholars' Instructor's Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society. Murphy, J.; Best Dancer, 1955-56.

Nisbet, D. T.; Best Drummer and Bugler, 1955-56. Sheach, D. M.; Strachan, J. M. F.; Thomson, R. F.; Veasey, R.; Wright, W. R.

FORM IIa

Barbour, T. J.; Bird, R. L.

Burrows, N.; 1st Form Prize, Form Ia, 1955-56. Fraser, J. R.; Gavigan, T. D.; Hide, J.

Kay, J. G.; 3rd Form Prize, Form Ia, 1955-56. Lorimer, J.

McGill, A. J.; 2nd Form Prize, Form Ia, 1955-56. McIntosh, R. G.

McLaughlin, J. L.; Progress Prize.
Matthews, G.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Maxwell, R.; Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.

Owens, D.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Pooke, D.
Roy, R. N.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Walker, C. C.; Watt, M. D.

FORM IIb

Baird, D. C.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Blackie, G. J.; Dailly, A.

Davies, R.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Edgar, V. C.; Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.

Fee, J. A. M.; Horne, J. H.; Kill, L. C. M.; Leitch, R. B. M.

McAllister, S.; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

McArthur, J. D.; 1st Form Prize, Form Ib, 1955-56; Bronze Medallion and Scholar's Instructor's Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.

McColl, J.
McDonald, J. M. G.; Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

McGavin, D.; McGorry, J. D.; McInnes, D. S.; McLeish, M. J.; McMillan, M. McC.

McNamee, T. R.; Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.

Mannion, R. E.; Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.

Marshall, E. R.; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.

Miller, H.: 2nd Form Prize, Form Ic, 1955-56; Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.
 Milne, S. I. S.: Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.
 Murphy, M. G.
 Nelson, J. N.: Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.
 Orr, D. S.; Scully, D.; Strachan, G. A. F.; Whyte, A. C.

FORM Ia

Davies, K. R.: Second, Kingfisher Patrol.
 Finlay, P. R. C.: 2nd Form Prize, Primary 7a, 1955-56; Patrol Leader, Eagle Patrol.
 Gillespie, M. W.; Hedges, G. C.
 Innes, J.: Second, Falcon Patrol.
 Kirkwood, J. W.: Patrol Leader, Curlew Patrol.
 McCormack, M. J.
 McGavin, L. T.: Patrol Leader, Kingfisher Patrol.
 Miller, T.: Patrol Leader; Peewit Patrol; Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society; Best Junior Piper, 1955-56.
 Munn, R. D.: Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion, Royal Life Saving Society.
 Nixon, M. R.: Patrol Leader, Owl Patrol.
 Ritson, W.: 1st Form Prize, Primary 7a, 1955-56.
 Russell, T. M. W.; Stewart, C. G. N.; Truswell, D. K.; Turnbull, D.

FORM Ib

Bullie, J. D.; Bethune, D. M.
 Brock, I. R. G.: Second Owl Patrol; Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.
 Criggs, R. J.: 2nd Form Prize, Primary 7b, 1955-56; Patrol Leader, Falcon Patrol.
 Dunn, K.; Evans, A.
 Forrester, J. B.: Second Swift Patrol.
 Hill, K. W.: Patrol Leader, Kestrel Patrol.
 Johnstone, J. M.
 Laughlan, J. A.: 1st Form Prize, Primary 7b, 1955-56; Patrol Leader, Snipe Patrol.
 McGrory, G.: Second Snipe Patrol.
 Melvin, T. M.: Second Eagle Patrol.
 O'Donnell, I. W.: Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.
 Robertson, D. McN.: Patrol Leader, Swift Patrol; Intermediate Certificate, Royal Life Saving Society.
 Ross, C. S. R.

Sim, G. I.: Second Peewit Patrol.
 Thomson, M.: Patrol Leader, Cuckoo Patrol.
 Whyte, W. R.
 Wishart, R. A.: Second Cuckoo Patrol.

PRIMARY 7a

Aitchison, I. S.
 Aitken, W. A.: 2nd Form Prize, Primary 6a, 1955-56; Patrol Leader, Hawk Patrol.
 Armstrong, M. J.; Arnett, M. H. A.; Bowes, H. R.
 Brown, C.: Progress Prize, 1955-56; Second Curlew Patrol.
 Douglas, K. M.: Second Kestrel Patrol.
 Faulds, A. R.; Fallone, A. D.; Keltie, D. T.; Logan, R. J.
 McArthur, S.: Second Hawk Patrol.
 McConnell, I.; McFadyen, J. A.; McKenzie, R. D. T.; Maxwell, D. A.; Murray, K.; Newman, K. G.; O'Connor, P.; Robson, C. J.
 Roy, P. W.: 1st Form Prize, Primary 6a, 1955-56; Second Wolf Patrol.
 Scott, W. J. S.; Tait, R. D.; Watson, D. J.; Watters, J.

PRIMARY 7b

Barbour, P. H.; Bell, J.
 Davidson, K. M.: 2nd Form Prize, Primary 6b, 1955-56.
 Greenhorn, C.; Gray, I. C.; Hamilton, C. C.; Heron, C. B.; Johnstone, D. P.; Kilcullen, J. A.; Laughlin, M.; McDonald, J. A.; McLean, M.
 Marshall, S. T.: 1st Form Prize, Primary 6b, 1955-56.
 Ross, G.; Ritchie, D.; Savill, I. L. S.; Scott, G. H. S.; Sinclair, A. J.; Stewart, C. J. A.; Wilson, T. F.; Young, W.

PRIMARY 6a

Allan, J.; Brough, J. M.; Cockburn, I.; Gillespie, E. D.; Kay, A. C.; Kay, P. C.; McDonald, J. McF.; McKenzie, J.; McRae, R. M.; Miller, R. J.; Milne, T. A. G.; O'Connor, P. K.; Richardson, A. D. M.; Thomson, E.; Williamson, J. C.; Wright, J. T.

PRIMARY 6b

Brown, J.; Donnelly, J.; Kilcullen, R. T.; Lorimer, I.; McFarquhar, W.; McGregor, I. S. A.; McMillan, K.; Mackie, A. E.; Marshall, I.; Matheson, R. I.; Mayo, E. J.; Menzies, N. A.; Monaghan, T.; Murtagh, A. J.; Nimmo, J.; Sinclair, A. J.

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 bewilderingly, 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 gilding 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."

(You 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 midday meal. How great was his delight when this time she said:

"Tawn dy fara

Hawdd fa 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 re-appeared, 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 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 new 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.

R. E. H.

House Notes

CUNNINGHAM

Two new boys have come to the House this term, and seven juniors from Wavell House, amongst whom are several boys of outstanding ability in the field of sport. The two new boys are William Ritson from Hawick, and James Baillie from Glasgow. Due to the early need for these notes, no House Championship results are included here; but we of Cunningham House are complete optimists, and with Captain Asaworth in front, and Monitor Sim behind, we know that we can go anywhere.

As the Hallowe'en Party was celebrated by the whole school this year, House apple-dooking competitions were arranged. The six boys in our team included Joe Sim, Hammy, Baff, Den-Den Owens, Taffy Milne, and Wog Leitch. Readers may be certain that the last three mentioned were chosen for the size of their facial apertures, whereas the first three were self-appointed for their skill!

Several boys have discovered hobbies or pastimes of interest or amusement. Three senior boys form the nucleus of the newly-formed school jazz group, which will make all the "cats" "dig," (except the little ginger one which haunts the dining hall) at the end-of-term concert. Two of the "rogues" have, on the other hand, discovered a most novel pastime. They tried to imitate "The Owl and the Pussycat" with a boat in the school swimming pool during Morning Prayers! They received a warm welcome in the masters' Common Room!

All letters of complaint and criticism concerning this composition are to be addressed to the Editor, who will vent his wrath on the humble author.

A. A. B.

TRENCHARD

Unseasonal as it may seem, we must start by recording a victory of the Summer term. Never, probably, has the Inter-House Cricket Competition provide so many close fought finishes and unexpected twists of fortune. We particularly relish the memory of the First Year game against Haig House when our thirteen runs, despite their ominous sound, proved too many for our opponents.

The sudden change to "Winter Sports" during the A.C.F. camp brought disaster to Monitor McKillop. We sympathise with him, both on his enforced rest during the holidays, and on his absence from the Rugby field this term. Come to that, we sympathise with ourselves also on the latter score.

The start of the new term saw our numbers increased by eight arrivals from Wavell House and three boys new to the school. We welcome them all, and hope and expect they will take their full share in House life and games. One of our new arrivals, T. Russell, went to the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, during the mid-term holiday, to watch the television production of the "One O'Clock Gang Show," and found himself being interviewed and questioned about the School. You may have seen him on your screen.

On returning to school after the summer holiday we were much concerned to find that Mrs Stuart, our House Matron, was in the hospital, where indeed she had to stay for some weeks. We were glad to see her looking so well on her return. Don't do it again, though! And by the way, many thanks to Mrs Glass for looking after us so efficiently "at a moment's notice."

It is a pity, in a way, that the Hallowe'en Party does not count in the "official" competitions, for we won both the apple-dooking, and first and second prizes in the lantern competition. However, we look forward to some stern struggles in the more important events this year and will do our best to give a good account of ourselves.

Meanwhile, to our only Christmas leaver, A. McKinnon, every good wish for a happy and successful future.

A. B.

WAVELL

We have thirty-five new boys this term — or at least they were new boys for a few days. Most of them now give the impression that they have been here for years. Lack of space is still a great problem, most noticeably on a wet Sunday afternoon, but generally the standard of tidiness and cleanliness has been fairly good, though there is still a long way to go. In spite of an epidemic of 'flu during the first half of the term, which disorganised us pretty considerably, the health of the House has been quite good. There has been the usual daily pilgrimage to the hospital, but usually the names in the sick book are monotonously the same day after day. The enjoyment of bad health is not always a prerogative of the aged!

A great deal of football has been played but only two school matches, both of which we quite deservedly lost. All the various clubs have flourished, and at the time of writing there is great activity in connection with the end of term concert. Apart from stamp collecting, which is by far the most popular pastime, quite a number of us are turning out weird and wonderful objects in the metal workshop. Others are making artistic pictures from silver paper under Mr Mortimer, and still others are producing models under the expert guidance of Mr Le Maistre and Mr Finlay. Others are becoming quite proficient in boxing, and we should like to thank Mr Martin for giving up nearly three hours a week of his own time to teach boxing. It is to be hoped that all his hard work and keenness will be repaid by some good boxing in the Junior Competitions next term. To all who have helped to occupy our spare time so usefully we are grateful; not least of all to Mr Bruce, who has now so many calls on his spare time since he officially left us to become House-master of Cunningham. We are particularly grateful to him for his continued interest in the sport of the house and for his willing and energetic help with football in particular.

It is encouraging to note the popularity of the Junior Library. Most boys regularly use it, and there is a constant turnover of the books on the shelves. Thanks to Mr Brown's co-operation the library has been extremely well stocked, and

a further collection of new books is expected at any time.

There have been many other activities this term, such as Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night, both of which festivities were followed by a first-class supper. The drill still continues; judging by the one Sunday march-past to date in which the whole House took part, one is at liberty to wonder whether it will ever stop! However, the R.S.M. is not so pessimistic!

The work in the classroom is not a subject for these notes, which is probably just as well. Nor need we dwell on various episodes mostly connected with the burn. In conclusion, the House is happy, reasonably well behaved, and in most aspects of school life vigorous and keen. Inter-Dormitory Competitions will start next term, which will give most boys an added incentive to try to do well.

HAIG

This term we have eleven newcomers to the House. From Wavell House we welcome K. R. J. Davies, K. Dunn, J. B. Forrester, J. A. McLaughlan, T. Miller, C. S. R. Ross, H. M. Truswell, W. R. Whyte; and from schools outside, J. Hide (Form IIa), C. G. N. Stewart and D. Turnbull (Form Ia). The House is now 46 strong.

G. H. Welsh is the new Monitor, and the new prefects are D. Ray, I. F. Scott and R. M. Watson.

Accommodation for play and hobbies in the House area remains a problem, but with two of our senior boys lodged in the spare "bunks" of Wavell House, we have been able to leave a part of Wauchope Dormitory clear, and put table tennis in there.

House competitions have not yet started; the only success we can record was achieved by the mouth of David Ray, who removed 17 apples from the tub in one minute at the "dooking" contest. About half our boys have played for the school in rugby teams. One who deserves special mention is Carroll Geary. He has been playing as hooker in the First Fifteen, though far smaller than anyone else in the team.

Friday evening hobbies have had their effect on spare-time occupations; the main evening activities this term seem to have been building model aeroplanes, swapping stamps, "five stones," and laborious hammering of rubber football studs.

We are looking forward to the rugby matches and the boxing competition, and to the Christmas party and concert.

G. H. W.

Pipe Notes

The new School year has begun for the pipers in no uncertain manner. With the advent of new and harder tunes, the standard and variety of the band performance has improved and widened. For the band there have been only two outside engagements this term, one of which was to Gleneagles. There we were feasted until even our Gargantuan appetites were satiated. No one was sick! The other engagement was to the Dunblane Tattoo, and for which the band was

highly praised. Maybe the fact that I was not there had something to do with this!

The periodic church parades have been carried out, hail, rain or shine, and though young players have been introduced to church parade the band still sounds well. In passing, I must mention that the progress of some of the young members is gratifying to Pipe-Major Sanderson, and is a source of uneasiness to some of the older hands.

Asian 'flu in its most violent form claimed a large proportion of the band pipers, but luckily they were not all claimed at the same time, and the band was never below fourteen pipers. Before I end this chronicle I would like to convey the hearty thanks of the band, elderly, middle-aged and infant, to Mr Sanderson for his devotion and sincerity in keeping the band up to engagement standard. A Merry Christmas to you, your wife and family, Mr Sanderson, and "lang may ye're lum reek!"

A. A. B.

Drum Notes

Since the last edition of our notes nothing much has changed. The first Saturday of the term the pipe band was at the Dunblane Tattoo. Two weeks later the band was at the Gleneagles Hotel. Until now we have had a fairly quiet time, apart from the fact that we have had buglers out at various towns sounding "Last Post" and "Reveille" on Remembrance Day.

But although there have not been many engagements, the enthusiasm to get into the band is high. At the end of the term we lose D/M R. McKenzie and tenor drummer A. McKinnon. We wish them both the very best in their future. I'll end by saying a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to Mr R. Niven and to all our readers.

J. D.

Life at H.M.S. Ganges

[Extract from a letter from Peter Keenan, who left School in July, 1956, to Major Hitchman.]

"I have been in the Navy for eight weeks and have enjoyed (nearly) every minute of them. At H.M.S. Ganges we are taught almost every job in the Navy, including your own branch—I'm an engineer-mechanic. We have a mast in Ganges which is 195 feet high. It has three yardarms, and to get to the top you have to climb up the rigging. It's freezing cold up there! During the morning we have school, and in the afternoon some kind of recreation—rugby, soccer, hockey, boat-pulling with 34-foot cutters (and it's hard work!). Sir, I think English rugby is terrible. Most of the chaps are bigger than I am, but they're too scared to tackle, so if my friend (who is Scots) and I get the ball we run right through them.

"If any boys in IIB would like to know about Ganges, if they write to me I would be pleased to give them a full account."

Nature Notes—Bird Life

In the well-known bird sanctuary, the Queen Victoria School, many rare and exotic specimens of bird life are to be found. For the benefit of intending visitors, who may be lovers of Nature, some notes concerning species of bird life which may be seen in the sanctuary are appended.

1. *The Highland Dancer (Scotus saltans)*

This bird is found in great numbers in the sanctuary, and is easily recognised by its plumage, white above and tartan below, with parti-coloured legs. When caught young, it can be trained to carry out a number of ingenious and acrobatic saltatory exercises. It is easily excited by the sound of barbaric music, and when it hears these strains its response is to move its legs in a series of vigorous yet stately steps.

2. *Orderly Bugler (Bucinator serviens)*

This bird, undistinguished in plumage, is normally of a shy and retiring disposition, and tends to gather in flocks near the marshy lower part of the playing fields, in order to practise its curious calls. On occasion, however, singular members of the family are more prominent. At such times they greet the dawn with a series of harsh and discordant sounds, which they continue to emit at intervals throughout the day. Just before they retire to their nesting places at night they sound a last call of two notes.

3. *The Drummer (Tympanizor furiosus)*

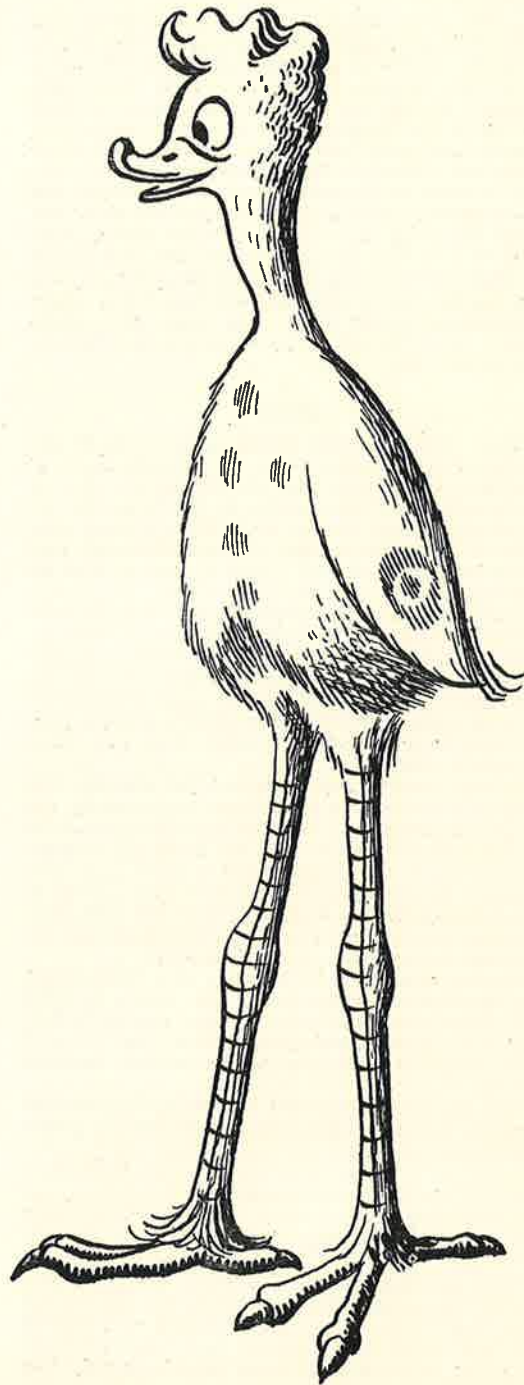
This is a hybrid bird, which is distinguished mainly by its habit of beating furiously and rhythmically with its wings on any hollow object. It is sometimes found in company with the bucinator vulgaris (ordinary bugler, see above); but most often with the piperus, a strange creature described in a previous issue of the "Victorian." Numbers of these two creatures, together with the tympanizor major (see below), making their characteristic noises, may be seen performing a series of rhythmic movements, which are much admired by spectators.

4. *The Drum Major (Tympanizor major)*

This is a most rare ornithological specimen, and only one of its species at any one time is found in the nature sanctuary. Its plumage is magnificent; its head is covered with a tall block casque; the upper body is red, and the lower body tartan, while the legs are parti-coloured in red and white. When the piperi and tympanizores meet for their joint evolutions the tympanizor major controls their movements with a magic staff, which he holds in one wing. This staff is an object of awe and admiration to the piperi and tympanizors.

5. *The Monitor (prae positus)*

This is not to be confused with the Monitor Lizard, which is a separate form of reptilian life. There are two species of Monitor—the Senior Monitor (*prae positus supremus*) and the Ordinary Monitor (*prae positus vulgaris*). The plumage of the monitor is different from that of the ordinary denizens of the sanctuary; its



PRAEPOSITUS SUPREMUS

upper body is brown, and its legs are tartan, having a peculiar cylindrical appearance. It has, too, its own particular nesting place, which the ordinary birds regard with awe, and from which any ordinary bird, should it happen to venture there, will be ejected with violence. The *prae positus vulgaris* exercises an authority over all the other species of birds in the sanctuary, and this authority is never questioned by the other birds. Like the Tympanizor Major (see above) the *Praepositus Supremus* (Senior Monitor) is a rare specimen, only one of which exists in the sanctuary at any one time. It sometimes grows to an inordinate size, and on such occasions can be seen wandering in lonely state all over the sanctuary, regarding the lesser birds from a great height with a kindly and tolerant gaze.

6. *The Prefect (praeffectus minor)*

This is a species which may be regarded as an embryonic form of the *prae positus vulgaris*, or even of the *prae positus supremus*. It exhibits the same plumage, but with different markings, and exercises a kind of avuncular authority over the very small birds in the sanctuary.

7. *The Pipe-Major (piperus senior)*

This is the third species of bird that is very rare, only one existing in the nature sanctuary at any one time. A gaily coloured bird, it has a feathered plume projecting from its head; the upper body is dark green with white markings, and a red band; the lower body tartan, and the legs parti-coloured. It is a bird of peculiar habits. When the piperi and tympanizores gather in a flock to utter their characteristic notes, the Piperus Senior does not mingle with them, but walks by their side with a proud and stately step, at the same time making plaintive or warlike sounds, which it produces from a bag having pipes. This bag it clutches to its bosom in a kind of musical frenzy.

Latin Glossary

Scotus—Scot.
Saltans—Dancing.
Bucinator—Trumpeter or Bugler.
Serviens—Serving or Orderly.
Tympanizor—Drummer.
Furiosus—Furious or Vigorous.
Praepositus—Placed before or above.
Supremus—Chief, or senior.
Minor—Lesser.

R. E. H.

What I Like About The Country

1.

I like the country because of its beauty and scenery, unlike the roaring traffic in the midst of great cities. I like to see the salmon leap and play on waterfalls, and in the fast-running streams which gurgle and flash in the sun's rays. Here the small fish, like sticklebacks, dart about in search of food.

All this is in the country, far from habitation, where nature may do as she will. On the banks of streams and pools the beautiful weeping willow sheds its leaves, and on an overhanging bough the kingfisher keeps his watchful eye on the crystal-clear water, which is sometimes stirred by a frog leaping in.

High waterfalls are lovely sights, where the torrents rebound from the surface blinking, glittering, never ceasing cascades of sparkling make-believe diamonds. Water is one of the main features of the country-side, and one is never far from it. Where the river widens out it slows down, so that the water folk may swim unhindered.
 R. J. LOGAN, Primary 7a.

What I Like About The Country

2.

What I like about the country is the mountains and the thrill of the cool sweet air rushing past your face when you reach the summit.

As you peer down on the land, which looks like a giant patchwork quilt covering the valley with all its greens and yellows, you see a few cows and sheep and horses grazing on the sweet, green grass below, toys on a toy farmyard.

Nothing can be heard but the lamb bleating for its mother, or a golden eagle, screeching as it glides to its nest, carrying in its talons a rabbit for its young.

When the sun sinks behind the silhouetted hills on the horizon, with the red sky in the background, I make my way home to the smoky, buzzing city.
 W. AITKEN, Primary 7a.

Stamp Club Notes

The Stamp Club has been meeting in three sections on three different days, owing to the large numbers. Even so, the numbers in each section are far too many for comfort, and it is hoped that next term it may be possible to have four sections.

A great deal of enthusiasm has been shown, and a large number of stamps have been swapped, either individually or centrally. There are nearly ninety members of the Stamp Club, apart from a great number who collect, but who cannot attend the meetings, and the pressing need is stamps of all kind in quantity. Will any Old Boys who read these notes please remember us, and send us any stamps they may come across and which they do not themselves want?

A very encouraging aspect of all the meetings, apart from the keenness shown, is that a great many younger boys have started from nothing, and are already building up a good general collection. The knowledge they are gaining while doing this will always be valuable. All the catalogues have been in constant use; the thrill of looking up a stamp, even if it is found to be only worth a penny when finally located, is something which will always remain as long as one collects stamps. The more difficult aspects of collecting, such as measuring perforations and detecting watermarks, have not yet been seriously tackled by the majority of the members, but there is plenty of time, and we now have the tools for the job.

It is hoped to have an exhibition at the end of next term, and also some lectures. Our main problem at the moment is lack of time and space, but this particular problem will doubtless be solved next term.

Cricket

The 1st XI had a moderate season, winning four matches and losing four. The main reason for the defeats we suffered was lack of consistency in batting. A. Quinn was a successful and consistent opening batsman with several double figure scores to his credit; but apart from occasional lusty innings by Sim, I. Fairbairn and Fitzpatrick, he had little support until toward the end of the season when Blackie showed great improvement, together with Welsh. These two should do well with the bat next season. It was unfortunate that Gibson, who batted so well and so fluently in the previous season, was completely unable to find his form with the bat.



The bowling honours were shared by Anderson, Gibson and Scott. Anderson took 26 wickets for 174 runs (average 6.7), Gibson took 16 wickets for 137 runs (average 8.6), Scott took 11 wickets for 124 runs (average 11.3). Scott was bowling well towards the end of the season, as his figures in the Staff match show, and if he can keep his speed and his length next season he should be a formidable bowler. A. Quinn kept wicket neatly and efficiently.

The highlight of the cricket season was, as always, the Staff v. School match which this season was played after Grand Day. Before the actual match there had been the customary period of psychological warfare on either side. The Staff batted first, and were soon in dire distress, three wickets having fallen with no runs on the board. Hopes soared high on the School side, and the bowlers licked anticipatory lips as they prepared to renew the onslaught. Then crabbed age and experience in the shape of Baker and Hughes came together and added 26 runs for the next wicket. Baker's score of 28, together with some characteristic strokes from Ashworth, including one four with a shot never seen before on any cricket ground, brought the staff total to 61, which was better than appeared probable at one time. Scott had six wickets for 9 runs, a very good performance (he probably did not realise how he imperilled his future by not exercising a reasonable tact and diplomacy!) Gibson took three wickets for 29 runs, and Anderson one wicket for 13 runs.

The School team were hopeful, but hope by itself was not sufficient. They collapsed before the bowling of Bruce and Hughes, typifying respectively speed and ferocity, and guile and cunning. McKillop's innings for the School was reminiscent of Ashworth's for the Staff; their batting had a good deal in common—a kind of gay insouciance and a cavalier disregard of the accepted canons of batting. Eventually the 1st XI accumulated, almost by stealth, a total of 36.

Bruce took three wickets for 20 runs, and Hughes took six wickets for 12 runs.

In the second innings the Staff were under instructions to score quickly, and collected 43 runs, to which total a valuable, if flashy, contribution of 15 runs was made by Blakemore. Gibson took five wickets for 30 runs, Scott two wickets for 9 runs, and Anderson 3 wickets for 0 runs. The School in their second venture, with 69 runs needed to win, started well, Quinn and Blackie putting on 21 runs for the first wicket. But the fine promise of the opening stand faded into dust and ashes. In his fourth over Hughes accounted for both opening batsmen, and the rest is silence. The second innings totalled 40. Bruce took two wickets for 18 runs and Hughes took eight wickets for 19 runs. An honourable mention should be made of Batt's wicket-keeping. In both innings he only conceded one bye; he caught five batsmen and stumped one.

Full scores:—

STAFF			
First Innings			
Blakemore, c Quinn, b Scott	..	..	0
Lake, b Anderson	..	..	0
Jamieson, b Scott	..	..	0
Baker, c Anderson, b Gibson	..	..	28
Hughes, b Scott	..	..	7
Bennett, c Anderson, b Scott	..	..	0
Ashworth, c McKillop, b Scott	..	..	10
Drew, c Quinn, b Scott	..	..	0
Reid, c Sim, b Gibson	..	..	1
Bruce, c Sim, b Gibson	..	..	3
Batt, not out	..	..	2
Extras	..	..	10
Total	..	..	61

2nd Innings			
Blakemore, b Anderson	..	..	15
Lake, st. Quinn, b Gibson	..	..	0
Jamieson, c Anderson, b Gibson	..	..	6
Baker, c Anderson, b Scott	..	..	2
Hughes, b Gibson	..	..	8
Bennett, c Sim, b Gibson	..	..	7
Ashworth, c Fitzpatrick, b Anderson	..	..	0
Drew, b Anderson	..	..	0
Reid, b Gibson	..	..	0
Bruce, not out	..	..	0
Batt, hit wicket, b Scott	..	..	1
Extras	..	..	4
Total	..	..	43

SCHOOL			
1st Innings			
Quinn, c Batt, b Hughes	..	..	0
Blackie, c Reid, b Bruce	..	..	4
Scott, l.b.w., b Hughes	..	..	2
Sim, b Hughes	..	..	0
Welsh, b Bruce	..	..	7
Gibson, run out	..	..	1
Fairbairn, c Batt, b Hughes	..	..	0
Anderson, c Batt, b Hughes	..	..	6
McKillop, b Hughes	..	..	9
Fitzpatrick, not out	..	..	0
Ray, b Bruce	..	..	0
Extras	..	..	4
Total	..	..	36

2nd Innings

Quinn, c Batt, b Hughes	..	..	12
Blackie, l.b.w., b Hughes	..	..	11
Scott, l.b.w., b Hughes	..	..	0
Sim, c Drew, b Hughes	..	..	0
Welsh, c Batt, b Hughes	..	..	1
Gibson, c Bennett, b Bruce	..	..	6
Fairbairn, b Hughes	..	..	5
Anderson, b Bruce	..	..	2
McKillop, st. Batt, b Hughes	..	..	0
Fitzpatrick, c Bennett, b Hughes	..	..	0
Ray, not out	..	..	0
Extras	..	..	3
Total	..	..	40

The 2nd XI had a poor season. They played eight matches, of which none were won, five lost, and three drawn. The main reason for this poor record was bad batting, and there were very few individual scores in double figures. The most successful bowler was McNamee, who took 11 wickets for 9.5 runs each; he was assisted by Barr, Leigh, Docherty, J. Quinn, and Leitch.

The 3rd XI played four matches, won two and lost two.

The 1st Year XI played four matches, won one and lost three.

The Staff XI played seven matches against local teams and the School XI. Against local opponents they lost four matches and drew two. There was a time, once, when the Staff XI used to win matches, but their glory is now gone; we hope for a renaissance. Poor batting was the main reason for ill-success. Lake was the most consistent scorer, with occasional contributions of double figures from Blakemore, Ashworth, Bennett, and Hughes. Alas for a Jordan, a Sutherland, or a Kelly! The bowling figures were more respectable. Hughes took 27 wickets at an average cost of 4.1 runs each; Baker took 11 wickets at 9.6 runs each; Bruce took 15 wickets at 12.1 runs each, and Ashworth 4 wickets at 17.5 runs each.

Athletics

Three Cadets from Queen Victoria School were selected to represent Scotland at the A.C.F. National Athletic Meeting in London on 29th June — R. Watson, 440 yards; B. Fitzpatrick, 110 yards hurdles; J. McKillop, discus. Results:—

J. McKillop was 3rd in the discus and gained a standard medal. R. Watson was 1st in the 440 yards. R. Watson was selected for the British A.C.F. team versus the British A.T.C. team at the White City in London. He was placed 5th in the 440 yards.

Boxing

Under the instruction of Mr Stewart and Mr Martin practice for the individual inter-House championships has begun.

The gymnasium is being renovated so the date for these championships has not yet been fixed, but it is hoped to start the preliminary contests this term.

Morrison's Academy have accepted an invitation to an inter-School contest on a date to be fixed next term.

Rugby

The season got off to a bad start due to the 'flu epidemic here and at other schools. Games against Perth Academy, Dollar Academy, and Fettes College had to be cancelled.

1st XV

The forwards are heavier and faster than in previous years, but they have been slow to work together in defence. From their recent performance, however, this seems to have been overcome, and our opponents have been heard to comment favourably on the hard tackling.



The three-quarters have tended to play too much as individuals which has resulted frequently in the loss of points. Their defence, however, is very good, and with the strength we have this year, especially in the centre of the field, one can look forward to keeping the opposition defence fully employed.

It now looks as if we have found the proper combination and we have hopes of a successful season.

2nd XV

This is a much smaller team, which has for opposition boys twice as heavy and twice as big, both in games and in practices. As a team they play good rugby and by doing so have proved themselves to be much better than their opponents.

3rd XV

This is our "under 14½" year-old team, and at this level we have a true picture of our standard of rugby; because here the opposition is of the same age group. The results of the matches to date, which have all been victories, proves that our standard is better than that of our opponents, and also proves the value of sustained coaching.

4th and 5th XV's

These are the "A" and "B" teams of the second year, and have started the season well. We feel quite confident that they will maintain this form and have a good season.

6th XV

The first year beginners have picked the game up very well, especially the forwards, who give the appearance of moulding into a grand little pack.

The three-quarter play is scrappy, with too many individualists. Once they learn to stay in position and to play together their game will improve. The main feature of this team is their hard, low tackling.

Results:—

1st XV 13 pts; Morrison's Academy 2nd XV 0 pts. 3rd XV 12 pts; Morrison's Academy 5th XV 6 pts. 6th XV 3 pts; Morrison's Academy XV 25 pts. 1st XV 58 pts; Dollar Academy XV 5 pts. 3rd XV 60 pts; Dollar Academy 8th XV 0 pts.

		P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.
1st	XV	..	..	..	..	6	4 2 — 111 26
2nd	XV	..	..	..	..	2	2 — — 41 9
3rd	XV	..	..	..	..	6	6 — — 167 29
4th	XV	..	..	..	..	2	2 — — 38 3
5th	XV	..	..	..	..	2	1 — — 31 9
6th	XV	..	..	..	..	4	3 1 — 21 27

G. R.

Royal Life Saving Society Awards

In June, 1956, the boys of the school started taking examinations for the awards of the above Society. Since that date 88 awards have been gained. The following boys who are still members of the school have gained the undermentioned awards:—

Bronze Medallion, Scholars' Instructor's Certificate, Instructor's Certificate, and Award of Merit — S. Mon. J. Fairbairn.

Bronze Medallion, Scholars' Instructor's Certificate, and Award of Merit — Prof. D. Aitchison.

Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, and Award of Merit — A. C. MacDonald.

Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, Scholars' Instructor's Certificate, and Instructor's Certificate — M. B. MacDonald.



Bronze Medallion and Instructor's Certificate — E. R. C. Bruce.

Bronze Medallion and Scholar's Instructor's Certificate — D. McArthur, IIB; R. J. Marshall, IIB.

Intermediate Certificate and Bronze Medallion — J. W. Finlay, IIIA; H. B. Johnston, IIIA; G. M. D. Thomson, IIIA; E. Marshall, IIB; G. Matthews, IIA; D. Baird, IIB; R. Munn, IIA; D. Owens, IIA; N. Roy, IIA; H. Miller, IIB; R. Davies, IIB; J. Dunbar, IIB.

Bronze Medallion — J. McG. MacDonald, IIB; C. J. Geary, IIIA; A. G. Milne, IIIA; S. McAllister, IIB; P. McColl, IIB; R. Davies, IIB; D. McNicol, IIB; J. W. Wilkie, IIIA; Mon. J. McKillop; Mon. J. Sim; Pref. I. Scott; Pref. G. G. Ferrier; F. Pooke.

Intermediate Certificate — I. W. O'Connell, IIB; D. McN. Robertson, IIB; R. E. Mannion, IIB; J. Nelson, IIB; R. Maxwell, IIA; T. R. McNamee, IIB; V. C. Edgar, IIB; I. R. G. Brock, IIB; S. Milne, IIB; T. Miller, IA.

Primary School Football

The Primary School soccer season did not get off to a very promising start owing to the influence of the influenza epidemic. It was usually possible to muster 22 boys on the field for a practice match at least once a week but unfortunately they were never the same group of boys twice running. Happily all these set-backs are a thing of the past and the First XI is at last beginning to take shape.

What is lacking in experience and that elusive element so essential to good football, ball sense, is certainly compensated for by tremendous enthusiasm, which, unfortunately, does not always lead to promising positional play. When one has not received the ball for five minutes it is so easy to throw wisdom and instruction to the four winds and dash into the midst of the fray. Practice is however having a very marked effect, and symmetry is slowly but surely developing out of chaos.

Only one away match has been played during the first half of the Christmas term, which was lost by two goals to one, against old opponents, Doune School, but next half term we are looking forward to tackling our visitors with a little more science, as well as enthusiasm.

N. C. B.

Dancing

This year has been a great success for the dancers. Although we have only had one engagement this term, which was the Dunblane Tattoo, we had many last term, including the B.B.C. Television at Kelvin Hall.

The annual dancing competition was held, and we must congratulate J. Murphy on his excellent win. R. Mannion was a close second.

Mr Mortimer has put all his work into improving our dancing, and we must thank him for all he has done for us. From all the dancers, we hope everybody has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A. G. M.

Scottish Country Dancing

This class started on Saturday, September 28. The girls from Dunblane Cathedral Bible and Youth Fellowship Classes partner the boys of the School.

This is an enthusiastic and enjoyable class, and mixes country dancing with a few old-time dances.

G. R.



A.C.F. Camp, Stromness, July, 1957

Tired and seasick we stumbled down the gangway on to the quay of a town which we could not see for mist. Our summer camp had begun.

Our arrival was not unseen, however, as the small jetty was packed with Orcadians, especially girls, as we soon found out, to welcome us to their islands. As we marched through the town to the camp, our tiredness disappeared, and we looked forward with a new-found joy to the fortnight ahead.

By good fortune we had arrived at the beginning of the annual "Shopping Week," a week when everyone in Stromness, except, of course, the shopkeepers, is on holiday. It really was a holiday week. After a church parade on Sunday, to the music of a small pipe band of our own pipers and drummers, we found ourselves Guard of Honour at the Coronation of the "Shopping Week Queen."

All through this week there were numerous activities in which we took part, urged on by the enthusiasm of the "Gala Committee." We played two football matches, one against our fellow-campers, the Caithness A.C.F., and the other against the local junior team. Both games were enjoyed by everyone, although we were beaten in the latter game after winning the former.

A swimming gala was held one cold night in the harbour, with the spectators wrapped up in heavy coats while the competitors were shivering in swimming trunks. In spite of these Arctic conditions several of our boys managed to win their events against the able local swimmers.

In an athletic meeting between Stromness, Kirkwall, Caithness A.C.F., and ourselves, we were narrowly beaten by Kirkwall. Against a much older team our runners did extremely well to keep the winners' score so low.

The highlight of the week so far as sport was concerned, was a hockey match between the Stromness Ladies and the A.C.F. Camp. From the looks on their faces, I had a feeling that quite a few of the boys were wondering what the sticks were for! After numerous fouls and collisions with our opponents, everyone was surprised when we suddenly scored two goals! Our joy was shortlived, however, as a goal was soon scored against us. At the end we were still on top with a three-one victory which earned us praise from everyone, even our dejected opponents.

On the Friday night there was a Boating Carnival, one contest being for the best decorated and most original float. With the help of a local fisherman several of our boys "dressed up" a small boat with heather and wild flowers. Then, covered with tartan rugs, "Bonnie Prince



Charlie" and "Flora Macdonald" were rowed by two kilted oarsmen into the middle of the harbour. The boat was complete with a piper in the bow, playing "Over the Sea to Skye." They were awarded 2nd prize.

Dances were held every night in the Town Hall, and as far as the boys were concerned, nothing could have been better, as in Stromness there are four girls to every boy.

All our time was not spent in amusing ourselves however. We had two visits to the shooting range where every cadet fired the .303 and the Bren gun. Without doubt the most enjoyable exercise was one using blank ammunition, thunderflashes, and smoke bombs. At the end of our mock battle either our ears were ringing with the noise, or our eyes were watering with the smoke.

Although not intending to give a complete account of the various exercises we carried out, I feel that there is one incident worth recording. We had been divided into three groups, each independently having to cross several miles of quite open country to "capture" a derelict tower. One party eventually found themselves about there-quarters of a mile from the tower with no available cover to guard them for the remaining ground. But they were not beaten, because, with the daring of escaping prisoners, they took charge of a small mail van. So, with two postmen in front and eight cadets squashed in the rear, Her Majesty's Government conveyed the party to within two hundred yards of their objective.

During the fortnight's stay we also paid several interesting visits to the more popular spots on the islands.

On one visit we crossed over one of the Churchill Barriers, which shut off Scapa Flow from the open sea. Near the first of these barriers, all of which have roads over them, there is a small chapel made from an ordinary Service Nissen Hut. This chapel, which was made by Italian prisoners of war who were building the barriers, is really a work of art. All the materials used were found around their camp. Even the wonderful wrought iron gates in front of the altar were hand-beaten from old scrap. It is really a pity to see this building falling into decay through lack of care.

Kirkwall Cathedral was an object of our interest, together with the pre-historic village of Skara Brae. One cannot appreciate how our ancestors lived, unless one sees one of these ancient villages. Here the stones have been preserved extremely well and the layout of the one-roomed houses, with wall niches for beds, is just as it was in the days of the ancient people. This visit was only marred by the twelve mile walk to reach it. Another of those exercises!

The most enjoyable visit, however, was one to the island of Hoy in a naval drifter. After three hours on the boat, being shown the engine room, and even steering the ship for some distance, we disembarked at Lyness to cook our dinner. Lyness is a naval base which was the refuelling depot during the war for the fleet in Scapa Flow. Even today there are still 100,000 tons of oil stored in three huge underground tanks. After our meal

we did actually go into the tunnels leading to the tanks, and it seemed queer to think that there was forty feet of concrete and a hundred feet of hillside over our heads.

All good things come to an end sooner or later, and all too soon the happy fortnight was over. Everyone was sad to leave the town of Stromness, with its hospitable inhabitants and its narrow streets. In some parts of the main street buses have a clearance of only two feet!

As the boat drew away on that clear Friday morning many vowed that a return visit to the now familiar sights, especially the fairer sex, was a "must." Appropriately enough, our last sight of Orkney from the back of an Army truck, was of the "Old Man of Hoy" standing on the skyline like a sentry guarding the islands.

Cadet G. H. WELSH.

Scout Camp

Eighteen Scouts under Captain Blakemore and Mr Batt went to camp at Lochearnhead from July 12th to July 22nd. The site was kindly lent by Major Stewart of Ardvorlich and proved extremely good, with Loch Earn on one side and Ben Vorlich on the other—a most picturesque setting. Unfortunately, the weather was not very co-operative and hikes and swims in the loch were kept to a minimum through rain.

A useful programme of Scouting was got through despite the weather and undoubtedly the most successful item was the inter-Patrol competition, which covered all aspects of camp life. This was won, after a close contest, by the Wolf Patrol, who are now the proud possessors of a head of antlers presented as a trophy by the local gamekeeper.

Many lessons were learnt at camp, among them the facts that Army lorries tend to bog down in burns, that cooking pits are NOT sited in springs of water, and that compo rations are excellent for quick results. One tradition that must obviously be started in future camps is that Scoutmasters are provided with an early morning cup of tea in bed, and not vice-versa.

29th Perthshire

The new term has seen a great expansion in Scouting activities at School. Numbers have risen to 126 of whom 84 are actual Scouts and the remainder Cubs. This has meant that two troops have had to be formed, with a total of 12 Patrols. New Patrol Leaders have been appointed and are settling down well in their jobs. Extra assistance, which has been extremely welcome, has come from Mr Jamieson, Mr Hughes, Major Watson and Captain Turner. The result has been that, as well as the normal training of the Tenderfoot and 2nd Class, many Patrol activities can now be undertaken. It is noteworthy that one of these is the periodic clearing of the burn of rubbish, a task enjoyed by all.

T. B.

Prefect's View on Life in the Primary School

It is often imagined by those of little experience that the supervising of young boys is a sinecure. On the contrary, I can assure them that they are completely mistaken. As the average person does not have to contend with more than perhaps five young boys, I will try to convey what happens, from a prefect's point of view, in the normal daily routine of a primary schoolboy in Queen Victoria School.

The age of the boys with whom I am concerned ranges from nine to eleven years. These boys, about eighty in number, are collected together in Wavell House, under a housemaster, a monitor, and three prefects. Then the House is sub-divided into three large dormitories, each with a prefect in charge. Having described this arrangement, I will now commence with the daily routine, taking as my basis any November week day.

As the first notes of reveille sound the juniors (from now on I will refer to these younger boys in this way) leap from their beds and start to chat and make their beds at a pace which to them appears a reasonable speed but which is in fact, as is typical of juniors, so slow that it infuriates those who should be among them urging them on. After taking an incredibly long time to wash, dress, and to tidy that part of the dormitory in the immediate vicinity of their beds, they lounge about, casually chatting with their neighbours. Then, as a result of a little "urging on" by their dormitory prefect, they amble downstairs to breakfast.

From breakfast until the primary school bedtime the prefect sees little of "his" juniors, meal times being the only official time when he clashes with his inferiors.

After supper the juniors go upstairs to their dormitories and are meant to stand by their beds, on which they should have their shoes, cleaned for inspection. It does, however, take a little shouting and mild threatening to organise these juniors who, by the time the prefect goes inspecting, are partaking in a noisy and seemingly pointless fight. When under control, and quiet, their shoes are inspected, and they then get stripped for a wash. Having quickly wet their faces and hands with water, they proceed to bed by the most indirect, circuitous and time-wasting routes. Only after further threats on the part of the prefect do they retreat to their beds, which to them appear as a temporary prison cell. At eight-thirty the red light in the centre of the dormitory is put on. This brings to an end the period during which they are allowed to talk. They are, however, allowed to read for a further half-hour, provided that they have behaved reasonably well in the prefect's sight. Then comes "lights out" at nine, bringing with it the customary sigh of relief from the unfortunate prefect.

D. Aitchison, Form IV.

A Fantastic Conversation

I was sitting on top of a London bus on my way home when a man, almost 10 feet tall, sat down beside me.

"Going far?" he inquired.

"Mind your own business!" I retorted.

"That's a coincidence, so am I. You really ought to have got off before you got on. Then you would have saved the fare from where you ought to have got off to the place where you got on," he advised.

"You ought to be in Parliament," I said dryly.

"Yes, I often go swimming in winter. It's the best time you know, just as the Royal Scot leaves Paris."

The conductor lurched towards us, dressed in an airman's outfit.

"Five Scotches please, and heat the toast first," ordered my friend with a serious frown.

The conductor opened a box and handed us two kippers each. Then he turned and fell down the stairs, shrieking his head off with laughter.

We saw his head roll into a field just as the bus crossed Westminster Bridge.

"Nice chap," I commented.

"Always likes a laugh," added my friend.

"Have a weed," I said, pulling out my cigarettes.

"Do mind if I don't," he replied, taking three.

"Well I do," I said. "Give me the other five back."

"No!"

"Why not?"

"Because I always hated changing tyres. It's such a tiresome thing if your car has a bad habit like that."

"I sympathise with you there. Sheep are very difficult to shear."

"Yes, especially in rough seas, and with the traffic lights against you."

Suddenly we looked at each other blankly.

"Did you say something?" I asked.

"Not him. She hasn't said a word since they murdered the next door neighbour's cat," he assured me.

"S funny," I said. "I thought you hadn't said a word."

"No, I've been speaking all the time. What gave you that idea?"

"I don't know. I think it was because I hit my head this morning."

"You seem to have hit it pretty hard, too," he observed sarcastically. "Well, I'll have to get off now. This isn't my stop, but if I get off at this stop, and I know that this isn't my stop, then I won't curse myself for being a forgetful fool and getting off at the wrong stop."

"Sound common sense," I complimented him.

"Ah well, goodbye," he said, shaking my foot.

"Goodbye," I said as I punched his face.

He turned and walked through the conductor's observation window at the top of the stairs, and out of the door.

I then began to shriek with laughter. Drawing my revolver I put it to my temple. Thinking what a funny joke it was, I pressed the trigger...

All persons in this story are fictitious. Any resemblance to any person, living or dead, just can't be coincidental.

F. Pooke (Form V).

Military Band

Since we were moved out of the bandroom two years ago, we have travelled from place to place seeking various accommodation — not a few instruments having been dented in the process — but we are, at present, at rest in the old G.5 classroom beneath the gym. It is used both as band room and music room, besides being the form room of a primary class. Thus there is little wonder that one misses the peace and space of the old band room down on the field, even though it was rather cold during the winter.

In the year that Mr Batt has been with us, the band has progressed very well, considering the large proportion of young players in it. We gave quite a successful concert at the end of last term, and it was a pity that Mr Lax, our former bandmaster for many years, and his wife, could not manage to hear the band.

The beginning of this term seemed to promise stormy weather for the band, and nightmares for Mr Batt, as our solo baritone player, Peter Gibson, left us last term for St. Andrews University, while Albert Quinn, solo horn, entered the Civil Service. However, by a marvelous process of re-shuffling and a vast amount of hard work, Mr Batt is knocking us into shape again. We played at the Dunblane Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, and we are at present rehearsing for the variety show at the end of this term. The show includes selections from "Snow White," "Carousel," "The King and I," and also Henry Wood's "Fantasia of British Sea Songs." Besides numerous solo items from the band, a jazz group will, we hope, be playing.

Mr and Mrs Lax are living happily in Charles Street, Dunblane, and it may interest Old Boys to know that Mrs Lax is in very good health after having had a successful eye operation last summer. Some of us go down to see them occasionally, and I am quite sure that any Old Boy visiting Dunblane, particularly if he was in the band, would be more than welcome by Mr and Mrs Lax.

Speaking of Old Boys of the band, it is reported that Tony Ward is staying on for further tuition at Knellar Hall, as he is at present unable to join his band, the Black Watch, which is touring the United States. Also, D. Beat is solo clarinetist of the Knellar Hall band.

A group of five of us gathered together this term in an effort to start a kind of traditional jazz band. At present, we are not able to practise together often, because of the shortage of time and the number of other commitments which keeps us occupied (e.g., the monitors' and prefects' billiards table). The group is progressing, although not up to our former wild hopes! We are badly handicapped through the lack of a trombonist, as the five or so young players to whom Mr Batt is teaching the instrument are not yet of a sufficiently high standard. This deficiency of the trombone section was a very great threat to the balance of the band at first, but by skilful and painstaking use of orchestration Mr Batt has overcome the deficiency splendidly, though he will not, I think, be at ease until he hears the blasts (if slightly discordant) of his purple-faced half-dozen trombonists mingling with the mellow sounds of the rest of the ensemble.

R. A.

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