



THE JOURNAL OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL

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EDITORIAL

In this Christmas number, we are glad to be able to print more contributions than we could get last year. But these do not exactly flow in. In fact some were extorted, rather than contributed, when there was a crowd kept in for a general misdemeanour; and it was thought a suitable punishment to make them write something for the "Victorian". A magazine with a world-wide circulation (see the article on "Our Homes") needs better support than it is getting.

Though exacting contributions, and reports of School activities, is hard work, it is not the most annoying and time-consuming of editorial duties. What takes the time and frays the temper is running round to check the details. Which Robertson do you mean? You don't give the initials. Are these names in any special order, or just put down at random? How does this boy spell his name? Why do you say there are twenty of them and give then only seventeen names? According to one informant of a few years ago, the official policy about initials was that when you didn't know them, you put in "J". Our view is that a boy has the right to have his name given correctly, but it is hard to keep out mistakes. Even official school lists do not always agree, especially about the Macd—MacD—McD—group. The uncertainty about Macs extends to written answers about reading, where McBeth and MacBeth frequently appear as characters along with the original Macbeth. When we are mortified by finding that mistakes and omissions have got into the printed magazine, we can console ourselves by recalling that it was once worse. That was in 1959,

the year of the printers' strike, when the "Victorian" was printed by—we must be careful what we call this—a firm that was outside the strike. Its distance away made proof-correction more difficult, and there seems to have been a bit of a rush. So this was a vintage number for typographical errors, what with the—fortunately well-blurred—photograph of Wavell House group that was called Trenchard House, the master whose degree was given as "& 3", and the prize-winners with names unknown in the School.

One innovation that has eased the lot of the editors is the Commandant's practice of recording all noteworthy events and occasions in the "School Orders", now published only fortnightly and separated from routine notices and rosters of duties. This saves a lot of checking and tracing back of details.

Not long ago people were specially invited to write letters to the Editor, expressing their point of view or their grumbles, in any way that would leave us safe from the law of libel. There has been little response. The only communication received this term reads as follows: "Are you prepared for your death? If not pay me £100,000,000,000. If it is not paid by Sunday 12.0 a.m. you die. Signed: The Avenger". If we are to meet this sort of demand, the price of the "Victorian" may have to be increased.

These reflections about contributors and contributions may not be quite in keeping with the spirit of Christmas; but they might be relevant when it comes to New Year resolutions.

THE QUEEN MOTHER INSPECTS OUR HIGHLAND DANCERS AT ABERDEEN



Left to right : Pipe-Major Mackenzie, J. S. Grigor, G. B. Johnstone, J. Lee, D. T. Jagger, J. A. Learmonth, N. Houston.

STAFF CHANGES

This term we have to congratulate Major Frost on his promotion from Captain, and to say goodbye to him as well, for he is now leaving us to take up an appointment in Hong Kong. He arrived here in 1962, just in time to qualify for the Cultybraggan Star, and since then he has had many parts in the life of the School. At first he taught English to secondary classes and was assistant housemaster of Cunningham House. Then, when the new Wavell House across the square came into being, he became assistant housemaster there and a teacher of primary classes. Finally in September of this year, he took over Trenchard House in the secondary school, while still continuing his work with primary classes. But Major

Frost will probably be remembered most for his school plays, and for the Nativity plays which he brought in as features of the Christmas carol service. He has chosen plays that were admirably suited to the boy actors, and to the audience ; and all his productions have been outstandingly successful. He put school drama on its feet ; but perhaps we had better qualify that statement by saying " straight drama ", for there was a fine production of " H.M.S. Pinafore " by Mr Le Maistre and Mr Bruce the year before Major Frost began his series of School plays. We shall miss Major Frost, but at least he is getting out of Scotland at the right time of year.

One of two new masters this term is Captain J. T. Walker, R.A.E.C. He is a graduate of King's

College, Durham. He served with the R.A. Nuclear Force in Germany for three years, then transferred to the R.A.E.C. and had three years' service on Salisbury Plain before coming here. He is teaching Maths to secondary classes, including Higher S.C.E. candidates, and has taken charge of shooting and film shows. We heartily welcome Captain and Mrs Walker, and their two children, Clive (4) and Gillian (3) to Queen Victoria School, and we wish them all a happy stay in Dunblane. The other new master, to whom we have to say both hail and farewell is Captain J. M. Donoghue. Before coming to Q.V.S., he was for five years an Instructor Lieutenant in the Royal Navy. On transferring to the R.A.E.C., he was posted to Queen Victoria School to fill a one-term gap in the staff. He has been teaching junior forms in the secondary school and acting as an assistant house-master in Wavell House. We hope that the vicissitudes of Army postings will one day bring him back to Queen Victoria School for a longer stay.

A very recent arrival is Captain P. D. Bull, who joined us about the end of November. He is a native of Gloucestershire, who obtained his teaching qualification at the College of St. Mark and St. John, Chelsea, and taught for two years in his native county before joining the R.A.E.C. On completing his course at Beaconsfield, he was posted to Q.V.S., where he will take over the duties formerly done by Major Frost, as form-master and assistant house-master in the primary school. Meantime he has the final weeks of the Christmas term to get acclimatised. Captain Bull has a variety of outdoor interests: athletics, canoeing, ornithology. He also admits to an interest in model-making and automobile engineering. There are interesting times ahead if he develops all of these in Wavell House. We welcome him to the School.

There have been one or two changes in the clerical staff. Mr W. Meek, Clerical Officer in the Administrative Office since September 1959, left us early this term for an appointment in the Command Ordnance Depot, Stirling. This was a change which was convenient to Mr Meek domestically, but he was sorry to leave his work at Q.V.S., as we were to see him go, for he was tirelessly courteous, patient, and efficient in a job that is certainly not without its trials, and in particular, he cheerfully took on many extra duties during the Administrative Officer's illness. His post has been taken over by Mrs J. M. Innes on promotion to Clerical Officer, and in her place as Commandant's Secretary we welcome Mrs H. Muirhead.

Finally, Nurse Kay, assistant nurse at the School hospital since February 1964, left on 31st October to take up another appointment at the Aultwharrie Masonic Home, Dunblane. Her services to the School—she is a Strathdee—carried on a long tradition of family service, her father, two brothers, and two sisters all having been in the employment of the School. In her place we welcome Nurse C. F. Mather, a native of Banff, who worked in hospitals in Aberdeen and Skye before coming here. The other

new appointment this term is that of a lady who has long been associated with the School and whose kindly help, like that of her husband, has long been appreciated by Victorians. That is Mrs Martin, who has taken up the new appointment of Assistant Matron in Wavell House. Our best wishes to those valued members of the School staff who have now gone elsewhere, and a cordial welcome to the newcomers.

SALVETE

We welcome the following boys as recruits to the School.

- 3141 Allan, Andrew (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
- 3142 Armstrong, Thomas John (Wavell)—Cameronians.
- 3143 Barbour, Robert (Wavell)—Scots Guards.
- 3144 Binks, Stephen Andrew (Wavell)—R.A.C.
- 3145 Black, James Thomas (Wavell)—R.H.F.
- 3146 Bowden, Graham Raymond (Wavell)—Black Watch.
- 3147 Brown, David Ian Tinman (Wavell)—R.A.
- 3148 Burns, Alan John (Wavell)—R.A.P.C.
- 3149 Cassells, Thomas (Wavell)—R.S.F.
- 3150 Cockburn, David John (Wavell)—Royal Signals.
- 3151 Coleman, Douglas Kendall (Wavell)—R.A.F.
- 3152 Cuthbert, Eric (Wavell)—Seaforth Highlanders.
- 3153 Dempsey, John Andrew (Wavell)—Royal Scots.
- 3154 Elliott, William Thomas (Wavell)—A. & S.H.
- 3155 Ferrigan, Michael (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
- 3156 Findlay, Malcolm Robert William (Cunningham)—R.A.S.C.
- 3157 Fisher, David Hutchison MacKenzie (Wavell)—Parachute Regiment.
- 3158 Gallacher, George Christopher (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
- 3159 Gilroy, Stuart Graham Ryan (Wavell)—R.E.M.E.
- 3160 Glass, George Jerome (Wavell)—A. & S.H.
- 3161 Harrison, John Arthur (Wavell)—R.E.M.E.
- 3162 Haston, Mark Stuart (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
- 3163 Holmes, Ronald Kevin (Wavell)—Black Watch.
- 3164 Howarth, Robert Frank (Wavell)—Scots Guards.
- 3165 McAllister, Keith (Wavell)—K.O.S.B.
- 3166 MacDonald, Allan Angus (Wavell)—Scots Guards.
- 3167 McGlone, Andrew (Haig)—Royal Signals.
- 3168 McMurdo, Raymond John (Wavell)—Royal Navy.
- 3169 Matthews, Kevin Richard (Wavell)—K.O.S.B.
- 3170 Menzies, Andrew Robert (Wavell)—R.A.S.C.
- 3171 Murray, Colin (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
- 3172 Murray, William (Wavell)—R.A.O.C.
- 3173 Myles, Robert (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.

- 3174 Paterson, Raymond (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
 3175 Pearson, John (Wavell)—Q.O.H.
 3176 Piercy, Alan James (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
 3177 Powell, Stuart James (Wavell)—Scots Guards.
 3178 Sayer, John (Trenchard)—K.O.S.B.
 3179 Sayer, Peter (Wavell)—K.O.S.B.
 3180 Walker, Kevin Courtney (Wavell)—R.C.O.S.
 3181 White, John Robert (Wavell)—Royal Navy.
 3182 Will, Brian George (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
 3183 Wilson, Thomas Crawford (Wavell)—A. & S.H.
 3184 Fogarty, Michael Derek (Wavell)—Royal Air Force.
 3185 Barbour, William Adam (Cunningham)—Scots Guards.

HOUSE APPOINTMENTS 1965

Trenchard House

- SENIOR MONITOR : E. D. Gillespie.
 MONITOR : N. S. Donaldson.
 PREFECTS : I. M. Smith.
 A. W. Morrice.

Haig House

- MONITOR : D. Marshall.
 PREFECTS : M. G. Scoggins.
 C. A. Lannen.
 A. S. Brown.

Cunningham House

- MONITOR : J. Allan.
 PREFECTS : C. McLaughlin.
 J. M. Brough.
 D. T. Jagger.

Wavell House

Moore

- DORMITORY LEADERS :
 D. Todd.
 K. T. Ross.

Abercromby

- DORMITORY LEADERS :
 D. J. Barnes.
 S. Grant.

Lynedoch

- HOUSE CAPTAIN : C. G. Robinson.
 DORMITORY LEADER :
 G. F. Stevenson.

SCOTTISH SERVICES DAY 1965

A new experiment was tried by the Commandant this year, two days before Grand Day, with the aim of increasing the awareness of the regular Services of what the contemporary Queen Victoria School has to offer to the sons of serving Scotsmen.

A representative party of Warrant Officers and Sergeants, and equivalent ranks from other Services, to a total number of over thirty, from Service Establishments, Stations, and Units all over Scotland, were invited to spend a day at the School. After an initial briefing by the Commandant and the Headmaster, they were shown round all the premises and departments of the School, finishing with a visit to the Dining Hall to see the boys at their meal. After being entertained in the Staff Room by the Uniformed Staff, they were given lunch and then watched a full dress rehearsal of the Grand Day Parade and performance. It was a successful day and, although we should have liked to have seen more R.A.F. and Naval representatives, it is considered well worth while repeating this occasion in two or three years time.

GRAND DAY, 1965

It is hardly possible to say anything new about Grand Day from year to year. Some past editors have solved this annual problem by reproducing, with due acknowledgment, the account given in the local press. Of the ceremonies and displays, we shall say only that they went off well, as they always do. If any people are entitled to a bit of a grouch, they are the gym team, for they had a strong counter-attraction in the tea that was already available in the marquees while they were performing.

In his address to the audience in the Play Hall, the Headmaster said he was sorry the G.O.C. could not arrive in time for the prize-giving, but his absence did give a chance to welcome General Sir Philip Christison back to the chair which he had graced when he was G.O.C. in C. just after the war. Other welcome guests were the previous Commandant and Headmaster, Brigadier Finlaison and Colonel Fowler. The Headmaster then went on to give his report of the main events and achievements of the school year, which we shall not repeat, for they have already been covered in the last two issues of the magazine. He mentioned also his fear of the illusion that the knowledge which is needed to pass examinations could be injected like the stuff that our boys were filled with before they went off for their holidays in Aden, Singapore, and the remaining outposts. Whatever was provided in the way of buildings, equipment, and lessons, the boys, he said, could not escape from the fact that, in the last resort, they were personally responsible for developing, as fully as they could, their own capacity to learn. There was no substitute for work. Introducing Dr. I. D. McIntosh, M.A., LL.D., Headmaster of Fettes, who was to present the prizes, the Headmaster said

he had learned only the day before that the Fettes motto was "Industria". So he had hit the right note in stressing the importance of work at school.

Dr. McIntosh spoke of the popular conception of different types of schools, no longer true of the character of the schools or their teaching techniques. It was clear to him that Queen Victoria School was a growing school with everything that went to make a modern boarding-school. The name of the School was associated very much with the performances of the pipe band at Murrayfield. He had always admired the discipline and patience of the band and of its drum-major when pestered by spectators who ran onto the field. New educational techniques could not replace masters. He had noted in the Headmaster's speech a reference to the difficulty in getting Maths masters. Dr. McIntosh jocularly declared that if there was among his audience any person of either sex qualified to teach mathematics, he would be delighted to interview that person straight after the prize-giving. Scottish education had an authoritarian tradition. It had been "learn or else . . . !" Now, not only teaching methods had to be considered but learning methods as well. More activity was now required of the pupils. We had also to consider the prospects of school-leavers in an age of greater leisure. There were more suitable things to occupy the mind than pop music, guitars, bingo, and the rest ; and however much time might be given to teaching pupils how to earn a living, much more should go to teaching them how to live their lives and how to develop those things that would enable them to live full lives. Here the boarding school had an advantage, for it had the opportunities to organise a range of activities outside the class-room, and so develop the tastes and interests of its pupils. Dr. McIntosh recalled what he said was the most popular prize-giving speech he had ever heard of. There was only one sentence in it. The lady who was to make the speech explained that on her way to the school, she had stopped to ask for directions. The answer was, "Keep to the right and go straight on". That, she felt, was all she needed to offer to her audience in the way of advice.

After the parade, Lieutenant-General Sir George C. Gordon Lennox complimented the boys on their performance, which, he said, was of the high standard expected at Queen Victoria School by older people. The 21 school-leavers were going out into a pretty rugged world. One thing they had in common was a wish to get on in the world. He had two bits of advice to offer. First they must choose and do the right job, one about which they could feel enthusiastic. Without enthusiasm, they would peter out half-way, and they could have no ability to lead others if they were not themselves enthusiasts. Secondly, they should cultivate good manners. Bosses looked for these. As one who had both bossed and served bosses, he knew that for a fact. Brains were very handy, but they were not of value without the two qualities he had mentioned. Other people

could help the boys to choose jobs, but only the essential qualities could get them on.

Lady Gordon Lennox presented the trophies and awards, and a bouquet was given to her by the Commandant's Orderly, David Crombie.

It will be noted that we do not follow the Grand Day report with the usual list of prize-winners. Last-minute efforts by The Monument Press enabled us to print that in the summer number, a precedent which we hope to maintain.

SCHOOL NOTES AND NEWS

We mention first two veterans in the service of the School. Mr P. Simons, who has charge of the swimming-bath plant, first joined us in 1929, and, excluding the war years of 1939-45, he has completed more than thirty years here in various capacities. Mr J. Monaghan, of the maintenance staff, has recently completed twenty-five years of continuous service in the employment of the School. Our thanks and appreciation are duly recorded to these two senior members of the community for their long and loyal service.

Mrs K. Smith, of the School clerical staff, who is well-known for her performances in county golf, reached the 4th round of the British Women's Open Golf Championship at St. Andrews before being knocked out by a devastating American opponent.

There have been some changes in the School curriculum this term. So as to achieve a 40-period week, required in order to meet the demands of various secondary subjects, there are now two 35-minute lessons on Monday afternoon, which was previously devoted to games and "trades". These two periods are done before games as long as afternoon light permits, and, in the dark days of winter, games are played first ; boys then get a tea-snack and go on to the two periods of lessons. The last period of the long Tuesday afternoon has been cut out. Lessons finish at 3.40, and the boys then go to "trades" before tea. The other extra period is obtained by extending Saturday morning school till 12 o'clock and having five 35-minute periods instead of four of 40 minutes. The net addition to lesson-time is 45 minutes.

The new area of the playing-field raised and levelled three years ago, is still at the top of the white-elephant chart ; but is said to be showing signs that it will become playable some time. If that happens, its place in the chart may be taken by the gymnasium showers, which give a touch of distinction to the appearance of the place, but cannot be turned on because they are so constructed that, if actually used, they flood the stores below. But perhaps something may one day be done about them too.

An innovation, or rather a revival, is the institution of united services of Presbyterian and Episcopalians in the School chapel. On the first Sunday of each month of the term, a united service is conducted by the Scottish Episcopal chaplain. On the second Sunday the Episcopal early-morning communion is held in the chapel, and the Presbyterian service, as formerly, is held at 11 a.m. On the third and subsequent Sundays a united service is conducted by the Resident Church of Scotland Chaplain. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, according to the form and order of the Church of Scotland, is dispensed at the 11 a.m. service on the second-last Sunday of each term.

The "Scottish Educational Journal" of 24th September, 1965, featured an article from the Headmaster about Queen Victoria School. With two photographs, one of Prince Philip inspecting the Grand Day parade and the other of our Highland dancers performing in Belgium, the article occupied nearly three pages; and the front cover of the magazine had a photograph, taken last Grand Day, of the G.O.C. in C. saluting the School Colours during the parade.

The combined Hallowe'en-Bonfire Night celebration took place on 5th November, and followed its usual course. The dooking competition was won by Cunningham House. The competition for the best bogle-type turnip lantern was won by Allan Robertson of 1B. (There are two of exactly the same name in the School.) Second was B. Goldie and third D. Fenner. The prize for the best fancy-type lantern was won by B. White, with J. A. Allan second. The judges were Mrs Robertson, Mrs Paterson and Mrs Williams. As usual there was a special menu, at mid-day dinner as well as at tea this year, but one got the impression that with the high standard of ordinary diet now prevailing—the wonder of visiting school teams—Hallowe'en tea did not cause so much anticipatory excitement as it used to do.

A new hobby this term, new to the School as far as we know, is dry ski-ing instruction. Mr Alexander, Manager of Henderson's Sports Shop, comes here each Tuesday evening to take a class of 15 boys. Mr Alexander, a former member of the Stirling Ski Club, is an excellent instructor. The class has to be limited to 15, because boys on skis need plenty of room to turn, and fall. Although we have no skis in the School (all have to be hired) we hope that this basic indoor training will be used at some future date. Certainly in days of increasing automation and shortening working-weeks, we have to prepare boys for purposeful recreation.

Our commendation for cheerfulness in adversity goes to the boy who sent this postcard message to a master and his family during last summer holiday: Dear All, Having a wonderful time. I have got my plaster off. I had a perforated ear-drum and now I have a cold. Yours truly . . .

SCOTTISH CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION 1965

In the school year 1964-65, we had only two boys in their 6th year secondary and 10 in their 5th year. They attempted a total of 35 Higher and 15 Ordinary grade subjects, and they gained 22 Higher and 12 Ordinary passes. In addition, Alan Kay, who had gained 5 Highers in the previous year passed in two advanced mathematical subjects, Dynamics and Elementary Analysis. In the 4th year secondary there were 19 boys, who were entered for a total of 146 Ordinary grade subjects, and they gained 99 passes. These results are not brilliant; but the general policy has been to let boys take their chance, even when they seemed to have little or no hope of passing. Sometimes that was because they had done little or no work. Examination successes are not a free issue, and it is not only the master who has to work for them.

Of the 12 boys in 5th and 6th years, six left school last July. We show below the groups of passes gained by these, including passes obtained earlier. Where a subject has been passed at the Higher grade, the previous Ordinary pass in that subject is not included.

6th Year.

A. C. KAY—Higher English, French, History, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Dynamics, Analysis.

M. J. H. OWENS—Higher English, French, History, Art; Ordinary Maths, Arithmetic.

5th Year.

N. McCONNELL—Ordinary English, French, Arithmetic, Maths, Physics, Woodwork, Technical Drawing.

D. C. K. ROBERTSON—Higher English, History; Ordinary Arithmetic, Maths, Physics, Chemistry.

J. R. SHARP—Higher English, History; Ordinary French, Arithmetic, Physics, Chemistry, Art.

A. I. WARWOOD—Higher English, History, Maths, Science; Ordinary French.

The other six who attempted Higher subjects last year are back at School. In the 1965 examinations, they obtained the passes shown. Ordinary grade passes obtained in 1964 are not included.

J. ALLAN—Higher Maths, Science; Ordinary French, Art.

J. M. BROUGH—Higher History.

N. S. DONALDSON—Higher English, Maths.

E. D. GILLESPIE—Higher English, History, Art; Ordinary Arithmetic, French.

D. I. MARSHALL—Higher English, History;

Ordinary Arithmetic, Maths.

K. S. SMITH—Higher History ; Ordinary French.

4th YEAR Ordinary grade passes were as follows.

A. L. BROUGHTON—English, Arithmetic.

A. S. BROWN—English, History, Arithmetic, Maths, Physics, Chemistry.

N. R. CLARK—English, Arithmetic, Maths, French, Physics, Chemistry.

P. A. D. EVANS—English, Arithmetic, Maths, Chemistry, Technical Drawing.

I. FRASER—English, Arithmetic, Maths, Physics, Woodwork, Technical Drawing.

P. GILDER—English, History, Arithmetic, Maths, French.

M. HEWGILL—English, History, Arithmetic, French, Physics.

R. A. IRVINE—English, Arithmetic, Physics, Technical Drawing.

D. T. JAGGER—English, History, Arithmetic, Maths, French, Physics, Chemistry.

A. N. KING—English, Arithmetic, Maths, French, Physics, Chemistry.

C. McLAUGHLIN—English, History, Arithmetic, Chemistry.

A. W. MORRICE—English, History, Arithmetic, Maths, French, Physics, Chemistry.

D. C. NEALON—English, Technical Drawing.

R. H. NEWMAN—English, History, Arithmetic, Maths, French, Physics.

M. B. O'CONNOR—English, History, Arithmetic, Maths, Physics.

S. A. ROBERTSON—English, Arithmetic, Maths, Woodwork, Technical Drawing.

M. G. SCOGGINS—English, History, Arithmetic, Maths, Physics, Chemistry.

I. M. SMITH—English, History, Arithmetic, Maths, Physics, Chemistry.

J. R. WELSH—English, Arithmetic, French, Woodwork.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

At the end of September Lieutenant-General Sir George C. Gordon Lennox, K.B.E., C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Scottish Command, and Vice-President of H.M. Commissioners, visited the School in the capacity of Visiting Commissioner for the term. He has recently become Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders. It was an ancestor of the General who originally raised the Regiment, and his present home, Gordon Castle, is the birth-place of the Regiment. On this occasion a copy of the last group photograph of the sons of Gordon Highlanders in Queen Victoria School was sent to the General by the Commandant.

In November, Major-General F. C. C. Graham, C.B., D.S.O., School Commissioner and Colonel of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, presented a Pipe Banner to the School band at the Sunday-morning parade after church. In the same week we were visited informally by Mr Howard O. Hooper,

C.B., C.M.G., Assistant Under Secretary (Q) at the Ministry of Defence (Army), who was recently appointed one of our Commissioners.

In the course of the term we have also had visits from three Officers of Scottish Regiments: Lieutenant-Colonel W. M. B. Dunn, T.D., of the Regimental Headquarters, K.O.S.B., at Berwick-on-Tweed; Colonel A. M. Thorburn, K.O.S.B., Brigade Colonel of the Lowland Brigade; and Captain E. F. Gordon, the Gordon Highlanders, Adjutant of the Highland Brigade Depot, who was accompanied by Sergeant Buchan, Junior Sergeant Schroder, and Junior Corporal Henderson. Corporal Henderson is a piper, who was Army Junior champion in 1964, and runner-up in 1965. These Officers spoke to all boys in the School whose fathers had served or were serving in the regiments of the visiting Officers, Colonel Thorburn addressing all boys of Lowland Regiments.

OLD BOYS

Since the "Victorian" last appeared, we have not had the spate of letters from Old Boys that there was in the first half of 1965; but there is still a steady flow. We are indebted as usual to Mr Grassick of London and Mr McLeod of Glasgow for items of news from their areas. There has also been an increase in the number of Old Boys who have sent in 2/6d postal orders and asked for the Christmas magazine to be sent to them, and one or two more of the older generation have been enrolling themselves as life members of the Association. Among these is Flight-Lieutenant W. J. Robertson-Mitchell, who was here from 1928 to 1931. He is retired from the R.A.F. and is living in Brampton, near Carlisle. Mr C. Smith (349) of Kensington is another new subscriber, and Mr E. L. C. Higginson (327), also of London, has been talked into sending for the Christmas "Victorian" by Mr Grassick, who goes on spreading the word in the London district. To Mr Grassick we are also indebted for the news that Mr G. W. Welsh has been appointed P.T. master at Gordonstoun. Mr Welsh joined the 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders from the School in 1938. He transferred to the A.P.T.C. in 1945, where he became a C.S.M. (I), and he has been well-known in hockey and badminton circles in Hampshire. We congratulate him on his appointment. Another new member of the Association, who visited the School during the summer holiday, and has since been in correspondence with the Headmaster, is Captain W. A. McBride, M.M. now living in Yorkshire. His elder brother John McBride was one of the "First Hundred". His school number was 42, and he joined the School on the 9th July, 1909. He left in 1913 to join the R.E., went to France with the first B.E.F., and served there till 1918. During the last world war he was an aircraft inspector with a Bristol firm. He died after a short illness in 1954. (The very first boys to join the School were enrolled on

the 14th of June, 1909, four of them, and the next batch arrived on 5th July. Recruiting went on month by month throughout the year, and by the end of December the School strength was 145, with the admission of the brothers W. R. B. and W. J. S. Norris, on 22nd December.) Captain W. A. McBride himself was at School during the years of the first world war, and it was in the second war that he distinguished himself. He joined the Scots Guards as a boy, and transferred to the Cameron Highlanders in 1922. He served with them till 1942, was captured at Tobruk, escaped, and was awarded the M.M. In 1942 he was commissioned as Q.M. in the Indian Army, and he retired in 1947. As some of these Old Boys who have held commissions in the services write in to the School, we regret to note omissions on the record displayed in the front hall.

We are grateful to Mr John K. Barnatt of Aldershot for a gift of coins which he has sent to the Headmaster for the benefit of any numismatic group that might be started in the School. At present there is nobody in the School with such a hobby, and no master who himself goes in for it and might start a numismatic club. Some day there may be one, to take advantage of this gift. Just recently we received a photograph from the Regimental Headquarters of the K.O.S.B., of Corporal David Hutchison checking a machine-gun at a jungle base in North Borneo. Corporal Hutchison, an Old Boy of the School, has served for sixteen years with the regiment and has been to Korea, Hong Kong, Germany, Aden, Singapore, and Malaya. His home town is St. Andrews, but his wife and children are living in an Army house in Shorncliffe, Kent.

Mr "Joe" McLeod has sent some notes from Glasgow. He missed last summer's Old Boys' Day for the first time since the war, but was delighted with the turn-out on Grand Day when he met many old friends. Among those who foregathered afterwards to exchange reminiscences, he mentions the names of John Harvey, Jimmy Henderson, Peter Thomson, J. Coyle, Billy McCombe, R.S.M. McCombe, R.S.M. McVicar, Major McQueen, Eddie Hall, and, one of the First Hundred, Bob Edwards, whose school number was 14. At this point we take the precaution of apologising to Mr McLeod and to the gentleman concerned if we have made mistakes in these names, as may occur in working from handwritten copy. Mr McLeod mentions other Old Boys of whom he has heard recently: Hugh Duff, who lives in Selby, Yorkshire, and John Myles of Wallasey, Cheshire. Mr and Mrs Myles are to be congratulated on celebrating their silver wedding this year. Mr Matt Anderson, a well-known figure at the School, has had to go into hospital for an operation on his ear, but is now back to work. We hope that he has fully recovered and benefited from the operation. The second-generation McLeod, Flight-Sergeant J. L., is still with the R.A.F. in Singapore and now has over 21 years of service since he left school for R.A.F. Wendover in 1944. At the Glasgow O.V. meeting in September, says Mr McLeod, there was a much

better turn-out than of recent years, when 15 Old Boys attended, with apologies for absence from 2 more. Incidentally he seems to be something of a champion blood-donor, having just given his fiftieth pint to the blood transfusion service. Another visitor to the School not long ago will be remembered by many Old Boys. It was Mr A. M. Summers accompanied by his wife. Mr Summers was an instructor here in the 1940's, and is now teaching technical subjects in Brighton. In the Old Boys' Visitors-Book, we note the name of Drum-Major Wm. Gilruth (1108) of Hamilton, Ontario.

We have a few notes about Old Boys of the younger vintage. We congratulate A. D. M. Richardson on being commissioned into the R.A.F. David Keltie has written from Glasgow to say that he is thoroughly enjoying life at the University of Strathclyde, both in and out of the lecture theatre. He is just starting his second year, in which he is taking Sociology and Psychology as his principal subjects. C. M. Brown is serving on H.M.S. "Diana". His brother was one of a school party that recently visited H.M.S. "Puma" and spent some time at sea during the visit. He told Charles that they were not particularly impressed by the ship, but enjoyed the displays given by her armament. Charles Brown answers for the Navy that a few hours aboard is not enough to judge a ship or get the feeling of the Navy, and anyway the "ship" really takes shape in the comradeship within her. In the list given in the "Robot", magazine of the Army Apprentice School, Chepstow, the name of D. P. Johnstone is mentioned among the tradesmen who passed out in December, 1964. A visitor to the School in November was David Robertson, R.A., who left in 1959. He was on exercises at Cultybraggan Camp. Old Boys of his time will remember that as a schoolboy he fought his way through a serious illness to complete recovery.

That is all we have to say about Old Boys in this issue. If we have offended any of you by missing out anything we should have noticed, we shall be delighted if you will write and tell us. Write anyway.

To conclude we might mention that in trying to check details about Old Boys we often go to a massive volume that is maintained in the School offices. It is entitled the Regiment Book, and it contains in numerical order the names of all boys who have ever been admitted to the School, with details of their date of admission, date of birth, father's regiment, parents' names, and finally a column with the ominous heading "How Disposed of". They are all there from No. 1, J. W. Gibbon to No. 3185, W. A. Barbour. These names fill less than a third of the book. It is an impressive thought that unless great social or political changes alter the character of the School altogether, which we all hope will never happen, this book will take us into the second half of the 21st century and up to a school number something over 10,000. There are some interesting notes in it too. Some of the First Hundred were "Monitors on joining", at the ages of 13 and 14.

We thank all those Old Boys who have subscribed

to the Christmas number of the "Victorian", not only for their half-crown postal orders, but for their continuing interest in the School; and to all Old Boys who read this issue we send the best wishes of the present generation.

We append a report of a gathering of London Old Boys in October, sent to us by Mr Grassick.

Q.V. OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION (LONDON BRANCH)

A social function held by the Branch on the 2nd October was the occasion for our Chairman, Donald McQueen to introduce our President, Colonel A. C. T. White, V.C., M.C., to an assembled company of seventy.

Colonel White made efforts to meet all present and said how pleased he was to announce that we now had a third generation of Harrisons at the School, and hoped there would be a fourth.

We were pleased to welcome our three members of the First Hundred in the persons of Tom Watt, Bert Harrison, and Alf Archer, also our new members Colonel A. L. Fowler, Eddie Higginson and Andrew Doig; unfortunately Charles Mackenzie did not manage to be with us.

It does not need much imagination to realise that most of the conversations were prefaced by "do you remember" and many photographs were produced from the family albums.

During the evening a buffet was catered for by Mrs Hill who has a son Andrew now at the School. Miss Coleen Hutchinson of Nairn and Bill Mathers of Dundee gave a selection of Highland Dancing accompanied by Pipe-Major J. B. Robertson. Major Victor Fennessy produced his magic box, and the films included the Jubilee, and many more interesting shots.

Once again we had support for our raffle and Mrs Robertson and Bobby Owens were the contributors for the chief prizes.

To the above-mentioned the Branch is indebted to their wonderful contribution which made the evening such a success, also to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the Signals T.A. Regt. for the use of their mess.

It is pleasant to note that we had visitors from Edinburgh and Glasgow in the persons of Peter Taylor and Dennis Owens.

To R. L. Bird we all wish success in his post as an Executive Officer in the Civil Service.

Unfortunately George Hogg of The Weekly Scotsman was prevented from being with us, but George assures me that the Q.V.S. O.B.A. has a better following than many of the Clan Societies which, I think, is a grand note on which to finish.

J. GRASSICK,
Secretary and Treasurer.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

1st XV

We started our season reasonably well by beating Dollar (6-5), but were beaten by Keil School in the next fixture by 18 points to nil. It was in the Keil match that our awkwardness in combining scrum and three-quarters was first marked. Five games later we were again beaten (by Strathallan) for the same reason, and because our attack lacked variety and our defence was faulty. Alloa Academy thrashed us 24-6, three days after the Strathallan match and in our next fixture, some weeks later, Stirling High School beat us in the same manner. The "Stirling Observer" reporter, who attended this match, commented that our attack through the three-quarters was too orthodox and our forward play was generally scrappy, except in the line-out, which was not exploited enough anyway. These remarks were sensible, but he also implied that the success Stirling had was due to Stirling's own play. It was obvious however that we contributed very largely to our own defeat.

We have in our team considerable individual talent, but all must realise the need for sound tactical planning before each game, selfless and all-out application during the game, and the ready acceptance of constructive criticism afterwards.

It is only when the basic skills of handling, tackling, kicking, and falling on the ball have been well mastered that the real enjoyment of not only out-playing, but outwitting the opposition can be experienced. Learning the skills may be a drudge to some, but the reward is well worth the effort.

The following players have played regularly or frequently in the 1st XV so far this season:—

E. Gillespie (Capt.), J. Allan, D. Fingland, I. Fraser, C. Lannen, I. Smith, J. Wilmott, G. Cunningham, A. Morrice, D. MacInnes, A. Smith, T. Bonar, G. McManus, R. Newman, P. Evans, C. McLaughlin and N. Donaldson.

At the time of writing there is still one further fixture to come, against the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment at Troon, if weather allows it to be played.

RECORD TO DATE

P	W	L	D	F	A
10	2	5	3	43	115

E.D.G.

2nd XV

As is explained annually, we have not enough senior boys to run a 2nd XV to compare with equivalent teams of other schools; but we do have an occasional match, to give a game to the XV which practises with our 1st. It is made up of 4th year boys, and one or two boys from the 5th and 6th years, who like a game but are not up to 1st XV standards. The better players go straight from 3rd year (Junior Colt) Rugby to the 1st XV. The 2nd XV has had two matches, first against Dollar Academy when they lost 44-0, and then a fixture with Morrison's Academy 3rd XV. For the latter match

we arranged to play the best 4th year XV that we could put out. Thus, being able to co-opt all the 4th year boys who normally play, or have appeared, in the 1st XV, we were altogether too strong for the opposition, and won 31-8.

3rd Year XV

This section has two XVs A and B. In the past the "B" XV was the team the "A" XV practised against, with the odd "B" XV boy having a game now and again in the "A" XV.

This year we managed to arrange two fixtures against local Junior Secondary Schools from Alva and Tillicoultry for the "B" XV, and they responded by winning both, 16-5 and 11-0 respectively. This gave the "B" XV a team spirit; as a result the practices are played harder and more enthusiastically, and the difference between "A" and "B" is very slight. The following boys have played for the "B" XV :—

J. Brough (Captain), A. Greig, I. Sneddon, J. Learmonth, M. Hewgill, G. Hill, D. Dodds, D. Kennedy, G. A. Barclay, I. Collie, I. Graham, S. Hartley, A. D. Grey, J. A. Corrigan, M. N. McNaughton and I. Craig.

The "A" XV, on paper seemed an above-average team, yet has had a depressing season, lacking in confidence and team spirit and being beaten by the odd try in some matches. Against Morrison's 3rd year they came together and played as a team and were only beaten by a big fast-running centre three-quarter who burst through all tackles. Although beaten 18-6, they felt that they were a team and this was proved in the next match v. Rannoch when, with determined and varied play, they beat Rannoch Junior Colts, 11-6. This team has a good pair of half backs in I. Roe and K. Robinson. Now that the forwards are together as a pack and the backs are varying their play, we hope for some good results from them.

Players are :—

K. Robinson (Captain), I. Roe, G. Johnstone, S. Grant, G. Neill, D. MacIver, G. Slater, R. Gill, G. Scott, W. Shields, A. Mackenzie, J. Robertson, A. MacLean, R. Murdoch, W. McKerron and G. Anderson.

	P	W	L	D	F	A
3rd "A" XV	7	1	4	2	32	59
4th "B" XV	2	2	—	—	27	15

2nd Year

The 2nd Year team has not had great success in its matches, winning two and losing three of the five played this term. But it is a good side with plenty of promise for the future. The weakness has been in defence. Generally they have tackled well, but there have been patches of timidity, and most scores against us have come from big opponents allowed to run past four or five of our boys with no serious attempt to tackle. We started by beating Grange-mouth 9-0, and then a modified team, with the biggest boys left out, beat Dalhousie 16-6. The

preparatory school-boys always play a plucky and skilful game, and it was only when they were tiring from their efforts against a heavier pack, that two tries by Morrice put us clear of them. Against Stirling High School, we had to play on one of the top pitches with dips and slopes. Our team did not take enough advantage of the down slope, which they know well enough from practice games, in the first half, and Stirling got four tries down-hill in the second half, to beat us 12-9. Morrison's Academy, who have had runaway victories against our 2nd Year for some years past, beat us 19-3 at Crieff. They were, as usual a bigger and faster side, and they made some excellent handling movements; but our boys held their end up very well in the second half, and the score against us was bigger than the difference in play. In the last fixture played, we lost 8-5 to Rannoch. The difference in the score was only a penalty goal, but Rannoch had much more of the game, and it took desperate defence near our line to keep the score down. Rannoch boys were clearly fitter and more aggressive than ours. This game started with a quick hook by Q.V.S. from which D. Johnston found a gap and ran straight through to score half-way out. Morrice managed to convert by using an acute angle to reduce the distance. From then on our backs hardly got a run. Rannoch forwards repeatedly drove us back with quick pick-ups and clever smuggling of the ball at the base of the scrum. It was a disappointment that the freeze-up at the end of November caused a home fixture with Fettes to be cancelled. This is always a good even game, and it would have been the first time that we have entertained Fettes at Dunblane.

As usual at this stage of school Rugby, we have varied teams from match to match, trying out new players and giving as many as possible the experience of playing in a school team. R. Morrice has been the best forward in attack and defence, and D. Wrenn has also been prominent in recent games. S. Pope has been a shining light among the backs, and he has been well served by S. Corrigan at scrum-half; but slow heeling in the second row has made life very difficult for Corrigan. M. Wood runs very well on the wing, but he has twice crossed the opposition line and failed to get the ball down. D. Johnston, moved up from full back, is becoming a formidable inside three-quarter.

Team players :—

Backs—D. Johnston, M. Wood, W. Dempsey, A. S. Grey, R. Grant, J. A. Allan, C. Matheson.
Forwards—S. Powell, A. Cassells, D. Wrenn, R. Long, A. MacLean, G. Barclay, D. Pocock, K. Cockburn, J. Campbell, R. Morrice (captain).

We have also had two matches for a "B" team; that is a 2nd XV of the 2nd Year. Some of the boys named above have graduated from the "B" team, and one or two "B" team boys played against Dalhousie. Both the matches were rather unscientific performances. Both times our boys showed more Rugby skill than their opponents, but

had weight and determination against them. Alva beat us 14-9, and Tillicoultry 6-0.

"B" Team players (excluding those named in the 1st team) :—

A. Kirkwood, B. Sutherland, J. Weir, C. McHardy, K. Ross, J. Barnes, N. Byres, R. Davies, R. Stevenson, D. Crombie, J. Duncan, P. Brown, C. Robinson, G. Aitkenhead.

1st Year

With the weather permitting regular practice for the first eight weeks of the term, 1st Year settled down quickly to learning the fundamental skills of rugby and soon graduated to practice matches. Competition for places in the "A" and "B" teams has been very keen.

The "A" Team has played three matches. Against Grangemouth the game ended in a no-scoring draw, which was a fair result. In the second match we lost 0-3 to Alloa whose heavier forwards gained a large share of the ball in scrums and line-outs; Alloa also had a promising pair of half-backs. We gave away too many penalties with stupid kicking up the centre of the pitch. With a better supply of the ball our three-quarters could have won this game. The remaining "A" match was a loss by 6 points to 3 against Stirling High School who deserved their narrow victory. Some of our tackling was very weak in this game; only J. W. S. Brown and C. Brown were consistently reliable in defence.

The "B" team played two matches, defeating Alloa 11-0 and Tillicoultry 26-3. In both games our forwards played with enthusiasm and well-directed vigour, their combined rushes leading to good scores by the forwards themselves and by the backs. These successes of the "B" team show that many of the "A" team players may have difficulty in holding their places in the top team.

The following boys have played in the "A" team :—

N. Houston (Captain), C. Brown, J. W. S. Brown, J. Buchanan, I. Burgess, P. Cooper, J. Creighton, M. Duckett, P. Gilchrist, M. Greig, C. Hynd, A. Jeffrey, B. Knox, G. McNally, A. Martin, J. S. Murdoch, B. Murton, A. Robertson, G. Sheret.

In addition to some of the above, the following played in the "B" team :—T. Barbour, T. Coyle, M. Findlay, B. Goldie, R. Kent, A. McGlone, R. C. Murdoch, J. Pryde, I. Robertson, R. West.

Old Boys v. School

This fixture was played in October. The Old Boys specially wanted to win so as to square their account with the School, for of the seven matches so far played the School has won four. It looked as if they would, since they had a strong-looking XV and the School team was fairly young and inexperienced. However, the School team kept their end up well, and Old Boys' passes had a tendency to go astray. The result was a draw. G. Matthews scored two unconverted tries for the Old Boys, and for the School I. Smith scored a try and J. Allan kicked a penalty goal.

Most of the Old Boys' team have appeared against the School in recent years. An exception was Ian Savill. A notable feature of the team was that it included three brothers: J. Kay, P. Kay, and A. Kay. Unless these three repeat their appearance together, it seems most unlikely that this family record will be surpassed or even equalled. The Old Boys' team was as follows :—E. Bruce, A. McGill, M. Gillespie, G. Matthews, A. Hamilton, K. Murray, P. Finlay, J. Ross, A. Kay, J. Kay, R. Watson, D. Owens, I. Savill, R. Chessar, P. Kay.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The Headmaster is again President of the Debating Society. D. Marshall has been elected Chairman and J. Lee Secretary. There are sixteen other members. The Society started off slowly, because of the number of new members, but is progressing smoothly and promises well for next term. The debates so far this term have been the following :—

14th OCTOBER—

"That this House thinks patriotism is old-fashioned."

Proposer—J. Willmott; Seconder—D. MacInnes.
Opposer—D. Jagger; Seconder—P. Evans.

21st OCTOBER—

"That this House thinks it is better to take part, however badly, than to watch."

Proposer—M. Hewgill; Seconder—A. Coid.
Opposer—C. Lannen; Seconder—The Headmaster.

28th OCTOBER—

"That this House thinks that the Beatles should not have been awarded the M.B.E."

Proposer—A. Morrice; Seconder—M. Scoggins.
Opposer—E. Gillespie; Seconder—M. O'Connor.

11th NOVEMBER—

A "sharp practice" was held.

25th NOVEMBER—

"That this House considers the study of History in schools a waste of time."

Proposer—Captain Sansom; Seconder D. Marshall.
Opposer—Major Wilson; Seconder—M. Scoggins.

J.L.

THE SCIENCE CLUB

Under the guidance of Mr Orr and Mr Paterson both the Junior (Wavell House) and the Senior Science Clubs are flourishing. The Junior Science Club covers a wide range of activities from growing shrimps to making simple little spectrometers, using diffraction gratings.

The Senior Science Club has 17 members engaged on various projects. They range from the growing

of crystals by Form I boys to the making of transistor radios by the boys from Forms IV and V. A number of senior members are engaged in constructing pieces of apparatus used in the Alternative Physics and Chemistry schemes.

On 19th November, a Cormack Bequest Astronomy lecture was given by Dr. J. Cisar of St. Andrews University Astronomy Department, who is also Curator of the Mills Observatory, Dundee. It was entitled "The Solar System" and was attended by Forms I and II and by several members of staff. All are grateful to Dr. Cisar for his interesting lecture. (The Robert Cormack Bequest Committee provides for popular lectures on astronomy by authorities on the science, and for visits to observatories. The lectures are at different levels, adjusted to the age-groups in secondary schools.)

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB

Senior Club—J. Allan, D. Jagger, A. N. King, G. Slater, D. MacIver, G. M. Anderson, G. A. Barclay, A. Crawford, R. Morrice, A. MacDonald, R. West, C. Brown, C. Fraser, P. Cooper, M. Duckett, M. Greig, G. Sheret.

Junior Club—D. Barnes, A. Cobb, I. Crawford, W. Common, W. Crichton, T. Goldie, K. Lawrence, W. McMillan, T. Nicol, J. S. Robertson, C. Robinson, G. Stevenson, J. Tovey, B. Webb, R. Weir, J. Wrenn.
J.A.

THE CAROL SERVICE

The Christmas Carol Service is to take place as usual in the School chapel in the last week of term. We are giving its details in advance, rather than report it six months afterwards in the summer number. At the time of writing, Mr Bruce is just passing from a state of despair to a dawning hope that his choir will do all right. This also is a regular annual event. As last year, there is to be a Nativity Play instead of the series of readings.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Congregation :

"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" (Traditional). Descant (David Wilcocks).

Choir :

"The Sussex Carol" (Traditional).
"The Zither Carol" (Czech Folk Tune arr. Malcolm Sargent).

Congregation :

"Once in Royal David's City" (Traditional).

Choir :

"The Boar's Head Carol" (Traditional).
"Mary Had a Baby" (Negro Spiritual arr. Malcolm Sargent).

Congregation :

"See Amid the Winter Snow" (Traditional).

Choir :

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter" (Holst).
"Rejoice this Happy Morning" (Based on a Bach Organ Chorale arr. N. C. Bruce).

THE NATIVITY PLAY—"A SMALL ANGEL"

Choir :

"O Come All Ye Faithful."
Treble Descant (David Wilcocks).

Congregation :

"While Shepherds Watched" (Traditional).

Choir :

"Ring Out Wild Bells" (Percy Fletcher).

Congregation :

"The First Nowell" (Traditional).

The choir is 64 strong. We are not printing all the names. These boys deserve praise again for the good spirit they have shown in giving their time to the long process of training and practice that is needed to produce a carol service like this. So do the actors in the Nativity Play, and, of course, the indefatigable producers. Again, it was good to find so many senior boys who have the public spirit to join the choir voluntarily. The one or two who have the talent but grudge the effort are a pitiful minority.

THE NATIVITY PLAY

Major Frost's choice for this year was "A Small Angel" by John Haddon. It tells the story of Benjamin, one of the shepherds to whom the angels announce the birth of Christ. Left alone in the fields, he is visited by a small angel, who explains what Christ's birth will mean to the world. The cast again included some daughters of the staff.

Cast—

Benjamin : Duncan MacDonald.
Seth : Norman McMurdo.
Caleb : Andrew Hill.
David : Allan Robertson (1B).
Simeon : Sanderson Munro.
Wise Men : John Creighton, John Harte, Allan Robertson (2A).
Small Angel : Philip Docherty.
Judas : Michael McLaughlin.
Village Children : Elizabeth Jamieson, Elizabeth Clarke, Ian Matthews.
Carol Singers : John Brown, Brian Murton, John Sayer.
Mary : Sian Wilson.
Joseph : Terence Docherty.

OUR HOMES

It occurred to me one day that there were too many English accents around the School. Being somewhat of a Scottish Nationalist, no political connection (though I must confess I live in England myself). I

determined to find out how many people in the School lived in England or abroad. All the boys are British. They live abroad because their fathers are still serving in the Services. The following figures were collected personally from the boys and were accurate at the time of collection. Because of postings and transfers these figures may already be out of date. There were 254 boys in the School at the time of the count.

Country	No. of boys resident
Scotland	92
England	100
Northern Ireland	2
Wales	3
Malaya....	6
Singapore	14
Germany	24
Borneo	1
Gibraltar	1
Aden	4
Cyprus	6
*Russia	1

* The boy's father is at the British Embassy in Leningrad.

What more is there to say? The figures speak for themselves. I need only add that the School's small, but ardent, group of stamp-collectors find themselves in an extremely happy position, and will continue to be so, unless the School changes its constitution.

D.I.M.

CHINESE CUSTOMS

I have been to Singapore for two holidays, and I have seen how the Chinese live. During the Chinaman's lifetime he saves as much money as he can, and when he has enough, he takes it to a goldsmith, who makes a gold tooth, or a pair of earrings, or some other golden ornament. When the man dies, these are taken from him and used to pay for his funeral. The funeral may last for a day or a week. There are nearly always funeral games or a feast, which go on day and night.

The funeral procession is a very gay procedure with lorries covered with large banners of colourful woven thread, but sometimes just plain white banners. The relatives of the dead man go to the funeral in the leading cars, parents in the first one; brothers, sisters, wife, and children in the second; and cousins, uncles, etc., in the following cars. The coffin is usually carried in the first lorry, which is covered, and hired mourners in sack-cloth run along hanging on to its tail-board. There are guests and bands in other lorries behind.

When the round coffin has been buried, the grave stones are laid, one at the head and one at the foot of the grave. Paper money, which is special funeral money with "Hell Bank" written on it, is burnt; and so are paper houses, television sets, dressing-tables, wardrobes, and almost everything else you

can think of. The relatives burn special paper which has a gold or silver paper square or circle in the middle of it. There are also squares of cloth for clothes for the dead man. All these things are burnt so that the dead man will be well-off in Hell with riches, a house, and all the other things. (The Chinese make no difference between Heaven and Hell; so Hell is the place for the good, and nothing happens to the bad.) The family must burn money and material for five generations after a Chinaman's death.

On 20th August is the "Feast of the Seven Sisters", when all the Chinese girls of marrying age look for a boy-friend or husband. The legend is that a girl and a boy were betrothed, but the boy died and the girl committed suicide; and when they met in Hell they were banished and meet only once a year. This is when two stars meet. On or before 20th August, the girls buy paper trays which have on them comb, hairbrush, mirror, and other odds and ends. A Chinese girl burns the tray as an offering to the Seven Sisters, hoping that she may get a husband.

On 28th August is the "Feast of the Hungry Ghosts", when every family leaves out plates of food for the ghosts of their ancestors. Although they can see that the food has not been touched, they know that the ghosts have taken the goodness out of it.

Another festival, which falls on 28th September is the "Feast of the Mooncakes", to celebrate the overthrow of the Mongols in China. About 1,000 years ago, the Mongols ruled China, and did not allow the Chinese people to meet together. To make sure they did not meet, a guard was put on each house. So the Chinese baked cakes, in which they sent each other messages. One day a cake was baked and passed from house to house with the message to attack the guard on the house at a certain time on the night of the full moon. The people succeeded in overthrowing the Mongols, and were once more free. To commemorate their victory, the Chinese bake Mooncakes every year which have potato or fruit fillings supposed to be where the message was. The Chinese also make special lanterns for the feast. These are very fancy and yet cheap. The lanterns we hang up at Christmas and call Chinese lanterns are plain Mooncake lanterns.

P. D. Brown, 2A.

LIKES AND DISLIKES

These were written after the first week of term and are reproduced in their original form.

Boys in Primary 6A (nearly all new boys this term) were asked to write lists of things they liked and disliked in the School. Here are some extracts from the answers, one from each boy in the form.

One thing I like about this School is that there is never nothing to do after you have finished another thing.

The second best is the hobbies the tuck shop the holidays the teachers and lots of other things.

The best thing is the films on a sunday cartoons great films and free.

The thing I like best is going to the tuck shop.

The thing I like the very best is Hobies.

Best of all is the swimming pool which is heated down by the burn.

The swimming pool is most schools have not got and I like it a lot.

But best of all is going down to the burn.

There is a wood that we are aloud to go and play in and I think it is a good place.

I enjoy playing in the woods that are in the school.

Another thing is the meals because we can pick what we want.

What I like about this school is the food.

The school would be better if we had better meals.

What I like very much is eating the puddings.

I dislike the boys who are bossy and think that they are the boss of everyone.

What I mostly like is that there is a pipe band to watch and play in if you pass drill. I will most likely do is go into piping.

The only thing I dislike about this school is that we are not aloud out for the next six weeks.

Thing I don't like about the school is the early bell.

I detest the bell in the morning.

The bell that wakens us sound like it will never stop and I keep on cursing it to stop.

I don't like getting up in the morning.

The thing I like is sleeping.

The thing I dislike is going to school.

The most best thing I like is spending my money in the tuck shop.

A good thing is that if you get prep you have to do it in the hour, when at home it might take you all night.

The thing I dislike about the school is cleaning your buttons and not passing for pass.

The thing I dislike most of all at school is the croscountry run because it come in all weather.

The think I like most of all is trades piping takes up a lot of time and I like to be in the band because go places.

TORTURE

Torture in the School

Includes drowning in the pool,

Starvation diet and no supper,

Even at tea only one cuppa.

Belt, cane, and soft shoe

Often made us cry too,

Cat-of-nine-tails worst of all,

Gas-chamber in the hall ;

Electric chair at low volt ;

Somebody's for it. Good luck, Bowl !

That's the end of Q.V. tortury.

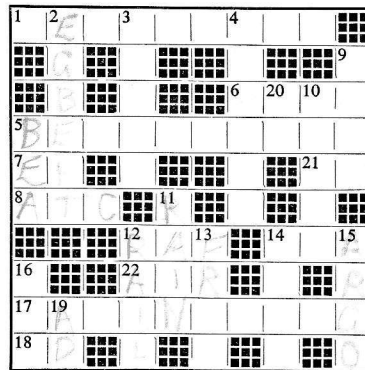
Take these five boys to the mortuary.

C. Fraser, 1A.

THE "VICTORIAN" CROSSWORD

Your Chance to Win a Magnificent Prize

See Below



CLUES

Across

1. Mythical authority favoured by 18 across (9).
5. You are not allowed the belt with this on (4, 2, 4).
6. A mouse did this in the film (4).
7. I or II? (2).
8. Inferior organisation to A.C.F. (3).
12. Inferior organisation to British Army (3).
14. Alias the W.R.I. (3).
17. Ceremonial expression of disblief (10).
18. See 1 across. (2)
21. Not a word ! A bit of 9 down (2).
22. Common to 8 and 12 across (3).

Down

2. King of Trenchard (6).
3. In your clothes or in your eyes (5).
4. " Sick " (6).
5. Add a line to 22 across and then think of one (3).
9. Not the opposite of crafty (4).
10. Otherwise 3 down (5).
11. Sign of summer in Dunblane (4).
12. Slower than 5 down. (4)
13. With this qualification he should know his way around (4).
14. Not worshipped in the chapel. (4)
15. Orcadian battle-cry (4).
16. We're often told to be ours (3).
19. It's quite cheap to put one in the " Victorian ". (2)
20. Anglo-saxon variant. (2)

HUNDREDS OF SPLENDID PRIZES

INCLUDING :

A Free Trip Round the World (in a Space-craft).

A Credit of £100 at the School Tuckshop.

The Latest Reversible Outfit—school uniform on one side, mod. suit on the other—ideal for train-journeys,

pocket micro-bug and tevevisor—simplifies exam preparation.

Etc., etc.

Conditions

All entries must reach the Editor on or before 31st December, 1984. Entries received after that date will be disqualified. You may send as many entries as you like, but *each one* must be accompanied by a Ten-shilling Postal Order made payable to Littlewood's Pools, Ltd. The Editor's decision is final in all matters relating to the distribution of prizes, and no queries will be permitted. If there are any results, they will be announced early in 1985.

A BUG

There was a bug
Who married a slug.
They lived in a house
Gifted by a kind wood-louse.

The bug one day leaped into space
To try and join the lunar race.
Alas, he landed with a thud,
And all that was left was a clot of blood.
His wife could not stand it. Oh, How she cried !
For her the end was suicide.

M. Haston, P.6A.

NOT ALL MY OWN WORK

I have often thought it a great pity
That a genius like me has never composed an article,
story (short or long) or even a ditty,
Which the Editor would consider sufficiently
entertaining or witty

For the "Victorian".

Therefore I sat up and worked all night,
To see if somehow or other I could manage to write
A contribution that he would accept and print with
delight

In the "Victorian".

You cannot blame me for feeling mad
When somebody else stole my idea and improved it
and put it in as if he had
Written it all by himself, the dirty cad,

For the "Victorian".

So if you read a contribution that is particularly full
of wisdom and wit,
Give the credit to me, A. N. King of Form V, and
and not to the fellow who just changed it a bit ;
And, as a matter of fact, here it is, this is it,

In the "Victorian".

ADVENTURE IN ADEN

I was looking in crannies trying to spear some fish. I saw lots of small tropical fish darting about. They had some really lovely colours. Just ahead of me I saw two big eyes, so of course, I ventured to see what this was. Then all of a sudden I saw the figure of an octopus. It reached out its long tentacles. As I swam away, I felt as if I was pulled back the way I had come. To my horror, as I looked at my leg, I saw that a big thick tentacle had wound itself round it.

I then pushed myself against the rocks and upwards, octopus annexed. My lungs were bursting and the water was still very deep and clear. My brother, who was standing by with an air-gun saw me struggling to the top. He carefully aimed, and by a lucky shot, hit the octopus in the eye. Its tentacle felt limp, and I was so relieved that I took a deep sigh and swallowed a lot of water.

My brother then hauled me carefully out of the water. Before we could get the octopus, there were shark fins menacingly approaching the half-dead octopus. The sharks got to work at once. I took the gun from my brother and fired a few shots at the sharks, but they just glanced off. A minute later I was very sick.

R. Stevenson, 2B.

(This realistic little story is fiction.)

NOT IN THE HISTORY BOOKS

At Queen Victoria School, at the beginning of the summer term, on 27th April, there is no school as on the normal routine. On that day we celebrate the Second Battle of Sheriffmuir, 1743. The School is marched, led by the pipe band, to Dunblane, and on to Sheriffmuir by road. There a service is held by the School chaplain. We then march back to School, and the A.C.F. change into denims. Wavell House boys and the 1st and 2nd Year boys who are not in the A.C.F. watch a mock battle of commemoration.

This tradition is handed down from the war, when the Germans invaded Scotland. They had landed at Inverness and Aberdeen and were marching south to Carlisle. The A.C.F. rifles were handed out to all who could shoot with them, and all the ammunition was handed out. The School A.C.F. lay in the dips of Sheriffmuir awaiting the Germans. At 2.15 a party of them was seen coming over the hills. About 80 Germans stopped at the Gathering Stones for a meal. The School force encircled them. The order to open fire was about to be given, when a boy was spotted. The Germans took up arms ; the School opened fire. The Germans fell like ten-pins. In a very short time, 17 Germans surrendered. When the news reached London, a force was sent north to wipe out the rest of the Germans who were marching south.

On 15th June, the School was presented with the George Cross by H.M. King George VI at Holyrood Palace.
D. LANGLANDS, 3A.

GHOSTS

Like many schools, Q.V.S. is believed to have ghosts. There are three that I know of: the ghost of the back stairs, the "red-eye", and the "fang". The ghost of the back stairs was created when a small boy was playing with a ball which fell through the wire casing into the basement of the lift shaft. He crawled in to retrieve it: of course down came the lift and squashed him. Even to this day he climbs to the top of the landing and jumps down.

The "red-eye" is that of a workman who fell from a fourth-floor scaffolding to the tarmac below. His remains rotted away with the exception of the eye. Very rarely is this red eye seen.

Last is the "fang". This has never been sighted, because it is invisible. It appeared last summer in fact. On a warm night with no wind the dormitory door began to creak open. A prefect looked out of his bunk, and the door stopped opening. When the closed his bunk door, it started opening again. This time the prefect looked out into the passage, but there was nobody there. Those doors could not have opened themselves, because they need a strong push to open them. I don't know how the "fang" got its name.

R. Morrice, 2A.

Footnote.—To reassure any readers of a timid or nervous disposition, we must say that the stories about how these popular ghosts originated are as fictitious as the ghosts themselves.

INCIDENT ON MERCURY

It is a mild, warm evening on Mercury. The temperature is a medium 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Nes and Neb are having their usual swim in the sulphuric acid pool when an object is seen in the romantic green sky.

"Look Neb!" cries Nes.

"Where?" asks Neb.

"Up there," replies Nes, frowning with his three brows. "What do you think it is?" he says.

"It's probably only the routine mustard-cream van," replies Neb.

"Oh goody!" says Nes. "I can't wait to get my antennae into that latest chocolative fireball. Let's hurry. It'll be another year before it comes to us again."

They hurriedly dress and run to where the van has landed.

"Look Neb, that's not like last year's van," says Nes.

"And look through it," says Neb. "There's some funny-looking fellows inside it."

"The door is shut," says Nes. "Friction has welded metal to metal."

"Let's open the door for them," says Neb.

Although only 120 years old, Neb and Nes are strong enough to rip the door open. Out jumps a strange creature with only one head. He takes a look at Neb and Nes and jumps straight back into the van. It blasts off.

"Funny!" says Nes.

"Never mind" says Neb. "We'll get the mustard-cream van next year. By the way have you seen the Marshianikans' latest spool?"

"Why yes"

The sound dies as Neb and Nes walk away into the green night.

P. J. Docherty, 1A.

THE TRAVESTY OF MACBREATH

William Shakespeare's play "Macbreath" is what is known in literary parabolas as a travesty. To be more exquisite, an avenge travesty, following the blot of Thoma Skid's "Spastic Travesty".

The play opens with Macbreath and his bosom-buddy Blanko on a damn'd heath. They are returning from a battle with Kink Swino, whom they have just depleted. Suddenly three midwife bags appear and prosephy (phrosepy, prophespy) that Macbreath will be Gink. Our hero gets ideas of afascinating the Good Kink Drunken during his stay at Macbreath's digs—Glooms. Lady Macbreath really sets him off with the spicy plan of blaming the groobs. Drunken is accordingly dun to deff. Welcome and Banaldrain fly to England (by B.E.A.) to mooch aide from Edward the Professor. Blanko becomes delicious and ends up in a ditch (R.I.P.). Macbreath goes to insult the midwife bags and their boss-man Heckity in the Pit of Acheron. They fool him into believing that he's just about immoral by telling him that no-one can dot him until Turgid Wood moves to Bunsenflame. Neither can any bored of wench. Satisfied he leaves the Pit, whereupon Floss brings news that Macfluff has recently patronised B.E.A. Narked, Macbreath gets a couple of nasties to coffinate Lady Macfluff and Baby Macfluff, her rattling son. By now Prof. Ed. has grunted aide to the mooching Scotch. Welcome, Banaldrain, Macfluff, and Earl Seaweed of Norfumbleland grovel north to the Periphery and bereave Macbreath of his new shack—Bunsenflame. (Incidentally, Lady Macbreath has taken to staggering about the pad gurgling: "Out, damn'd spot." She's got a guilty conscious and now commits mata-hari). Macbreath has nothing to live for. He is dis-illuminated and now his enemies have sneaked up on him pretending to be Turgid Wood. (This is the earliest known use of camelflage and shatters you lot!) Macbreath sallies forth and succeeds in doing in young Seawood before he bumps into Macfluff. Uh-oh you say? Yes indeed, for he decatafacts our noble, well-meaning, philanthropic hero. Not before revealing that he was bored by siezerean sexion, however.

This only goes to show that those midwife hags 'n Heckity were liars 'n cheats 'n Macbreath WAS DUN!

Acknowledgements to Pickfords (we move anything, anywhere, anytime) for the Turgid Woods scene.

Apologies to the playwright.

Anomalous, V.

SMALL BORE RIFLE CLUB

Shooting continues to be a popular hobby, being held on four evenings a week for 1st year boys, and on two afternoons for senior boys. R.S.M. Lowdon and C.S.M. Mortimer provide valuable assistance with the evening sessions, whilst Major Wilson and Captain Walker take the seniors.

This term some friendly matches have been held with other schools. These take the form of postal competitions, so that we never actually see the other team, only their efforts.

The 3rd year Marksmen have been competing against Duncan House School, Moffat, with good results, although there is much room for improvement. Strathallan School are providing some opposition for the senior boys; the first match should be shot by 10th December.

Results available so far :—

26th October—

Q.V.S. 3rd year "A" 254 Duncan House "A" 152
Q.V.S. 3rd year "B" 224 Duncan House "B" 87

9th November—

Q.V.S. 3rd year "A" 249 Duncan House "A" 189
Q.V.S. 3rd year "B" 204 Duncan House "B" 112

The following boys have represented the School :—
G. M. Anderson, I. Craig, R. H. Gill, I. Graham, D. MacIver, W. K. McKerron, A. I. MacLean, M. N. McNaughton, G. A. Neill, W. F. Shields.

THE PIPE BAND AND HIGHLAND DANCERS

Despite cramped conditions while we await the completion of the renovated band-room, progress has been maintained in learning new tunes, and in training new members in the drill and routine of band work. Progress among the juniors has also been good, helped greatly by the example of keenness and enthusiasm set by the senior members. The six pipers and two drummers that we lost as boys left school have now been replaced, and the band is back to full strength. At the first Murrayfield international in January, we hope to field 20 pipers and 10 drummers.

The following are the new tunes that the band has learned :—

9/8 MARCHES (the first to be learned by the band)—

Heights of Dargai and The Battle of the Somme.

MARCHES—MacNeil of Ugadale (this march was composed by Pipe-Major Mackenzie himself),
The Haughs of Cromdale, The Scottish Horse,
The Steam Boat, Loch Tummelside.

STRATHSPEY AND REEL—The Maids of Islay and The Bowmore Reel.

The one engagement outside this term was at Crieff, where band and Highland dancers gave a performance at the Home for British Limbless Ex-servicemen. The programme was much appreciated.

On Armistice Sunday, no fewer than 17 Q.V.S. boys went to play at services outside. *Pipers*—A. King and J. Wood at Falkirk, R. McDougall and D. Fingland at Dunblane, I. Fraser and G. Fox at Doune, I. Roe at Balquhiddy. *Buglers*—F. Mitchell at Balquhiddy, B. Murton at Blackford, I. Smith and J. Dempsey at Dunblane, I. Graham at Auchterarder, M. Wood and J. Hossack at Falkirk, A. Cassells at Muthill, L. Heron at Callander, A. MacLean at Doune.

Two new pipe banners have been presented to the band this term, one by the Queen's Own Highlanders and the other by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Congratulations to an Old Boy of the School, Angus McDonald, on his appointment as Pipe-Major of the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards. He succeeds another Old Victorian, Pipe-Major J. S. Roe, B.E.M., father of Ian Roe who is one of our present pipers. Congratulations also to Andrew Hill of our band on winning the Juvenile Piping Championship and Lamont Shield at Cowal Highland Gathering.

We list below the present members of the School Pipe Band.

Pipers—I. Fraser (Boy Pipe-Major), A. Brown, A. King, J. Wood, R. McDougall, G. Fox, D. Fingland, G. Slater, I. Roe, A. Hill, D. MacLean, C. Fraser, A. Martin, I. Robertson, M. Greig, A. Robertson, J. Pryde.

Drummers—R. Gill (Boy Drum-Major), I. Smith, J. Dempsey, G. McManus, L. Heron, A. Smith, A. MacLean, G. Scott, I. Graham, W. Dempsey.

To these notes we add our congratulations to Pipe-Major Mackenzie on his great run of successes in Open Piping Championship Competitions this season. These place him among Scotland's leading pipers. *First prizes*—The Master Pipers Championship, Argyllshire Gathering; Open Competitions, Lochearnhead, Auchterarder, Glenisla, and Crieff Gatherings. *Second prizes*—British Legion Competition for Professionals, Royal Scottish Society Star. *Third prizes*—Luss Gathering, Cowal Gathering. *Fifth prize*—Northern Meeting, Inverness.

For the Highland Dancers the big event of the term was their participation in the 51st Highland Division Reunion at Bridge-of-Don Barracks, Aberdeen on 2nd October. A team of Highland Dancers from the School gave two displays. The main performance was on the field in the afternoon when the boys danced in the presence of H.M. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and were afterwards presented individually to Her Majesty. The chief item in their programme was "The Dance of the 51st Division", which was composed by officers of the Division in captivity during the Second World War. In the evening the dancers took part in a Grand Concert before an invited audience in the Music Hall, Aberdeen. Afterwards Major-General Robertson personally thanked the boys, Mr Mortimer who had trained them, and Pipe-Major

Mackenzie who assisted Mr Mortimer with the piping. The other engagement was a performance for the British Limbless Ex-servicemen's Association at Crieff, mentioned in the report of Pipe Band activities.

This term Mr Mortimer has introduced classes in Scottish Country Dancing, one for junior boys and one for seniors. These are keenly supported. Girls from staff families and from outside also attend these classes.

Elsewhere in the magazine we reproduce a photograph of the Queen Mother with some of our Highland Dancers. The team which performed at Aberdeen is listed below :—

D. Jagger, J. S. Grigor, J. Lee, G. Johnstone, J. Learmonth, R. Stevenson, S. Corrigan, A. Gray, P. J. Docherty, J. Shannon, N. Houston, R. Grant.

WAVELL HOUSE

41 new boys joined the House in September. Many of them came from overseas and arrived with sunburnt faces and bleached hair, reminders of the tropical countries from which they had come. All have settled down very well to their new life and found new friends and interests at the School.

Captain Donoghue, who has been with us for the Christmas Term, has developed a great enthusiasm within the House for model-making. At the moment a model town and harbour are in the course of construction and are rapidly spreading to every available table top in the common room. Other boys have been engaged in boxing, swimming, stamp collecting, science club, indoor games and choir practices for the Carol Service, during the evening hobby periods.

Another new member of the House is Mr Williams' cat which arrived last term and is a great friend of all the boys. Luckily he is a friendly, patient animal and so far only a few boys bear scars of his retaliation to constant handling.

Wavell Wood, the primary boys' play area and scene of many organised battles, provided a real enemy at the beginning of the term in the form of two wasps' nests. The occupants repulsed the primary boys with great vigour until finally destroyed by Mr Glass and his staff. Small boys limping back to the House clutching various parts of their bodies, added a touch of realism to the make-believe wars being waged.

We wish Major Frost every happiness in his posting to Hong Kong. We thank him for all his hard work and the interest which he gave to the House over the past three years. His place is being taken by Captain Bull, who, we hope, will have a very happy time here.

Association Football

Fitba'—or Soccer if you come from the wrong side of the Border—has been the term's main activity. Boys have the opportunity of playing in one of the seven XIs into which the House has been conveniently divided. Competition for places has been keen and

boys are known to have pleaded with the Hospital Staff to allow them out of hospital and back on the Games List rather than face the possibility of losing their place to someone who might be promoted temporarily. The First and Second XIs play in the West Perthshire Primary Schools League whilst the Third XI have their own fixture list consisting of matches arranged with some of the smaller village schools in the neighbourhood. The four Junior XIs play amongst each other and individual members are promoted and demoted on merit. The present Captains of these XIs are G. McNally (4th), G. Allan (5th), P. Sherwood (6th) and A. Carmichael (7th).

1st XI

In the W. Perthshire Primary League the First XI remains unbeaten and are league leaders. They are undoubtedly a good team this year but the comparative ease with which they have beaten, often overwhelmed, their opposition is due, to some extent, to the latter being a little weaker than usual.

They have played two 1st year XIs, our own and that of Dunblane Junior Secondary School. Rather outgunned, in both cases they lost decisively and it was very apparent how the back division, used to a somewhat easier passage, tended to crack under pressure. Both backs and goalkeeper, game though they be, need practice in kicking the ball cleanly and accurately.

The team, with number of individual appearances in brackets, has been chosen from :—

R. Cowie (7), T. Cassells (1), J. Wrenn (8), J. Tovey (6), W. McMillan (2), K. Ross (8), C. Robinson (8), W. Crichton (6), M. Binks (2), D. Todd (8), B. Webb, Captain (8), R. McVicar (8), T. Goldie (8), T. Nicol (8).

2nd XI

The Second XI has had to date probably its most successful season in the W. Perthshire Primary League.

They have played with their usual tenacity and gained their most satisfactory result away from home at Thornhill. Never an easy team to beat, the latter have also their own version of the "Hampden Roar" which has an unnerving effect on most opposition!

The team has been chosen from :—

T. Cassells (5), R. Howarth (2), K. Walker (3), M. Binks (5), A. Hewgill (5), W. McMillan (3), W. Crichton (2), J. Tovey (1), S. Binks (7), G. Glass (5), J. White (3), A. Cobb (2), R. Myles (2), C. Martin, Vice-Captain (7), M. Ferrigan (6), G. Kent (1), S. Grant, Captain (5), J. Dempsey (6), T. Armstrong (5), A. Burns (1), S. McLean (1).

3rd XI

A further page in the history of Wavell House was written when the 3rd XI took the field to play their match against St. Mary's Episcopal School, Dunblane—this was the first time that a 3rd XI has represented the House. Enthusiasm and determination compensated for what they lacked in skill, and with goals by Powell (2) and McMurdo the opposition were finally

beaten by 3 goals to 2. The team, captained by D. Fisher, are now looking forward to the return match as well as matches with Deanston and possibly Kinbuck Primary Schools.

Team—D. West, D. Fisher, A. Hewgill, G. Bowden, J. White, A. Cobb, A. Burns, R. McMurdo, S. Powell, T. Wilson, J. Fleming.

Cross Country Running

The runs are organised on a league system based on four divisions, with promotion and relegation being implemented after each run. Original placing in the divisions, each consisting of twenty-one boys, was based on age with the eldest in Division 1, but after a series of runs, the better performers have worked their way through to the Senior Division, whilst the less able are competing for places in the upper half of Division 4.

G. Kent (last year's Minor Champion), E. McKay, K. Ross (a Minor) and B. Webb are normally found leading the field in Division 1. The leaders in the other divisions at the end of November were J. Robertson (Div. 2), K. Lawrence (Div. 3), and J. Pearson (Div. 4).

Thirteen Majors and twenty-one Minors have already run the Championship Course in the recognised "standard time" and have thus earned "standard" points for their dormitories. The present dormitory leaders are Lynedoch with 14 points. These "standard" runners are now competing for places in teams to represent the House in matches against St. Ninian's School, Gartmore.

Swimming

Of the forty-one new boys who arrived in September, only twelve were able to swim a length of the baths. A further seventeen can now do so while eight can swim a width of the baths, and the remaining four are determined to do so before the end of the term. "Standard" times and distances in six events of each of the two classes—Major and Minor—are now being aimed for by the successful swimmers. Lynedoch were again in the lead at the end of November with 22 points but both Abercromby and Moore were only one point behind the leaders. S. Grant of Abercromby has distinguished himself amongst the Majors by recording six points. Leading the Minors is A. Menzies of Moore with 5 points.

Table Tennis

"Ping-pong" a table tennis ball has reached new heights of popularity this term. The variable week-end weather is often greeted as an opportunity to improve one's position on the dormitory "ladders". Heading the respective "ladders" at the time of going into publication are :—

Abercromby—1 D. Barnes, 2 S. Grant.
Lynedoch—1 J. Robertson, 2 K. Lawrence.
Moore—1 K. Ross, 2 B. Webb.

It is hoped to bring the old House Table Tennis table into use next term and commence a House

ladder drawn up from the leading two boys in each of the six dormitories.

Boxing

Training and preparations are going ahead for the championship to be held next March. Forty-six boys are doing weekly training and another eleven will be joining us next term when the carol-singing has stopped. With the weights and classes, together with the names of last year's champions, listed on the notice board, the boys are busy forecasting next term's new champions. Some promising boxers have been discovered amongst the new entry, but they have yet to be tested inside a ring surrounded by spectators.

SWIMMING

Life-saving classes are being held on Monday evenings and Tuesday afternoons. Over 40 boys are training for awards of the Royal Life-Saving Society at different levels, including one candidate, J. S. Grigor, for the Distinction Award, which is the second-highest given by the Society. He must surely be the first candidate at this level in the School's history.

In the course of the term two examinations have been held for the Bronze Section of the Personal Survival Awards: one for boys in their first year secondary, and one for those in the second year. Seventeen boys were successful.

1st Year : W. A. Barbour, J. Buchanan, C. Fraser, D. MacDonald, I. Playle, A. Robertson, J. Will.

2nd Year : J. A. Allan, R. Davies, J. Kelt, R. Long, M. McLaughlin, D. A. MacLean, K. Ross, B. Sutherland, J. Weir.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

From the School year 1964-65, the following boys have been recommended for the Silver Award (2nd series) and for the Bronze Award (1st series) :—

Silver—*K. Boyne, A. Coid, L. Heron, D. Jagger, C. Lannen, C. McLaughlin.

Bronze—G. A. Barclay, *A. Burns, G. Cunningham, D. Fenner, D. Fingland, A. D. Grey, S. W. Grant, S. Hartley, G. Hill, D. Langlands, J. Learmonth, J. Moore, G. Neill, I. Roe, G. Slater, I. Sneddon.

* Since left school.

In 1965-66, 20 boys have entered for the Bronze Award. 12 of those recommended for the Bronze Award last year are going on to try for the Silver Award, with three direct entries, making 15 altogether in this group. Of last year's Silver Award candidates, 6 are continuing to try for the top award, the Gold. Mr Reid expresses his hope that this year's candidates will have more staying power than last year's, when half of them gave up. Direct entry for the Silver series is authorised by the Headmaster for boys who are considered likely to stay the course and benefit from taking part in the award scheme.

ARMY CADET FORCE ANNUAL CAMP

We returned to Ness Battery, Stromness, Orkney, for our annual camp from 15th to 30th July. The main body met the truck party at Scrabster and, after an eventful truck journey we were delighted to have a smooth crossing on the St. Ola to Stromness. On our arrival, our Orcadian friends were waiting and gave us the usual warm welcome.

The camp is compact and comfortable and with the old combination of Messrs. J. Linning (quartermaster) and J. Walker (chef) working as well as ever, the food situation was excellent. The week-end was taken up in establishing routine and practice for the busy time ahead. R.S.M. Lowdon prepared the picket, and allocated cadets to their duties. C.S.Ms. Mortimer and Morrison had the Highland Dancers and Pipe Band at practice. As we always assist in the Stromness Shopping Week celebrations, the cadets felt that training and practice had a purpose behind it, and responded very well to a hard week-end's training. This also helped to give a spirit and purpose to the camp, and a first rate start to what was to turn out to be one of our most trouble-free and best camps. We attended, on Sunday evening, the Kirkin' of the Shopping Week Queen, who is a pupil of Stromness Academy and is voted into this position by the pupils of the school. She and her maid of honour read the lessons. This was a pleasant surprise to our boys to find that pupils of other schools have the same duties as they have. Monday started a week of busy activity, helping in local functions and training. Most training was on the range which is situated in a place known locally as the "Forgotten Land"—a very apt title as it is in the middle of a peat bog and ideal not only for the usual 303 shoot but for Section and Platoon exercises. Some of the exercises had prizes for the best sections. It is surprising how, with a determined section leader behind and a prize in front, normally slow-moving characters can be made to cover ground fast. With so much activity going on, Saturday arrived so quickly that most people wanted Sunday off to recapitulate what had happened in the first week.

Unfortunately for the cadets interested in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, they had no rest on Sunday as they had to prepare during the day and

set out in the evening on expeditions. The other cadets prepared for a bivouacking exercise over all but one of the causeways to the island of Honda which is owned by the County Commandant of Orkney A.C.F. and has on it one building, a hay loft, which the cadets used. On Tuesday all cadets returned to base and on Wednesday started cleaning up ready to move out on Thursday morning. I must congratulate the cadets on their good behaviour, and on making this a trouble-free camp. The local people must have had the same impression, as Provost Robertson gave us a very pressing invitation to return in 1967 for the 150th Anniversary celebrations of Stromness becoming a burgh.

Brigadier Hope-Thomson made the long journey to spend two nights and a day with us. We were delighted to have his moral support, but sorry that the sea mist made it difficult for us to show him all this beautiful island. Colonel Robertson, Assistant Commandant, R.A., who lives in Kirkwall also visited us, and assisted us in various ways for which we were most grateful.

A.C.F., 1965-66

The training year started with 108 cadets enrolled. Unlike other units, our largest section is the Post Certificate A Pt. II section, numbering 38. This group is sub-divided into 24 N.C.O. instructors and 14 Special to Arms-Infantry.

The Special to Arms section are trained by the Black Watch T.A. P.S.Is. and this year we are again fortunate to have Sgt. Harrison who has been accompanied by R.S.M. White and various other P.S.Is. This assistance is first rate and we are most grateful to the Black Watch for their enthusiasm and instruction.

The training programme for Certificate A Pt. II (34 cadets) and Pt. I (36 cadets) is being carried out by Cadet N.C.O. instructors under the supervision of Platoon Commanders and Adult S.M.Is. This is a continuation of last year's experiment of throwing more responsibility on to the senior boys, and as we had 100% success last year, we are confident that cadet N.C.Os. want responsibility and are happy to accept the challenge.



A Merry Christmas

