

Newcastle High School.

Since the school has been in operation for little more than six years, its history up to the present date must necessarily be a brief one though it is unique in some respects. Tuesday, 5th. June, 1906, witnessed the birth of the school, and since the very first day its growth and progress have been phenomenal. To the writer, looking back, it seems to have happened but yesterday, and it is hard to realise that in the short space of six years, the school should have made such marvellous strides. The school was opened with an enrolment of 28 three weeks before the Midwinter Vacation. In those three weeks 71 pupils were enrolled, and by the end of the year the enrolment was 95. At the beginning of 1907 it was 104.

The staff at first consisted of three teachers—the present Headmaster; Mr. T. Roberts B.A., L.C.P., now Lecturer in French in the Teachers' Training College, Blackfriars; and Miss L. Cole, B.A. On the first day of school, we used what is now called Room 2, but had you looked round, you would have seen neither chairs, blackboards, maps, nor school supplies of any kind; nothing in fact but the desks for the pupils. Everything else we borrowed from the Primary School, which occupied what we now call rooms 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, only 3 rooms being set apart for the High School.

The official opening took place when the school was re-opened after the Midwinter Vacation. All the pupils were assembled in rooms 1 and 2, which were amply sufficient to accommodate them all. The chair was occupied by Mr. Senior Inspector Beavis, and among other prominent public men present were the Right Revd. Dr. Stretch, Bishop of Newcastle; Alfred Edden Esq., M.L.A.; P. Board, Esq., Director of Education; Mr. W. Cann, Mr. Dick, and others, and a very interesting meeting was held.

At first we had great difficulty in deciding on a motto for the school, and several meetings of the pupils were held and all sorts of suggestions made, till at last Bishop Stretch came to our aid and suggested that splendid motto which you see on the wall of the Science Room—*Remis Velisque*—a most suitable motto for a seaport school, containing besides, the secret of all success in life.

One of the first things we did was to form a Junior Class of pupils studying for the junior examination of 1907. We had many doubts and fears as to their chance of success, not knowing very well yet what Newcastle boys and girls were capable of doing. The number we sent up was 13, and we were well satisfied when 10 were successful—4 being Matriculation passes. Before this however, I should mention that Mr. Roberts had been removed to his present position, his place being taken by Mr. C. Christmas, B.A. The first Science Master was Mr. Theo. Flynn B.Sc., now of the University of Hobart. As the science laboratory was not yet equipped, the science classes went to the Technical College to receive lectures. This was not a convenient arrangement, and we were glad when our own laboratory and science room were equipped. The Science Master's time was at first divided between Newcastle and Maitland High Schools, and only probationary students were taught science.

In this year (1907) we held our first Annual Sports' Meeting, which was an unqualified success. The different events were keenly contested and the proceedings were watched with great interest by a large and appreciative body of spectators. The first Speech Day was held on December 18th. Mr. Beavis being in the chair, and the science room being comfortably filled by the pupils and their friends.

This brings us to the year 1908. The staff of teachers was increased to 4 by the addition of Miss Niau, and on her removal to Sydney later on, her place was taken by Miss Mitchell. The enrolment remained about the same as in the previous year. This year our "Junior" result was 14 passes out of 16 candidates sent up—5 being Matriculation passes. We had 4 passes in the Senior, several of these obtaining Matriculation honours in French and Mathematics. We also had 5 successful candidates for Scholarships at the Teachers' Training College. In fact the school may be said to have entered by this time on that wonderfully successful career, which has culminated in the brilliant "Junior" result of 1912. Meanwhile Sport and Athletics were not being neglected. Football and Cricket Teams were in operation among the boys and Tennis among the girls. The 2nd Annual Sports' Meeting was held on November 4, and proved as successful as its predecessor. In this year a school library was formed, consisting of over 300 volumes, the necessary funds being provided by subscriptions from the pupils, along with some assistance from a few of the leading citizens. In those days that genial veteran, Major Mulholland, used to visit the school once a month, to give drill to the pupils, and all looked forward to those visits, for the Major was deservedly popular, as well as an excellent drill master. The Manual Training Room was erected but no teacher was appointed for some time.

In 1909 the enrolment rose to 131. This year witnessed the first appearance in our midst of the present English Master. Mr. J. W. Hayes, B.A. Previous to his arrival Mr. MacMiles was with us for a few months. Mr. E. McKinnon, B.Sc., replaced Mr. Flynn as science master. During a temporary illness of Mr. McKinnon, his duties were performed by Mr. Giddy of the Technical College staff. Our Junior pass was 18 passes out of 19 candidates; 12 being Matriculants. The Senior result was 5 passes, 4 being full Matriculation passes, 2 gaining honours in Mathematics. 11 scholarships at the Training College were gained by our probationary students.

The usual sporting arrangements were made through the year and the 3rd Sports Meeting was held on November 3rd, everything passing off successfully. A team of footballers in charge of Mr. Hayes visited Sydney, and played two matches—one with Fort St. which we lost, and another with a combined team, when fortune smiled on us. A class for manual training was formed, principally from the probationary students, under the charge of Mr. Jones. The work of the school was represented at the Public Schools' Exhibition in Newcastle, by a number of models made in the school by the pupils giving practical illustrations of modern methods of teaching the properties of solid bodies, wire models illustrating the conic sections and various propositions in solid Geometry and Trigonometry.

This year also witnessed the formation of an ex-pupils' union, whose objects were to keep up the connection of the pupils with the school after leaving it, to maintain the friendships they had formed while at school, as well as to promote the mutual improvement of the members. During the Christmas Holidays every year a dinner is held, at which as many as 100 ex-pupils have sat down, with the Head Master as President in the chair, supported by one of the local school inspectors, and some members of the staff. A pleasant evening is spent with songs, toasts, recitations and general conversation.

A number of prizes were presented on Speech Day to the most deserving pupils. The medal for Dux of school (presented by Mr. Raysmith) was won by Leslie Howell. The prize for most popular boy, decided by vote among the boys, fell to Terry Harris; a similar prize among the girls was awarded to Miss Ruby Billett. The prize for the best Junior pass, Gilbert Jones, &c., &c.

In 1910 the number of pupils was 160. Miss Cole was removed to Sydney, and her place was taken by Miss Niau who returned to us after a visit to the Continent of Europe. Mr. MacKinnon was appointed to a position in the

Department of Agriculture as working Botanist. Mr. Hallett joined the staff, his time being divided between the High School and the Day Continuation School. The Junior result was 22 passes out of 23 candidates—9 being matriculants and 3 being Commercial Junior passes. Charles Harrison carried off the medal for geometry. For the Training College, 18 out of the 25 candidates gained scholarships, and Miss Rosie Brown came third in the list of female candidates for the State. For the Senior, 12 candidates sat and all passed—7 obtaining full matriculation passes. Honours at matriculation were gained by Miss Doris Raysmith in French and Mathematics, and by Miss K. Bertram in French. Altogether during this year, 74 pupils passed different public examinations.

In sport our boys distinguished themselves by winning the football competition against Maitland High School, and in honour of the victory a supper was held by the winning team, at which in addition to Mr Senior Inspector Walker, the Headmaster and Mr Hayes, a representative from Maitland High School was present.

The Fourth Sports Meeting was held as usual. At the prize distribution, Mr Walker's prize for the pupil who had brought most credit to the school was won by Charles Harrison. Mr. Finney's prize to the pupil showing in the highest degree the spirit of helpfulness to others, was awarded to Miss Elsie Richards. The dux medal was won by Miss Doris Raysmith.

In 1911 the enrolment had risen to 209 and several new teachers were appointed; Mr. Cowie replaced Mr. Christmas; Miss Spence and Messrs. A. M. Smith and R. Edwards (Science) joined the staff. The Junior Results were 25 passes out of 27 candidates—13 being matriculants. The Training College pass was 17 scholarships out of 22 sent up. In this examination Miss Doris Raysmith highly distinguished herself and brought great credit to the school by being bracketed with a candidate from Sydney as first among the female candidates for the whole State. Three sat for the Senior, all of whom passed, and likewise gained honours at matriculation. In the competition football matches both the A and B teams won the rubber, as was also the case in cricket. The girls were very successful in their tennis matches with other schools. In a tennis match between the boys and girls of the High School, the boys won, but the girls since then have turned the tables on them, so that at present "honours are even." The fifth Sports Meeting took place on 11th October. At the prize distribution the dux medal was awarded to Gilbert Jones; the Mayor's Prize for the best boy pupil was won by Eric Thomas, while his prize for best girl pupil was divided between Misses Nellie Saunders and Irene Bellamy. Mr. Walker's prize for pupil taking greatest interest in the welfare of the school—Miss Doris Raysmith; Mr. Finney's prizes for best translations from Latin and French into English, Misses Raysmith, Saunders, and Bellamy; Headmaster's prize for best Junior Pass, H. Jenkins; best Senior Pass, Gilbert Jones; also prizes were presented to the best pupils in every class.

I need not say much about 1912, except to call attention to the extraordinary increase in the number of pupils. The enrolment is now over 300, and we occupy the whole building, the last remnant of the once famous Newcastle Superior Public School, having disappeared at the end of 1911. Many new teachers have joined the staff, whose names are familiar to all present pupils. In examination we have distinguished ourselves very highly, thanks to Basil Helmore, who in the junior examination carried off the blue ribbon, by winning the University Prize for general proficiency among male candidates, as well as the medal for geometry, and obtained the somewhat rare distinction of 7A's. Allan Richards obtained a prox. acc. in Arithmetic. This being our last "Junior" these distinctions are very gratifying. The 24 candidates sent up were all successful. Other examinations this year have yet to follow, but judging by our marked and unflinching success in the past, I do not think we need entertain any doubts or fears as to the results.

JUNIOR EXAMINATION. 1912.

Medals—Basil Helmore, University Medal for General Proficiency.
 Basil Helmore " " " " Geometry.
 Allan Richards, Prox Acc in Arithmetic.

		Hist.	Eng.	Fren.	Lat.	Arith.	Alg.	Geom.
Cecil Bate	... M	C	C	C	C	C	B	B
James Chalmers	... M	A	A	B	B	A	A	A
Harold Davis	... M	B	A	C	C	B	A	B
Clive Fairley	... M	C	B	B	B	A	A	B
Douglas Fraser	... M	B	A	C	C	A	B	A
Florence Harris	... M	B	B	C	B	B	A	A
Basil Helmore	... M	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Thomas Hughes	... M	B	B	C	C	A	B	A
Harry Kremplin	... M	B	C	C	B	A	B	A
Harold Morgan	... M	B	C	B	C	A	A	A
Evelyn Nicholls	... M	B	B	A	C	C	C	C
Louis Polak	... M	B	B	B	C	B	A	A
Allan Richards	... M	B	B	B	B	A	A	A
George Scott	... M	A	B	B	B	B	B	B
Barbara Shaw	... M	B	B	C	C	B	C	A
Leila Thomas	... M	A	A	C	C	C	B	C
John Watt	... M	B	C	B	C	A	B	C
Leslie Cook	...	B	C	C	C	—	A	C
Hilda Fleming	...	A	C	C	—	C	A	B
Norman Humphris	...	C	—	—	—	A	A	B
Edward Keating	...	C	C	C	—	C	C	B
Nellie Shaw	...	B	B	C	—	B	B	B
James Steele	...	B	C	C	—	B	A	C
William Sturt	...	B	C	C	—	A	B	A

SUMMARY OF JUNIOR EXAMINATION, 1912.

Subject	A	B	C	Total
History	5	15	4	24
English	5	9	9	23
French	2	7	14	23
Latin	1	6	11	18
Arithmetic	11	7	5	23
Algebra	12	9	3	24
Geometry	11	8	5	24
	47	61	51	159

Number of Passes = 24 = 100%

Number Qualified for Matriculation (Divn. A) = 17.

Average Pass = 6.6 Subjects.

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION, 1912.

Hessel Howell.—Qualified for all faculties except Engineering.

PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION (FEDERAL) 1912.

Robert Perrau.—Sixth of N.S.W. Candidates.

PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION (STATE) 1912.

Robert Perrau.—Clerical Division.

John Daniels.—Professional.

Ernest Jones.—Professional.