

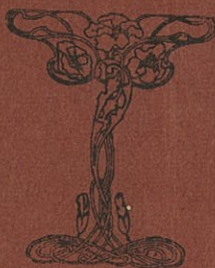
R. Coles

The Novocastrian.

"REMIS VELISQUE."

:: The Organ of the ::
Newcastle High School

JULY, 1920
Vol. 10 :: No. 1



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CONTENTS.

An Ex-Pupils' Union

Ex-Pupils

Re-Union Dance

A Fourth Year Fantasia

Form Reports

How we nearly got a new High School

J. Yearby

The Dagoes

By One of Them

Betty's Wish

N. Horne

A Recent Experiment

Girls' Sports

Boys' Sports

General Birdwood

A Trip to Infinity

Reminiscences

The Bell-Ringer's Song

E.C.

School Notes

The Social Given to the Taree Team

Ex-pupils

Ex-pupils' Social

Answers to Correspondents

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Volume 10 :: No. 1.

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Boys.—J. Estell (Senior Prefect), B. James, F. Gray, F. Cassidy, E. Nelson, A. Malcomson, J. Sneddon.

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Boys.—T. Jones (4th Year), R. Cochrane (3A), R. Brooks (3AC), E. Fitzgerald (2AC), H. Bryant (RA), J. Arthur (RB), D. Rodgers (RC), R. Huntley (1A), S. Neaves (RAC), H. Hamilton (1B), A. Heath (1AC).

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Hockey.—Miss Bootle; Hon. Sec. and Representative on General Committee, L. Mitchell.

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Swimming.—Miss Black; Hon. Sec. and Representative on General Committee, D. Toll.

Baseball.—Miss Segaert; Hon. Sec. and Representative on General Committee, M. Thomson.

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Athletics.—Mr. Gibson; Hon. Sec., J. Estell; Representative on General Committee, O. Oakley.

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The Novocastrian

The Magazine of the Newcastle High School.

Vol. 10.

JULY, 1920.

No. 1.

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Editor	R. G. HENDERSON.
Committee	SPORTS OFFICIALS AND SUB-PREFECTS.	

An Ex-Pupils' Union.

There has been great social activity lately among the ex-pupils of this school, as can be seen by reports elsewhere in this issue. This emphasises what we have more than once pointed out, the need of an Ex-Pupils' Association. These functions have been managed by self-appointed committees at their own risk, a risk they should not be called upon to take. Obviously, too, there is no certainty that the energetic and self-sacrificing few who managed the dance will be willing or available every year. But such functions are too valuable and enjoyable to be left to chance. With a properly organised society, the continuance of all these and many other activities could be made certain. We have had a tennis match of school against ex-pupils. But why not a football match, and a cricket match?

Ex-pupils, by such encounters, and by their visits, can do a great deal for a school, in the way of raising school spirit, and lifting the vision of pupils beyond the limits of the school itself. To themselves, too, an Ex-Pupils' Society can be productive of great pleasure. We hope to see the idea taken up energetically, while there is so good an opportunity.

THE NOVOCASTRIAN.

7

Ex-Pupils.

SOCIAL.

On December 19th, 1919, the evening when school broke up, a social was held at the Masonic Hall, Hamilton. Those present came from third and fourth year and old boys and girls not so old, or at any rate not looking it. There were about eighty to indulge in the games and dances arranged to fill up the evening, and they all seemed to enjoy themselves. There was a competition of a particularly annoying nature. From a magazine containing portraits of Mr. Hughes and someone cured by someone's cough remedy, you had to select a picture of the hero. When you wanted "their little grey home in the west" you found only the tram sheds at Smithville.

When the company was invited to recognise poetical quotations, of which only initials were given, they objected strongly. But in half a minute they solved a couple of lines from Tennyson, while "There was a jolly miller who lived by himself" puzzled them for a long time.

Theoretically, Mr. Henderson was in charge, but all the real work was done by Mary Hunt, Esma Scoles, Dorothy Newton, Jessie Stinson, and W. Parker. To them and others, whose names may have been forgotten, all present owe hearty thanks for a good time.

Mr. Saxby and Miss Johnson awarded the prize in the magazine competition to Florrie Eaton's group. Mary Hunt was the first to recognise "Jolly Miller," and we think it was T. Henery who solved the other. At any rate, if it was not Henery, it should have been.

The Re-union Dance.

In the organisation of a dance the number of matters requiring attention, ranging from the display of artistic taste in arrangement of decorations to the solution of the problem as to whether the programme should include two or three "tickle-toes," is infinite. But when the organisation of a ball is in the hands of a select committee, fired with enthusiasm, and bubbling over with inventive genius, as was the case with regard to the N.H.S. ex-pupils' reunion, held on 8th June, the many problems disappear like a mist.

Many ex-pupils have for years past felt the lack of an opportunity for reunion with old schoolmates, and none of the former attempts have met with anything like the success which attended the recent venture. First of all, no other form of social gathering has the same widespread appeal as a dance. In the case of a mixed school, a smoke concert reunion—so popular with the "bucks"—would needless to say be totally inappropriate; and an annual dinner generally appeals only to epicures. In these days, when a person who confesses to ignorance of the steps of the fox trot, can expect nothing short of social ostracism, the mention of the word reunion dance is calculated to awake the latent school patriotism in many an otherwise indifferent ex-pupil. And so some six months ago some of the "big brains" amongst the old Novocastrians decided on a dance. Then ensued a period of quiet but vigorous activity. Some of the mysteries of "x" and "y," which were in days of yore so pleasingly imparted to the youthful mind in the school on the hill, were applied by that now highly developed mind to the calculation of catering expenses, and, be it reluctantly confessed, to the construction of ingenious schemes for driving a horse and cart through the provisions of the Entertainment Tax Act. At length, after complete arrangement of details by the committee, the day arrived, and with it some hours of hard work by a company of artists (not theatrical), under the direction of Mr. Baden Cooke, who undertook to convert the somewhat drab interior of the Lyceum Hill into a very fair resemblance to fairyland (the writer being personally acquainted with that delectable abode of elves and goblins, per medium of the pantomime, can

vouch for the likeness.) Acrobatic stunts at the top of ladders at length resulted in a delightful radiance of streamers from the roof to the four walls of the hall, whilst the stage, with its wealth of greenery, might easily have passed for a scene from "Possum Paddock." The flags looked like a meeting of the British Empire League. Some of the present pupils kindly volunteered to collect tickets at the door, and stoically but firmly declined, when their labours were o'er, to be rewarded by feasting their eyes and inner men on the contents of the supper room. The guests began to arrive at about 7.30, and from then onwards the entrance hall was thronged with the youth and beauty for which the alma mater has justly earned a reputation. The writer being a mere man, and not a poet, nor a fashion expert, would not do himself justice were he to attempt to describe the fascinations of the ladies in terms of flaxen locks, swan-like necks, georgette, tulle, or crepe de Chine. As to the mere males, as everywhere else, there were tall blokes, short blokes, good-looking blokes, and ugly blokes, but all of them jolly good fellows.

Proceedings went with gusto. An orchestra in fine fettle varied from syncopation to the dreamy melody of Tosti's "Good-bye." At supper the school's patron, Mr. Raysmith, whose presence recalled many pleasant memories of school functions to the thoughts of old girls and boys, spoke a few happily-chosen words, in support of the loyal toast which was drunk with much enthusiasm, and Mr. Kem Yee then proposed the school, to which Mr. Heatley, the only ex-teacher present, suitably responded.

The ball ended at 1 a.m., and the scene in the last dance, in which the dancers seized the ends of streamers and danced round whilst these intertwined was particularly picturesque.

Buses had thoughtfully been provided to take home the happy revellers who live in the wilds of Hamilton, or by the bonny banks of Throsby Creek.

It has been definitely decided by those who were responsible for this function that it shall be made an annual affair, and it is hoped that on the next occasion ex-pupils will lend the same generous measure of assistance as they did this time to making a success of the opportunity afforded them to live once again for a few brief hours in the atmosphere of old class room friendships.

A FOURTH YEAR FANTASIA.

Old Jock, and his two brainy sons, John and Malcolm, arrived at Durham, on a cold, Gray Saturday morning; the air was Sharpe and invigorating. Accommodation was obtained at the Brown Hart Inn. They expected to find a fire in their room, but at that time there was no Cole (s) to be had anywhere. Their host explained that he had Hunted all over Durham trying to find some.

The rest of the day was spent at the Inn, as father was tired. Malcolm busied himself with his clothes, which had been somewhat crammed up in a suit case. John was interested in all the motors that passed by.

The next day father proposed a walk into town, and his sons were quite Willing(s), (the adjective agreeing with the noun). So they set off. Father made the pace, and they reached town in no time.

The city surprised them, with its sights, its beautiful Park(er), kept so scrupulously clean. On this beauty spot a fine monument was erected to the memory of James Nelson, a former civic father, and ardent champion of the citizens' rights. The Tolling of the Cathedral bell reminded them it was Sunday, so they entered the fine building. The preacher was discoursing on the subject of "Jonah and his submarine adventures."

In the afternoon they took another stroll in the Park(er), where a fine Italian band, under Emmanuel Vizzardio was giving a select musical programme. The opening piece was "Johnny's in Town." Malcolm thoroughly enjoyed the programme; he was the musician of the family.

All three were enthusiastic over the town, and the boys exclaimed "Let us settle here." The reply was "We Wilsons." And they did. To-day father and Malcolm are city aldermen, while John is a leading citizen and an authority on all matters.

Form Reports.

IV. YEAR REPORT.

We, the gods of learning, condescend to send greetings to those who are paled into insignificance by our glorious reputation. Woe to those ignominious creatures whose childish tintinnabulation interrupts our meanderings through the paradise of learning (a "Paradise Lost" for ever).

Oh, what a transition, for those who are privileged to periodically visit our official residence—the passing from crowded areas to the most elegant spot in the school. What a sense of cheerfulness and freshness our quarters possess, including a fine view "over the hills and far away."

Our residence is but simply furnished, our proudest possession being the sports shields—both of them! A jardiniere stand remains as the witness to our attempt to further beautify our home. The uses to which this piece of furniture is put are many and varied, but mainly it is a means of support for the tired and wearied. Webster's pocket dictionary reposes gracefully on the book case (or hat case?)

There is no doubt about our being a happy community. We all work together to keep up our reputation, and show to advantage the combination of sport with study.

The social side of our school life is one of the most important, and is receiving its share of attention. Our socials are becoming quite famous.

Of course the persons that form this interesting community are most important. In the first place our body cannot exist without a Hart, who is the life of us. Then we have Brown, "the Urger" and theoretical sportsman, who knows the schedule time of every train in New South Wales; Jock and Frank, the "Westy" reps.; Sharpe, who gets considerably flattened at times; Buzz, the Sentimental Bloke, and Sal (the inseparables); the two F's, boy basket-ballers. We take off our hats to: Sal, Mac., Jock, Frank, and Fred, for gaining the coveted honours; to the girls for their prowess in sport; to Miss Johnson and committee, for the masterly manner in which our socials were arranged and carried out.

THE HAPPY FOURTHS.

We are,

3A.

Friends, Novocastrians, Suburban-dwellers, list ye, lend ear, attend, be patient, while we the noble doings of our illustrious form relate.

First, however, hear our instructors.

We are a Latin class, a Latin class of the first water. Ask Mr. Scoular. We are an English class primae ordinis. (Excuse us, but truth will out.) Refer to our only Jesmondish instructress.—(I hope your English is better than your Latin.—Ed.).

We can turn our talent (we have only one) with equal success to such brain-wrenching arts as the absorption of sundry French literature—as per Schoedelm, etc.—the understanding and the settling down in the storehouses of our brain of the doings of Mr. Bluebeard (not of Newcastle), and his spouses, and of several other defunct inhabitants of occidental Europe.

As instance of our accomplishments in the perfumery line (we refrain from using a more violent term), and our progression in the steps of Mr. Avogadro (gone, but not forgotten), one need only refer to the "Sydney Herald" of a certain Wednesday in February, 1920. Instant conviction, together with profound admiration will result. We rank high in the estimation of our two returned belligerents, who can both talk unadulterated Australian. For affirmation, consult them.

We may conclude with the usual statement that we are the best 3rd Year that ever has occupied the oven, and are determined to uphold our reputation until we reach the estate of 4th Year aristocracy.

"We are gone, sir, and, anon, sir, we'll be with you again."

3AC.

"What's this? Oh, now the candle's gone out! Cut out the talking stunt, there! Where ARE those matches?"

On their way to Glenrock, via the Zig-Zag, the budding explorers of 3AC found themselves in the recesses of a big black cave. They have no intentions of divulging what they found. Oh, no, they can keep secrets.

We are still on the map, despite numerous changes. Straying round the school is "no bon," but it is often slightly enlivened by noisy sheep, rain, fowls, and dogs

"Mac" has forsaken the "pleasant associations" of the High School, and he now "gets down to bizz." piling up coins on a shiny counter. We were absolutely amazed, but then there's no accounting for some peoples' tastes. Ethel has left a big regret behind her. Myra and Lambert have disappeared, but Layton considerably hopped up, making the total number of boys (pronounced Oxford twang) the big sum of three!

One of our teachers caused a great commotion last term trying to make us speak English instead of Australian, but we found it useful when the Prince came. It now behoves us to apply ourselves to the unfathomed mysteries of scansion and blank verse.

We are going hard at sports, and mean to hold our own in every way next year.

2A.

Who says the Intermediate has not been altered? Certainly not 2A—

The community has not recovered from the loss of "Snelo," also our greatest fag, "David," who hopes to get seven A's at North Sydney. It has been rumoured someone presented him with a piece of poetry on his departure. Who is our budding E. W. Wilcox?

2A possesses a curious kind of animal, unknown in other parts of the world, which produces any sound required, and is particularly active in French. Its masterpiece is a curious nasalised "o," combined with a broken-backed "e."

"Grandpa" still continues to give good advice to the "children."

The girls have formed a Private Detective Society for the recovery of lost, stolen, or strayed Henry V's, hatpins, etc. Any person requiring our services should apply to "Smut."

FOR SALE, a fine "melon," suitable for a class requiring same on a hot day.

Who wants a cat? A certain person residing in the back row tried to adopt one as a mascot, but the poor cat "wasn't having any."

Who, and what is "twenty"?

"THE UNEQUALLED" 2A.

2AC.

We have ended our travels at last, and would have ended our troubles, too, only for the Intermediate in a few months. Ours is a room of music and sunshine; even the blackboard casts pleasant reflections (sometimes). Some months ago our class nearly burst its bounds by the arrival of several artists, but since the disappearance of some "consciencious objectors" we have had plenty of room.

The "early bird" from Minmi has won "Mutch" favour from a recent visitor, by trying to make ends meet.

One of our brainy individuals often "scores" a marked success by the aid of "brain waves," gathered from the upper regions of Room 4, much to the envy of the fair sex.

One question 2AC would like enlightenment on: Why is it quite permissible to sit out a melodramatic blood and thunder serial, and yet quite beyond the pale to enjoy a comedy?

THE CLASS THAT GETS THINGS DONE—2AC.

REMOVE A.

We are acknowledged by everybody as the head class of Remove Year. We are told that great things are expected of us, but we dinna ken how great.

Two of our male members have not yet returned. Of course we are sorry, but still we are glad that Smut has at last found a seat in the back.

We, like our predecessors, have decided to offer numerous empty bottles and miscellaneous goods for sale, as the press is needed. We have certainly been told to remove them to the "dem.," but as the boys are too lazy to act as carriers, they still remain there.

We are indeed very pleased to have become the inhabitants of a room with windows which will open.

Our class is still honoured with the presents of a "woman-hater," and a "talented musician," but we have no "never present one."

We are thinking of taking up a collection to buy 2A a duster, as they have an absurd habit of borrowing ours and not returning it.

THE ILLUSTRIOUS R.A.

REMOVE B.

We are steadily gaining a reputation for general improvement under the stern eyes of our teachers. We shall soon be an ideal class. Our energy has been greatly strengthened since the parade.

The ambition of one of our fellow pupils is evidently to be a Movie actress, for she has many rehearsals on the floor. A young lady who holds a high position in the class divides her time between eating, laughing, and pulling faces.

At the Ross Smith pictures one small professor was heard to exclaim that memories of the Jordan overpowered him.

Is there anything wrong with the girls of RB? There must be, because they do not take after the girls of 4th Year in exams. The highest place any girl has come in our class is fourth. Perhaps the reason is that they do not admire the boys' faces. But they can't beat "Tommy." "Voila Tommy" is still a good joke. Ask T.M.

"Ginger Mick" has just returned from his selection.

Anyone requiring to know anything about history should apply to J.S. for particulars.

E.J.H.'s motto: "Boys have faults, girls they have but two; nothing right they say, and nothing right they do."

Au revoir.

REMOVE B.

R.C.G.

We are back again after six months of hard toil and three weeks for recuperation.

We consider ourselves the pick of the Removes, and if we came in last we are by no means the least. (Vide Mr. Geddes.)

The School Choir is tolerated; why not our Jazz Band?

"Bolsh" is improving, and soon he will be quite civilized.

Our girls have dwindled to nine, but the boys are in full force, including the Jazzites.

"Drake" came out "Ducks," a position he well deserved.

Pins, rulers used for other purposes than ruling, paper pellets, and drain pipes are prevalent in Room 11, and visitors should beware.

With good wishes to all, we are

THE INMATES OF THE INCUBATOR.

R.A.C.

Time for another report!

Well, I do not suppose it matters much in this famous class. We regret to say that we are gradually decreasing in number, but it is not quantity but quality that counts.

One day, during French, one of the students held up a book and said: "Je vous montre le pupitre." This student hopes to be a French professor. The other day in the pictures — took more notice of the architecture than the pictures. The architecture is said to be "Byzantine."

We advise a certain girl in "RB" to stop her companion from hitting poor innocents on the head with her violin case.

Some of the stencil brushes used by the Art students, owing to their dilapidated appearance, are passing on to a second sphere of usefulness, and some of them resemble a mop instead of a brush.

We extend a cordial welcome to the new members of the staff.

Yours for ever,

R.A.C.

1A.

Angi Woppagi,
Terra merra poppagi,
Aucki Aucki Yah!

Who are, who are, who are we;
We are the scholars of 1 A.G.
We don't drink coffee, and we don't drink tea,
But beer, beer, beer,
Ginger beer, ginger beer, pop, pop, pop,
1A, 1A always on the top.

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

Let it be known unto all the earth, the high-souled and only 1A's met across their path on their journey towards that silver city called Knowledge, a vile thing called Examination, and after much struggle and tribulation, succeeded in destroying it utterly, and at the latest report they were hieing forward strongly towards the distant goal.

Sport is going well in 1A, but as we are new at the game we are not expected to show much form. The girls are very silent, hardly making a noise. The reason is they are keeping cockroaches in tins under their desks, and training them to jump over cotton reeis. The boys are going to ask for a knitting period, and also for a dressing period, for the girls.

We consider ourselves head of the first year for good reasons only known to ourselves.

If "Bubbles" was trying to get a position just now, we are afraid he would be disappointed, according to the advertisement in the "Newcastle Morning Herald."

Hoping every other class has been as successful in the examination as we have been, and that they are also as merry a band, we bid our adieu.

Yours,

THE ESTEEMED 1A.

1B REPORT.

1B are busy bees. (Every 1B has said that.—Ed.) We are determined to work hard, and live in hopes of climbing higher soon.

The girls are very fair at sport, and we have a few renowned basket ball players in our class.

We want a caretaker to look after our duster, as it is frequently disappearing.

Owing to illness our famous actress has only just returned from the mid-winter vacation.

We also have in our class the latest styles of hairdressing, both for boys and girls.

Yours truly,

1B.

1A.C.

We introduce ourselves as IAC, the class of future commercial travellers, draftsmen, and artists. Already the commercial instincts are showing out, as we lately carried out a business transaction in procuring a duster for 1B.

V— P— has lately given up hat trimming for the more manly art of snake charming.

One of our draftsmen is thinking seriously of joining the ranks of the "vee Latin fags" of 1A. The reason for this desperate act is unknown.

Two girls have left, but two new ones have taken their places. We are pleased to say that a girl came top of the class for the half-year, the first boy being fourth. All of our girls are sports members, some being in each sport, but the majority take baseball.

We are expecting any day to receive a notice saying that 1AC must wear slippers in future, so that there will not be so much sound under the arches. The pupils below, thinking a thunderstorm is approaching, run for coats and umbrellas; but their teacher assures them, "It's only that dreadful 1AC scraping their feet."

Walking inkwells have lately made their appearance in our room, but the strange thing about them is that we girls never see them doing it, and they always walk to the boys' desks.

In conclusion, we would say, for the benefit of a neighbouring class, that a duster is easily obtained, if they cared to look for one, and ours is no better than any other.

How we nearly got a new High School

(BY J. YEARBY.)

The High School corps was contentedly drilling on the upper playground, when Private Sharpy calmly remarked that the school was on fire. Although Corporal Heartless is a strict disciplinarian, the news was so startling that he, for once, forgot to lecture the offender. There was no denying the fact that the main building of the school was on fire, and as it is built of brick was being speedily consumed.

At this moment Captain Numerat, who by the way is a member of the teaching staff, arrived on the scene. He immediately ordered the squad to save as much property as they could, but forbade them to extinguish the fire on the grounds that we needed a new school so badly, and had no hope of getting one until the old building had been destroyed.

Corporal Heartless at once ran for the tuck-shop, and with the aid of a rifle used as a battering ram succeeded in forcing open the door, and rescuing the "bon-bons."

Meanwhile, Private Sharpy, who fags nothing but Latin, scaled the wall of the library, got through the window, and in the face of smoke and flames rescued a copy each of Livy and Vergil. In spite of much opposition, Sergeant Buzz stormed the teachers' room, and heroically saved the exam. papers of our recent Science and French tests, for which feat of bravery he was sentenced to a cold shower under the school tap, to be carried out the following day.

By the time the fire brigade arrived, the building was completely consumed, as also were the treasures so valiantly saved by Corporal Heartless. On investigation it was ascertained that the fire had probably originated through the ashes of a cigarette falling on the cotton waste, which had been used to clean the rifles.

Captain Numerat, on informing the press of the catastrophe, sarcastically remarked that even "sardines could not be packed in the school" now.

Next morning hundreds of spectators, visiting the scene of the fire, were surprised to see the school in its usual position. Thousands tried to solve the mystery, but failed. At last some genius, who probably comes from Minmi, and rises at 4 a.m. each morning to come to school, gave the following explanation:—"The cotton waste, on igniting, had given out heat, which had caused the bricks of the building to expand to such an extent that they had expanded out of sight. On the cotton waste burning out, the bricks had gradually cooled, and returned to their normal position." This theory was universally accepted. So, in spite of Captain Numerat's good intentions, we failed to get a new school, and everyone, especially the scholars, were Mutch disappointed.

THE DAGOES.

(BY ONE OF THEM.)

As soon as the Greek class was formed, the pupils of that classical branch were christened "Dagoes." Only one member of the opposite sex is represented, and, as he is the genius, we are always saying to him: "Is this right?" or "Do you get this?" If he has the same as we have we are quite satisfied that we are right.

We would be very much obliged if the occupants of Room 1 would keep quiet during the Greek lesson. It does not matter much during other lessons, because no one is below to hear the noise. They are always shuffling their feet, and dropping rulers, etc., and it sounds awful to us from our position under the arches. Often dirt and papers will come flying down upon us like a nice summer shower. Although we have to put up with all this, we still manage to look cheerful, and we keep dogging away at Greek. It is a much more interesting subject than French, anyway, and none of us are sorry because we took it.

Betty's Wish

(N. HORNE.)

Betty was a little girl who every day took her bag in her hand and wearily climbed a big hill on her way to the High School.

Betty used to become very tired when climbing, but often said she would not mind climbing so much if only it were a pretty school.

One night, after Betty had finished her homework, she said aloud: "Oh! how I wish I could see the Fairy Queen, and ask her to make a new school grow up," for Betty still believed in fairies.

At that moment she heard a voice, and, looking around, saw a little fairy on the table beside her.

"Hullo!" said the fairy.

"Hullo!" said Betty. "Please, who are you?"

"I am Bronze Wings, the Fairy Queen's messenger, and the Queen sent me to tell you that if you come to her birthday party to-night she will grant your wish."

In a few minutes Betty and Bronze Wings were speeding away in a fairy chariot drawn by twelve butterflies, and soon came to Fairyland.

At first Betty could see nothing but a white mist, but after a while she saw the palace, ablaze with myriads of electric lights. The garden was lit up by strings of miniature Chinese lanterns, and the air was heavy with the scent of beautiful fairy flowers, which nodded on their stalks as the "Cricket Band" played and sang.

After she had seen everything in the palace, Betty had a talk with the Queen, who sat on a toadstool in the garden, sipping honey. The Queen promised to grant her wish.

Next morning, on arriving at the bottom of the hill, she found there a beautiful silver and gold elevator, which, when she pressed a button, whizzed her to the top of the hill, where she found that the old school had disappeared, and a lovely new one stood in its place.

It was a magnificent school, able to hold twice as many pupils as the old school. Splendidly ventilated classrooms were furnished with lovely desks and revolving chairs, so that necks might not be crinked when their owners saw what was going on in the "Dem." carpets on the floors, and, boon of boons, two or three beautiful dusters, and a box of chalk for each room, with a lock on.

Outside were beautiful tennis courts, and playgrounds, a splendid football ground for the boys, and for the girls basket ball and hockey.

Now, wasn't that fairy a darling, and don't I wish that Betty's dream had been real!

A RECENT EXPERIMENT.

Aim.—To see what the effect of a half-yearly exam. is on 1AC.

Apparatus.—1AC, a class room, exam. papers, teachers, pens, pads, and ink.

Method.—Place 1AC in the class room; remove all text books; place a teacher in the room, and hand out exam. papers.

Result.—Sighs, groans, inky fingers, miserable spirits, and headaches.

Conclusion.—Half-yearly exams. are not good for the temper of a class; they banish cheerfulness, create excitement, cause some of them shame and others joy.

Girls' Sports.

SWIMMING.

The school girls' swimming sports took place in the ocean baths at the end of the season, with the following results:—

School Championship.—L. Bickerton, 1; L. Mitchell, 2; M. Stevenson, 3.

Age Championship, under 14.—E. Buxton, 1; L. Cornwall, 2; M. Jones, 3.

14 years and 15 years.—E. Harkins, 1; D. Deed, 2; L. Clarke, 3.

Over 16 years: L. Mitchell, 1; M. Miller, 2; M. Foy, 3.

Breast-stroke Championship, under 14.—E. Buxton, 1; H. Grassick, 2.

14 years and 15 years.—D. Moore, 1; E. Murray, 2.

Over 16.—L. Bickerton, 1; M. Hunt, 2.

Relay Race.—3rd Year Commercial (M. Foy, M. Miller, L. Clarke, M. Stevenson), 1; 4th Year (L. Bickerton, J. Donaldson, L. Mitchell, D. Toll), 2.

Three-stroke Race, over 16 years.—M. Foy, 1; L. Bickerton, 2.

14 years and 15 years.—E. Harkins, 1; D. Moore, 2.

Under 14.—E. Buxton, 1; L. Cornwall, 2.

Neatest Dive.—L. Cornwall, 1; L. Bickerton, 2; M. Miller, 3.

Diving for Obstacles.—E. Harkins, 1; L. Bickerton, 2; M. Foy, 3.

Cork Race.—M. Foy, 1; D. Moore, 2; L. Cornwall, 3.

As a result of the carnival, 4th Year obtained the sports shield, having gained the greatest number of points (27).

BASKET-BALL.

Basket-ball has been carried on with much enthusiasm by the girls and their teacher, Miss Blacklock. The majority of the players wear their sports costume, and the costume improves the look of the game. A and B teams have been chosen, but unfortunately one of the best players, J. Short, has left.

A Team.—Goal-thrower, J. Beresford; goal-guard, J. Hyslop; centre-jumper, M. Hunt, and J. Stinson, H. Paterson, F. Eaton, I. Fallon, J. Davies, C. Lawson.

B Team.—Goal-thrower, E. Kemp; goal-guard, R. Steele; centre-jumper, K. Campbell, and M. Spitzkowsky, R. Lindsay, E. Harkins, M. Hawson, A. Kellett, G. Wilson.

Games have been played between the two teams, resulting always in an easy victory for the A's, as it should happen.

A match was played between Fourth Year and Third Year, and Fourth Year won. It would be good practice for the younger girls if Remove Year challenged First or Second Year.

TENNIS.

With racket in hand we send the ball spinning;
It's easy to smile on the side that is winning;
But losing or winning, each girl is a sport:
You'll never find smarter on any school court.
Though better at sport than at versification,
We'll all do our best for the school's reputation.

xz

At the beginning of the year the A girls' tennis team was formed, the players being L. Bickerton (captain), E. Mitchell, M. Forrest, E. Bridge, and D. Newton (emergency).

Our first match was against the Church of England Girls' Grammar School, on May 29th. Their courts were in splendid condition, and we thoroughly enjoyed the game, although we lost by three games, the score being 17-20. Later on we played the ex-pupils, and were all very glad to see such a number of old students again. They were represented by Misses Clarke, James, Davis, Breckenridge, and Miller, also Weir, Coles, McGill, Henery, and Pearson. We enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon, the scores being 40-26 to the present pupils.

During the course of the afternoon, on the occasion of the tennis match with the ex-pupils, afternoon tea was served in Room 7. We chatted together, a marked spirit of cordiality characterising the general conversation. Mr. Saxby made a short speech appropriate to the occasion, and then we all repaired to the tennis court.

Great interest has been shown this year by the girls in tennis. A couple of tournaments have been played, and a B team is now being formed.

We are hoping soon to play the Maitland Girls' High School, and also the return match against the Grammar School.

We are greatly indebted to our sports mistress and Miss Whiteoak (tennis mistress) for their help and encouragement, also to Mr. Saxby, for practical assistance.

We wish success to all the other teams, and hope that the school's name will shine brighter than ever before.

ATHLETICS.

At the end of last term a most interesting and exciting Athletics Meeting was held at Broadmeadow. To the onlooker the spectacle presented must have been exceedingly picturesque. All the girls wore their sports costumes of navy and red, and against the bright green of the grass the colours showed up beautifully. Class rivalry was keen, especially between Fourth and Third Years. Some dignified Fourths had sore throats for at least a week after the sports, so excited were they. The events, the arrangement of which was in the capable hands of our Sports Mistress, went off without a hitch. The girls were disappointed because the 600 yards race was cut out at the last minute, but we will endeavour to include it in our next programme. The number of entries had increased considerably, which is most encouraging. Fourth Year gained most points, and retained the shield, 3A coming next.

Louie Bickerton (Fourth Year) won the championship of the school. Louie also gained 8 first places, while Jessie Beresford (3A) obtained 5 firsts.

A good deal of amusement was derived from the jumping performances of a certain little First Year maiden. The interest and enthusiasm evinced by the lower school speaks well for the future upper school.

HOCKEY.

One, two, three,
The Hockey girls are we;
Four, five, six,
We play with crooked sticks;
Seven, eight, nine,
Oh, forwards, keep in line!

What is hockey? Ask any ordinary person, and they will say that it is a game played with a stick and a cricket ball painted white.

But we hockey girls mean to let all the ordinary people know that hockey is not such an easy game, and that it does not consist of "hockey one, hockey two, and hit the ball." Hockey is a scientific game, in which each player must

think very carefully before she attempts to hit the ball, and then she must be cautious as to where she hits it. That is why all hockey players are very level-headed, and are usually brilliant mathematicians, e.g., Miss Bootle and Lella, the Maths. honours fag. Thanks to the untiring energy of Miss Bootle and Miss Ross, we are becoming expert hockey players, and can now stand the hardest shiners with equanimity. If you want to know what hockey is really like, come and watch the hockey girls put up a good fight against Maitland.

Louie, Lella, Dorothies two,
Dora, Emma, and Jean,
Madge, Margery, Ada, Leah,
This is the Hockey team.

Boys' Sports.

TENNIS.

There has been a fair amount of activity in tennis during the last half-year. The following competitions have been run off:—

B Grade Singles was won by R. Miller, with W. Fisher runner-up. Miller wants to pay more attention to his service to become an "A" player. Fisher, with some more practice, would come on.

C Grade Singles was won by Hayman, Huntley being runner-up. These two will make a pair of good B graders.

A Grade Doubles.—This tournament was the most important of the series, because from the play shown the first four were selected. After some hard games, in which a fair amount of bad luck was seen, B. James and R. Collins were the winners, beating L. McManus and R. Miller in the final. The winners were rather fortunate in beating F. Gray and E. Jackson in the semi-final, and F. Cassidy and J. Sneddon in the first round.

The committee made the following selection for the first four:—F. Cassidy and F. Gray, R. Collins and B. James. These four have been in action against the girls, and also in conjunction with the girls against the ex-pupils, and have acquitted themselves very well.

We are hoping to arrange a few matches with other High Schools, and we hope that the result of these matches will be gratifying to all tennis enthusiasts in the school.

SWIMMING.

The annual swimming carnival came off under excellent conditions at the Ocean Baths on Thursday, March 25. Several good times were recorded, but many were disappointing. Miller, the 1918 school champion, swam excellently in the junior and senior 100 yards championships, but failed badly in the 50 yards junior. James and Hughes stand on their own, the former as a breast and back stroker, and the latter as junior cadet champion. Swimmers regret the loss of D. Cornwall, who has left to swell North Sydney's ranks. He only took up the sport about last December, and he managed to obtain a fair record. Two long-distance swimmers, Asher and McKay, are expected to make the Sydney lads travel next December. Results:—

33 Yards Junior Cadet Championship.—Hughes, 1; Dobie, 2; Embleton, 3.

50 Yards Junior Cadet Championship.—Hughes, 1; Embleton, 2; Keating, 3.

50 Yards Junior Championship.—Cornwall, 1; Miller, 2. Time, 38sec.

100 Yards Junior Championship.—Miller, 1; Cornwall, 2; McKay, 3. Time, 77 2-5sec.

50 Yards Senior Championship.—Oakley, 1; Johnson, 2; Brown, 3.

100 Yards Senior Championship.—Oakley, 1; Miller, 2; Johnson, 3. Time, 77sec.

33 Yards Junior Cadet Breast Strike.—Aus, 1.

50 Yards Junior Breast Stroke.—McKay, 1; Cochrane, 2; Howard, 3.

50 Yards Senior Breast Stroke.—James, 1; Miller, 2; McEwan, 3.

Diving Championship.—Cornwall, 1; McKay, 2; Miller, 3.

Plunge Championship.—Collins, 1; Cornwall, 2; Gerrand, 3.

Back Stroke Handicap.—James, scr., 1.

50 Yards Open Handicap.—Gerrand, 1; Miller, 2; Helmore, 3.

25 Yards Novice Handicap.—Leiffermann, 1; Simmonds, 2.

100 Yards Old Boys' Handicap.—A. Sutherland, 1; A. Deed, 2. Time, 1min 25sec.

Year Relay Championship.—4th Year, 1; 2nd Year, 2; 3rd Year, 3.

200 Yards Open Handicap.—Oakley, scr., 1; Gerrand, 14sec., 2; Cornwall, 3sec., 3. Time, 2min. 58sec. Won by a touch.

400 Yards Open Handicap.—Oakley, scr., 1; Cornwall, 9sec., 2; Miller, 10sec., 3. Time, 6min. 40sec. Won easily.

Points.—2A, 54 points, 1st; 3rd Year, 27, 2nd; 4th Year, 21 points, 3rd.

ATHLETICS.

A successful afternoon's sports meeting was decided last quarter at the Show-ground. Owing to the superiority of 4th Year, a lot of interest was taken out of the races. Results:—

100 Yards Championships.—4th Year: J. Estell, 1; J. Sneddon, 2; F. Gray, 3. Time, 11sec. 3rd Year: G. Johnston, 1; J. Garner, 2; H. Williams, 3. Time, 11 4-5sec. 2nd Year: E. Fitzgerald, 1; D. Williams, 2; H. Barnes, 3. Time, 12 1-5sec. Remove Year: R. Hayman, 1; Sowerby, 2; H. Bryant, 3. Time, 12 4-5sec. 1st Year: H. Bradford, 1; Hopper, 2; B. Riley, 3. Time, 13sec.

220 Yards Championships.—Senior: J. Estell, 1; J. Sneddon, 2; D. Sharp, 3. Time, 25 2-5sec. Junior: W. Parker, 1; E. Fitzgerald, 2; G. Johnston, 3. Time, 26 4-5sec. Under 14: Sowerby, 1; Aus, 2; Hopper, 3. Time, 30sec.

High Jump Championships.—Senior: J. Estell, 4ft 10in, 1; J. Sneddon, 2; E. Jackson, 3. Junior: E. Fitzgerald, 4ft 7in, 1; D. Williams, 2; Parker and H. Williams, 3. Under 14: Embleton and Hopper, 1; Pickles, 3.

High Jump Handicap.—Senior: J. Estell, allowed 4in, 1; J. Sneddon, 2; E. Jackson, 3. Junior: E. Fitzgerald, allowed 3in, 1; D. Williams and H. Williams, 2.

Broad Jump Championships.—Senior: J. Sneddon, 19ft 3in, 1; D. Sharp, 2; G. Johnston, 3. Junior: W. Parker, 17ft 3in, 1; Hamilton and Bryant, 2. Under 14: Sowerby, 14ft 6in, 1; Partridge, 2; Riley, 3.

Broad Jump Handicap.—Senior: Sneddon, scr., 1; Garner, 2; Sharp, 3. Junior: Parker, scr., 1.

Class Points Score.—4th Year, 66½; 3A, 3½; 3B, 4; 2A, 10; 2AC, 13; RA, 12; RB, 7; RC, 0; RAC, 2; 1A, 0; 1B, 12; 1AC, 0.

Individual Points Score.—Senior: J. Estell, 22; J. Sneddon, 21. Junior: E. Fitzgerald, 19; W. Parker, 19. Under 14: Sowerby, 16.

JOSEPH H. ESTELL, Hon. Sec.

CRICKET.

Only one representative game was played last season, and that was against Maitland High. Both our teams were defeated. We were outclassed in every feature of the game.

Two teams were placed in the "Under 15" competition, presumably to give more boys a game, with the result that neither team qualified for final honours. Enthusiasm was lacking in this competition, although several players acquitted themselves well.

One team entered in the "Under 13" competition. It was composed mainly of boys from one class, and deserved a place, if only for the amount of enthusiasm shown. They set an example to the rest of the school. We hope to give them a chance to show their keenness next season.

Everyone will agree that the standard of cricket in our school is a poor one. It is not through lack of players. There are two chief reasons, first lack of interest or enthusiasm, secondly lack of practice.

With the introduction of Honour Badges, each boy ought to try and reach his top form, and qualify for one. Be enthusiastic, boost the game up. It is no good if we are going to think of our games, as something which we are forced into, or that fills in the sports afternoon. We should have, and can have, a first-class eleven, and it is practice that will do it. Everyone will be given a chance next season. Make up your mind now. Let us try and raise the standard.

RUGBY.

A game was played at Maitland, resulting in a win for Maitland by 12 points to 6. Bailey, Anderson, and Scobie scored for Maitland, while Kem Yee and Estell scored for Newcastle. Lambert was our best back, ably assisted by Collins, Sharp, and Estell, while McKay, Malcolmson, and Garner were best forwards. The game was evenly contested throughout, and it was only in the concluding ten minutes that Maitland took the lead.

On July 3rd Taree District School paid us a visit, and played us at Learmonth Park. Owing to our lack of practice and good players Taree won by 22 to nil. Estell was the best of the home team, with Garner, Johnston, and Hart playing well in the forwards.

These reverses have stirred us up, and training has been commenced seriously. Two teams have been selected, and these are to play every Wednesday and Friday. A coach has been secured, and a lot of new blood included in the teams. The first match was played on Wednesday, July 14, between sides captained by Malcolmson and Estell, and after a hard game it ended in a draw. Good form was shown by some new players, especially Nelson, Sneddon, Sutton, and Thomas. It is to be hoped that these players will keep on improving, as they should fill some of the vacancies that need filling. With the aid of these we hope to defeat both Maitland and Taree in the return games.

SOCCER FOOTBALL.

A Grade.—This team has performed very well this season, although it had but eleven players to choose from. So far they have been defeated only once, drawing with the same team in the following round.

The other Friday the team received a severe shock, owing to their star forward being undecided whether to play with the team or to desert them for athletics. Happily their star turned out for them, and showed their opponents how a star should shine.

The dentist took some of the dash out of their star half, but now he is regaining some of it. With two other backs they say that they would feel very safe in that section. In goal no fear need be felt. The goal posts stand them in good stead.

Results.—V. Adamstown, draw, 0-0; v. Hamilton, won, 2-1; v. Adamstown, lost, 1-3; v. Cook's Hill, won, 3-0.

A representative game was played against Maitland, most of our "A" grade players playing in the second eleven. Result: Won, 3-0.

Our scorers are: J. Embleton, 4 goals; D. Stirling, 3; S. McKay, 1; D. Campbell, 1.

Under 13 Years Competition.

N.H.S. v. Merewether, draw, 0-0, 1 point; v. Hamilton, lost, 2-0, 0 points; v. Adamstown No. 1, lost, 5-1, 0 points; v. Adamstown No. 2, lost, 2-0, 0 points. Total points for first round, 1.

ASSOCIATION.

We have had a rather successful season, though only one outside game has been played. This was against Maitland, on the Showground, Newcastle. We proved our superior ability by defeating them by five goals to one, Sutton (3) and Oakley (2 being the scorers). The most notable points in the game were the manner in which the players did not keep their places and the two goals of Oakley. Of the players Durham and Cassidy outshone the others, and Lovett showed great ability in always being where the ball wasn't.

SPORTS BADGES.

The School Union Committee held a special meeting on Monday, July 19, to deal with the grant of sports badges to players recommended by their clubs. It was decided that: (a) Pupils wearing sports coats should be restricted to the monogram and school motto upon the pocket; (b) pupils to whom sports badges were granted should have a special shield with the above, and in addition (below) the name of the game (with year) for which the badge was granted. The standard of play was then fixed as follows:—In addition to being outstanding amongst this school's players, the standard should approximate to the best in other High Schools.

The names submitted by the various clubs were then dealt with, and the following players were granted badges:—Girls' Tennis, L. Bickerton; Soccer, J. Sneddon; Swimming, O. Oakley; Boys' Athletics, J. Estell. The names submitted for Basket Ball were remitted back to the committee for further consideration, in view of standard of play fixed above. It was noted that Hockey had recommended no players, and the committee was in doubt with regard to Basket Ball, the teacher in charge being unavoidably absent. Players recommended by the Rugby League and Cricket Clubs were considered not to have reached the standard set, and the committee decided not to issue badges. It is to be remembered that the committee was dealing only with 1919 winter games, and September, 1919-March, 1920, summer games.

GENERAL BIRDWOOD.

Before the holidays we received a visit from General Birdwood.

While awaiting his arrival, the school assembled in the assembly room, which was prettily decorated, and there we sang songs.

Soon he arrived, and was cordially welcomed.

After giving an address, Mr. Saxby presented him with a fountain pen, and asked him to put his signature on the bottom of the photo which had been purchased, that it might be hung in the room in remembrance of his visit.

He then spoke to us, and said that he hoped that we would grow to be as good Australians as our soldiers had been. Then he turned to Mr. Saxby, and said: "Are they good scholars?" "Fairly," said Mr. Saxby. "Well, they shall have a holiday," he said. This was received with great cheers. "Oh," he said, "they must be treated badly."

A Trip to Infinity.

One morning, thinking a train trip to "Infinity" would be enjoyable, I picked up a time-table and found that an excursion train left "Geometry Station" at 9.15 a.m. I reached the station at 9.10, so there was no hurry. Walking leisurely to the ticket office, I said: "Ticket to Infinity." "Plus or minus?" snapped the clerk. "What difference does it make?" I enquired. "None at all; they're just the same," answered the clerk, as he placed money and ticket before me. Seeing my train signalling departure, I broke into a run, and jumped into the guard's van, knocking the guard down. In a stern, official voice, the guard informed me I should have to go into another carriage at the first stop, which was "Q."

We passed one station, and near "B" station was a very large lever marked "P," and worked by machinery. I asked the guard, who seemed rather glad to break the silence, the use of the lever. "Well, in this company the latest method of transportation is used, called 'projection.' There are four stations in the "Harmonic Range," namely, "A," "B," "Q," and "P," and these stations are so placed that the distance between "A" and "P" is to the distance between "P" and "B" as the distance between "A" and "Q" is to the distance between "Q" and "B." "Well," he continued, "if you thoroughly understand that point, you will see that if "P" is midway between "A" and "B," "Q" will move to Infinity." "But," said I, "what about the lever?" "Just wait till we get to 'Q,'" said the guard.

It was not long before we arrived at "Q." "P" was notified of our arrival, the machinery started, and "P" moved to the middle of "A" and "B," while our train moved with increased velocity with "Q" to "Infinity."

This idea of travelling by "projection" was marvellous. I only heard as in a dream the guard telling me to catch the "minus" train in the afternoon, and meanwhile to have a look round "Infinity." There I went into the street, and looking about saw the footpaths met at a point, but when I looked down, the street gradually widened. A teacher remarked that all parallels met at "Infinity," so this explained the streets meeting at a point.

Guides were stationed along the streets like shoeblacks in Sydney, so I thought I might as well engage one and enjoy everything. The guide thought it would be best to take a walk out of the city. A few miles out I saw a snake-like column approaching. It advanced by leaps and bounds. As it came nearer I saw it was a string of figures. It then dawned on the guide that it was the "National Debt," which he had been informed was approaching "Infinity." Soon after another string of figures came in sight. A boy holding a banner represented the figure seven. Inscribed on the banner was "3A Results at Leaving Certificate." I was so astonished that I collapsed. The guide got a carriage from "Trigonometry," and I did not revive till I reached "Infinity."

The guide charged an exorbitant price, which approached "Infinity." The "minus" journey was a repetition of the "plus."

My school teacher seemed particularly surprised at the infinite knowledge I possessed about "Infinity." Round trips make one rather giddy. I do not think I will go again; the adventures were too exciting.

Reminiscences.

We have been looking at some old "Novocastrians." They are only six or seven years old, but that is a fair time for this comparatively youthful journal.

In 1913 our first XV. defeated Maitland twice, drew once, and lost once. The second team defeated Maitland Seconds four times, but lost to a combined first and second team.

The Soccer A team had not been defeated when the Magazine was printed.

Our tennis reps. were beaten in three matches, and the baseball team, playing Sydney High, lost by 12-8.

Girls' sports were not very active. The most interesting point noticed is the putting of a lock on their sports press, as a protection against the boys.

The sports subscription then was 7/6 per annum.

In the University letter, Nell Braye and M. Henson are mentioned as figuring in a masque at the Women's College, and the latter and Doris Raysmith were in a debate against the graduates.

In a school debate, the Government carried a motion that "man is intellectually superior to woman." The audacious champions of this view were Messrs. D. Howard, G. Scott, J. Watt, A. Hogan, and Hilda Fleming (traitress). The opposition consisted of Florrie Nancarrow, V. Walker, and N. Goldsworthy.

In the number for December, 1913, we find an Editorial calling for a school song. The first XI. had been defeated by Maitland in three matches, but the seconds had won three times out of four. The girls, at tennis, had twice lost to West Maitland.

There are contributions by Basil Helmore ("The Socialist City"), and Charles Pettinger (an adventure story), and a "parable" beginning "Once there were three examiners; a big examiner, a middle-sized examiner, and a small examiner."

There had been a "test match" between school and staff. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Hayes did well for the staff, but there were too many passengers in the team, the boys winning by six wickets and 100 runs. Dick Howard got 64, L. Chippendall 55, Rushton 41, C. Scott 42, Matt. Downie 50. The staff bowling must have been weak.

We must raise a team like that for next season.

THE BELL-RINGER'S SONG.

(BY E.C.)

The hours I've spent with thee, dear heart,
Are as a string of pearls to me;
I count ten strokes ere I depart—
What melody, what melody!

When other scholars stamp their feet,
To drown thy clapper when it swings,
I stand and hear thy music sweet,
What joy it brings, what joy it brings!

The Latin classes wail and pine,
To hear thy jangling, so they say;
What though thy noise bechills the spine,
With thee I'll stay, with thee I'll stay.

School Notes.

The Lower School seems to have found much amusement lately in kicking the football over the bottom playground wall, and worrying the Seniors by doing so.

Tune: "Three Blind Mice."
 We must fag;
 We must fag.
 We'd rather not;
 We'd rather not.
 Fagging's a thing that all of us hate,
 But we've left our work so horribly late;
 We'll be left at the Leaving Certificate,
 Unless we fag.

RA are thinking of buying gas masks.

Class libraries have been started by RA, RB, and IAC. Each pupil contributes a book, and borrows the others. In some cases the books are lent only until Christmas. Other classes might well follow this good example.

Those whose ambitions are directed towards the Steel Works should note the item about Leo Kelly in the ex-pupils' notes.

Mr. Mutch, Minister for Education, recently received a deputation of two school boys from Cleveland-street Intermediate. They had come to complain of homework. The Minister complimented them on the case they made, and said he was very glad to hear their views. In that case, he should receive a deputation from the pupils of this school on the subject of a new building. The adults failed to convince him; perhaps the youngsters might succeed. We have received many communications on the subject. We thank our contributors, but fear it is useless to print their hopes and complaints.

There is a would-be monopolist of rulers in RA.

It was a Fourth Year girl who wrote of "floury language." We hope she digests all she reads.

We congratulate RA upon having a receptacle for chalk. Other classes might well do the same.

We congratulate the newly-created Prefects, and the lucky few who have been awarded sports badges. The wisdom of the committee in allotting so few badges will make these really worth having.

It is hoped that the High School Song Book will appear shortly. The price will be 6d, and everyone is expected to have that much saved.

At Christmas, we regretfully said good-bye to Miss BATTY, now at Orange High, and Miss LONG, who has gone to Sydney Girls'. Mr. HAMMOND has been appointed Headmaster at Broken Hill, and has taken Hal with him. Miss BREWIN, granted a year's leave, is visiting England; and Mr. DIVE has given up teaching to go to the Medical School at the University. We offer a rather belated welcome to Miss MARTIN, Miss SEGAERT, Mr. FRASER, Mr. HEMELEERS and Mr. MEARNES, and our congratulations to Mr. NAIRN on his appointment as Deputy Headmaster.

In the Leaving Certificate, December, 1919, we sent up 43 candidates, of whom 36 passed. The best results were: W. J. Cooksey (Hon. 2 Physics), Grace Dawson (Hon. 1 English, Hon. 2 History), T. Henery (Hon. 2 English and History), R. H. Jackson (Hon. 2 Physics), L. Kelly (Hon. 2 Mathematics), Rene Saxby (Hon. 2 English and French), A. D. Tyler (Hon. 1 Mathematics), Beryl Weatherall (Hon. 2 English). In the Intermediate we passed 43 out of 50 candidates. The best passes were those of R. H. Brooks, R. J. Cochrane, Janie Davies, Lizzie Dickenson, Marie Foy, H. C. Frith, Alma Gray, G. R. Johnston, Mary Tingle, Ethel Wallbank and H. J. Williams.

The Librarian wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the receipt of £1/1/-, contributed by some of the successful Intermediate candidates, at the rate of 1/- per A. We wish one of them had given us 10% of her winnings instead.

The generosity of the Department has resulted in a considerable accession of new Library books. These range from abridgements of Dickens and other writers, suitable to the younger pupils, to really solid and serious tomes, such as Fourth Year revel in. Most of them are English Classics, including several volumes of Chaucer and going up to the moderns, such as Masefield, W. B. Yeats and Galsworthy; but besides these there are some attractive travel and history books, both big and little. The Library should now be a valuable help to all pupils, and they can add to its usefulness by showing greater care. Books should be handled delicately; bendings are easily broken. Books are very expensive; the Sports Union's slender funds cannot pay for many. We have followed the policy of allowing pupils themselves to take books from the shelves for inspection, but so much untidyness has been the result, that we have been compelled to cancel that rule.

The Cadet Corps provided a guard of honor on the arrival of General Birdwood at Newcastle Railway Station. The Naval Cadets in the afternoon lined up at the steps on his departure from the School.

Typewriter Statement of Account

TO JUNE 30th, 1920.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash on hand 31/12/19	...	19 19 10	Reading Books	...	0 10 6
Subscriptions to 30/6/20	...	14 13 0	Paper	...	3 2 6
			Ribbons	...	0 19 0
			Commercial Encyclopaedia	...	2 0 3
			Overhaul of Typewriters	...	10 10 0
			Petty Cash	...	0 1 10
			Cash on hand	...	17 8 9
		£34 12 10			£34 12 10

The Social given to the Taree Team.

In spite of the rainy weather, Taree football team arrived in Newcastle on 3rd July, and in the evening were conducted to Mr. Watt's School Hall, where a social had been arranged by Miss Johnson, Miss Whiteoak and 3rd and 4th year girls. Twos and threes, musical arms, Jolly Miller and winks started the evening, and much merriment was caused by the game of "presents" introduced by Miss Whiteoak. But is it fair to give anyone a Ford car and tell him to start it?

During the evening, Miss Whiteoak sang and Kitty Bowie and Madge Stevenson recited, while one of the Taree team, C. Trotter, also gave a recitation. The competition which was ably judged by Miss Blacklock and Mr. Henderson was a great success. The lucky winners were L. Hinsaar, A. Gray, J. Turk and R. Cochrane. Handsome old gold trophies were awarded to these four.

Supper was handed round by the girls and after this item Mr. Drake's select choir rendered (or attempted to render) "Yankee Doodle went to town." At the finish of "The Grand old Duke of York," Mr. Saxby expressed the pleasure that we all felt at having the visitors in Newcastle, and the hope that the gathering would be followed by more of like character. He also took the opportunity of asking the boys who had entertained the team at their homes, to convey to their parents the thanks of the school. Mr. Drake expressed his gratitude for the hospitality shown to the visiting team and complimented the team on their sportsmanlike play.

The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" was followed by cheers of Taree, for Newcastle, and for Mr. Saxby, then the gathering dispersed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Ex-Pupils' Social.

On May 29th, Fourth Year gave a social to the ex-students in the Parish Hall. A large crowd was present and the fun began with the ever popular "Jolly Miller." Then a game of "fictitious personages" was played and it was amusing to see Queen Boadicea sweetly smiling up at Fatty Arbuckle. Some of the names were curiously appropriate, e.g., that of "Long-fellow" for Mr. John Dick. Mr. Frank Brown won the prize, an exact replica of the self same animal that frightened Miss Muffet away. During an interval of rest, Enid Wilson sang a very sweet little song, and Dora Toll gave two musical monologues, "Plumstones" and "Ef yo' Like," and W. Parker played on his violin.

"Winks," "Twos and Threes" and a riotous game of "Musical Arms" followed. Miss Whiteoak had thought out a clever game connected with the railroad towns of New South Wales and those of the classical side saw, with no small delight, that the geography people were quite as puzzled as themselves.

Then a mixed relay race between present and ex-pupils was run off, and even though the ex-pupils looked dignified and wore their hair up, they had not forgotten how to run and won after a close finish. The evening concluded with "Auld Lang Syne," "God Save the King" and three cheers for the School, Hip, hip hurrah.

Ex-Pupils.

DICKY BERNARD is now a partner in a land and estate agency at Roseville, Sydney.

CLIFF LUSK passed in the final accountancy exam. lately.

STELLA ROBIN is teaching near Seaham; RUTH SAUNDERS at West Kempsey, MARY FAIRLESS at Forbes, and MAY BURT at Stockton.

In the University exams. last Christmas, ex-Novocastrians were fairly prominent. HAROLD SWEETAPPLE and CLARENCE PERCY were high in their year in medicine; K. GOLLAN and STAN CARVER in Economics, while DORIS CHADWICK gained English honours and a prize; MAGGIE BUXTON and GRACE COWELL gained credit for Maths at Xmas, but did not face the March exam. This list is given E. & O.E., as the commercial classes say; we apologise to those forgotten.

STAN CARVER has been transferred from the Education Office to the Statistician's Department.

BEN WILCOX, once of the famous 2D, is now a clerk in the Education Department Head Office. Other members of that happy little community were RAY ELKIN, now in his father's auctioneer's business at Raymond Terrace; WILL MASKELL, safe and sound back from the front, and looking rather healthy on it; and some more, who though lost to sight are still to memory clear. Well we remember a Latin exam. in which the best of them got 27, and five at the other end got 0. Those were the days!

LEO KELLY has had two years deducted from his term of apprenticeship at the Steel Works, on account of the mathematics honours he gained in the L.C.

GLADYS CORRIGAN passed the Matriculation Exam. in March, and is now at the University.

REG. ASQUITH is now at the Steel Works, where we have quite a colony of ex-N's.

ERNEST DEED is 5th officer on R.M.S. "Indarra," and at the time of writing was on his way to England. A. DEED has just returned from New Zealand on the barque "White Pine."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

N.T.S.—"Porkie" too long, and we have already had something like it. "A Dreaded Trudge" not new enough.

Rem. A., and many others.—Too much like a form report.

J.Y.—We much prefer your fiction to your descriptive article. Keep to the former.

L.S.—Short and amusing—the sort we print.

E.C.—"Pickles" not of school interest. Your metre is very fair, but the style is rather slangy. We print the other with title translated for sake of First Year.

Cardboard.—"Westy Train" not bad, but too long.

"Hopeful" and others.—The "New High School" is too melancholy a subject. Also, it has been discussed enough.

A.E.B.—Too sarcastic.

W.P.—Nightmares caused by Latin are too common to be worth printing.

Rem. A Girl.—Too much like a class essay.

Pycartman.—Some amusing details, but as a whole rather obscure, and a little too long.

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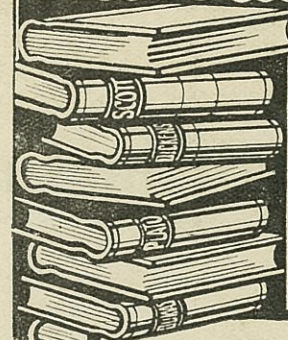
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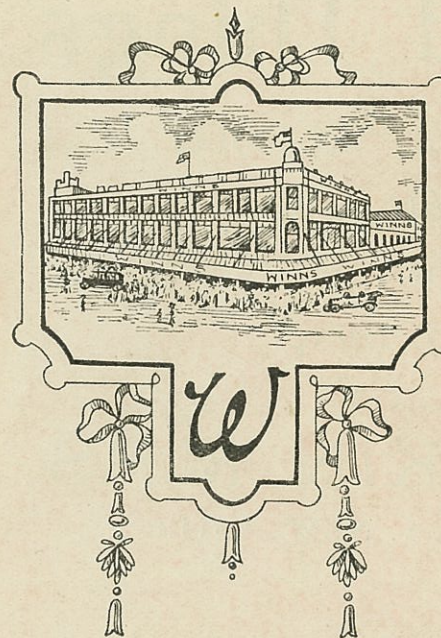
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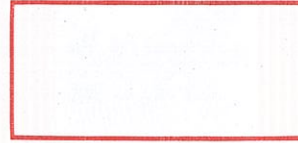
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