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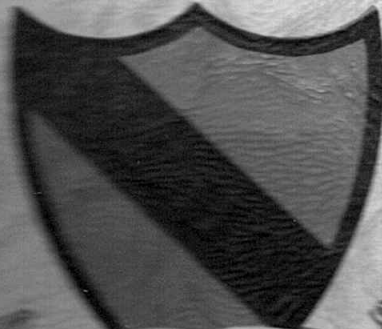
Our Amazing ...

**MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**  
**Works Like This**

When you go BACK home, we GUARANTEE to keep your MONEY here! But, the converse is not necessarily true. Q.E.D.

NUMBER 40  
OCTOBER, 1930

THE  
NOVOCASTRIAN



PREMIER VELISQUE

*And I looked, and  
behold, there was a  
building builded, and  
a large place shewed  
itself from the found-  
ations, and I cried out  
with a loud voice—  
Esdras*

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## *Boys*=====!

### The Value of Accountancy and Mercantile Law!

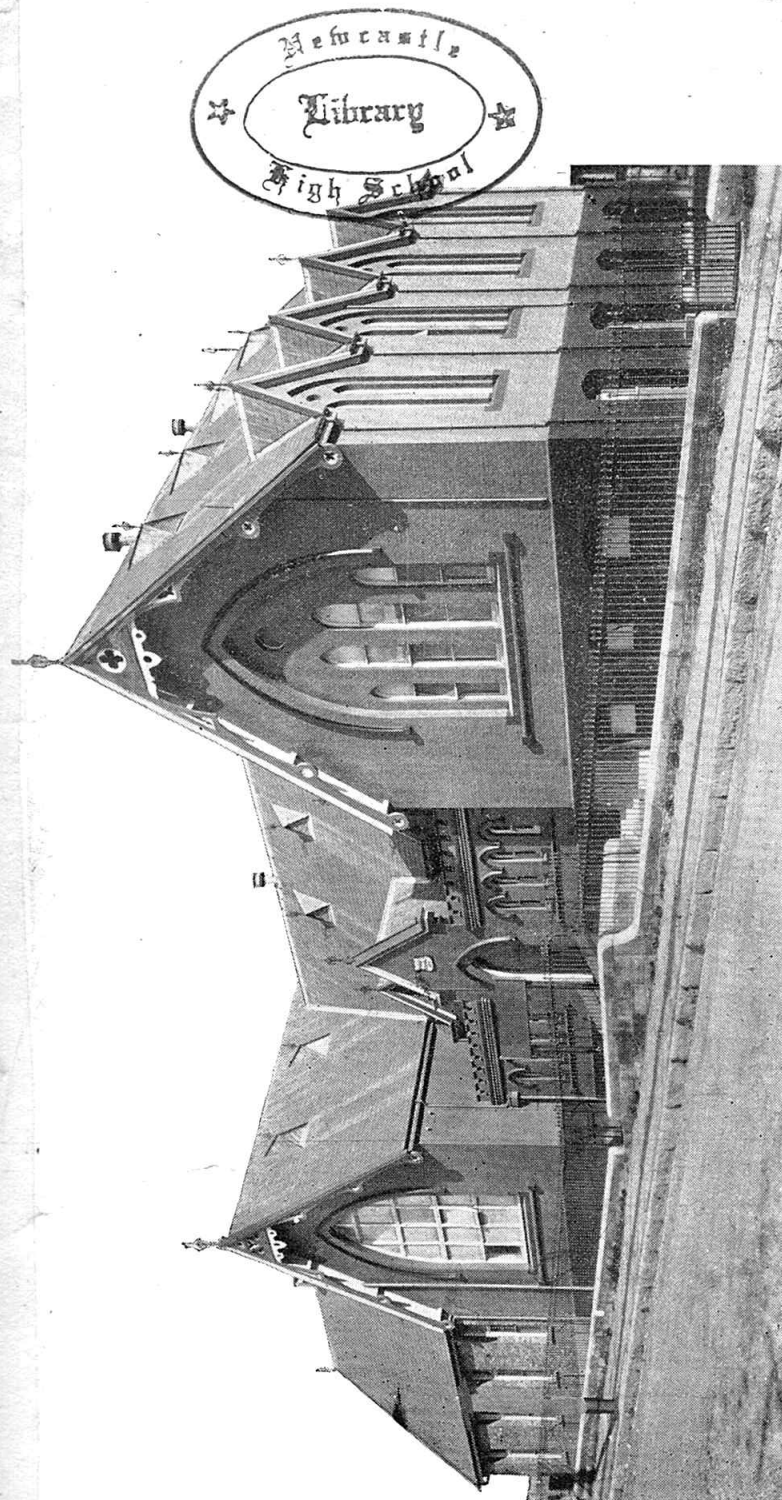
An outstanding question facing the attention of the standing committee is that of unemployment. The drastic curtailment of loan expenditure by the Commonwealth and States by reason of the closing of the external market to further borrowing is bound to throw many out of work. These troublous times we are experiencing affect you. Unemployment is rife and retrenchment is met wherever you go. Economists cry out for increased production and greater efficiency. It is obvious to the thinking man, that the travelling public has every right to be allowed its representatives on the Board of General Purposes, despite what has been said in the press of recent months. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has as yet made no statement on the subject, meanwhile the taxpayer finds his budget steadily increasing. The influence of the world parity upon Australian exports, the national expenditure on the Eastern trade, and the reduction of interest on the War Loan, all have their part in calling forth the emphatic assurance from the Acting Prime Minister following the Melbourne Conference, that the Commonwealth would honour its agreement to prevent any financial drift. This of course is direct encouragement to the left wing to attempt to frustrate the policy of the advisory committee. The State authorities have made no move except to admit that opium is a drug on the market. The olive branch of the Locarno Treaty has been flourished, and the Parisians welcomed the Graf Zeppelin when it flew around the Eiffel Tower. Meanwhile the value of the franc and the market is gradually falling, clear evidence of the need for support from the League of Nations.

## Newcastle Business College

:: Limited ::

1 Telford Street, Newcastle

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NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL, TYRREL STREET

Photo by courtesy Howard Harris Studios.

## Newcastle High School Song

(Tune: "D'ye Ken John Peel?")

—◆◆◆—  
D'ye ken the school on the hill so high,  
Bravely facing the winds and the sky,  
While the waves sing their song to the beaches nigh,  
As the bell goes for school in the morning.

Chorus :

Yes, when we are gone, in the years far ahead,  
When the last game's played, and the last lesson said,  
The name of the school will awake from the dead  
The memories of many a morning.

(Chorus)

Remis Velisque's the motto for all,  
And our hearts yet again will hear it call  
When the muscles are stiff that once toed the ball,  
Or climbed up the hill in the morning.

(Chorus)

—R. G. HENDERSON.

## The School Staff

R. F. HARVEY, B.A., Headmaster.

W. M. NOAKES, M.A., Deputy Headmaster.

Department of English :

W. M. Noakes, M.A. (Master)

F. Fitzpatrick, B.A.

G. L. Reid.

E. Ford, B.A.

A. Waterer, B.A.

H. D. Kevans, B.A.

H. P. McCaffery, B.A.

Department of Classics :

J. W. Gibbes, B.A. (Master)

F. Moroney, B.A.

J. Woolf, B.A.

Department of Modern Languages :

J. Gibson, M.A. (Master)

W. H. Judd, B.A.

A. F. Henry, B.A.

R. H. Motte, B.L., D.A., Ph.

Department of Mathematics :

R. A. Golding, B.A. (Master)

A. Aitken, B.Sc.

H. Jurd, B.Sc.

C. Black, B.Sc.

V. H. Walker, B.A.

R. J. Gillings, B.Sc.

H. P. McCaffery, B.A.

Department of Science :

J. P. Austin, M.C., B.Sc. (Master).

T. R. Mason, B.Sc.

W. H. Roberts, B.Sc.

Department of Economics :

C. E. Brown (Master)

## School Prefects

A. Bishop (captain), G. A. Atkins, H. Bennett, T. Brown, H. Dalziel, A. Davies, H. Eddy, M. Edgar, L. Hannell, J. Seale, T. Penny, J. Penny, E. Walters, D. Peate, E. Mulvihill.

The Journal of the Newcastle Boys' High School

Editor: J. W. GIBBES, B.A.; Advertising Editor: R. J. GILLINGS, B.Sc.  
Business Managers: E. ADDERLEY, G. McCARTHY.

OCTOBER, 1930



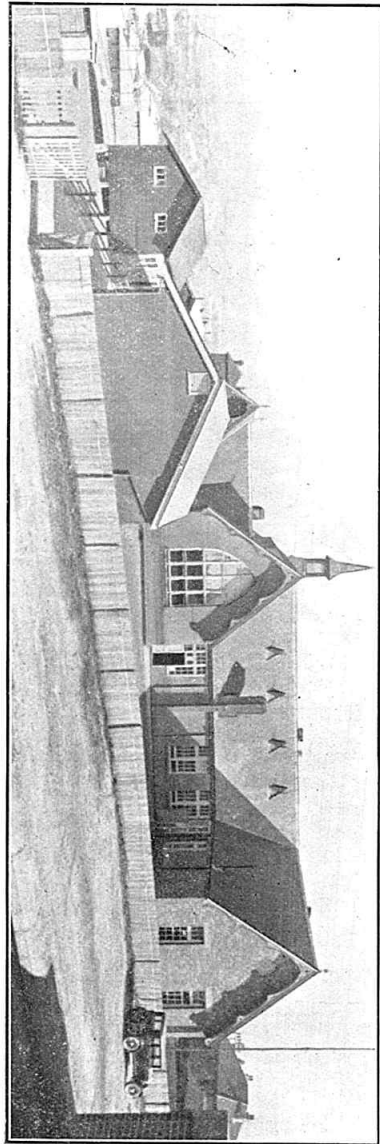
## MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT OUR HIGH SCHOOLS

AT the present moment there appear to be some serious misconceptions in the public mind about our High Schools.

There is a belief that those only who intend entering the professions should follow the fourth and fifth year courses. Others again object to the High School course, as not being practical enough. Still more consider that fees should be charged in High Schools and that it is a lavish waste of public money to maintain them as free schools. The small number who complete the course in comparison with the number who begin, justifies, it is asserted, a charge being made. Many other adverse criticisms are brought forward, most of them apparently by people who strongly resent the intrusion of the masses into the preserves of the privileged classes.

The purpose of High School education is to afford a good sound general education to the youth of this State. Our schools do not specially prepare students for the professions. Many a parent in country towns has given his son an education to the Leaving Certificate and then put him into his business, or on to his farm. His wider outlook, sense of proportion and trained mind are the things that matter. The High School's function is to teach boys to think and give them greater power of adjustment.

Lest it be thought that far too large a proportion of the youth of the State are enrolled at the free High School, it might be fitting to state that, of the total school population, only 3.3 per cent.



A VIEW OF THE SCHOOL FROM THE EAST

in 1928, were enrolled in free High Schools; if Intermediate High and District Schools be included, the percentage was 6. Would anyone consider this excessive, particularly when it is recollected that in the United States, the percentage of young people attending High Schools is about 53? Nor can there be any justification in asserting that the professions are overcrowded by the advent of High School students to the University. In 1928, according to the report of the Minister for Education, of occupations taken up by boys at the termination of their studies in free High Schools, only 8.4 per cent. entered professions, including the profession of teaching.

In view of what has been said about the wastage of attendance in High Schools, it is interesting to record figures on this head relating to our own school. Early in 1928 there were 84 boys enrolled in the first year classes. To-day, nearly 3 years afterwards, there are 60 of these lads in attendance. Of the 24 who are missing, 7 were transferred to other schools owing to the removal of their parents from the district. Of the remaining 17, five left on the suggestion of the headmaster, owing to the impossibility of their carrying on the course through poor mental endowment. Twelve lads went to work. The wastage in attendance during the first three years of the course therefore, was about 20 per cent. It should be remembered too, that, during this period the mines were idle for 15 months. If the wastage for three years amounts to only 20 per cent. in an industrial centre like Newcastle, it must be far less in other centres. These figures should demonstrate that some current beliefs about our High Schools are very misleading.

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## TRUE VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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So many parents and citizens are apt at the present time to consider the value of an education by the direct use to which it can be put, that stress must necessarily be laid on the real meaning of training for vocation. We are accustomed to be told that certain subjects are of "no use." Why should a possible bank clerk be bothered with Latin or an accountant with woodwork? "It will never be any good to him," is often as false in prophecy as it is short-sighted in policy. Education should have a "practical bias," is another of those stereotyped expressions frequently heard, and it indicates how much easier it is to quote than to think. Perhaps the future bus boy will study phonetics. If the future dairyman, however, were set problems on the chemistry of lime-clouded water, the bias might get on the wrong side, and the result would be unfortunate. Future sailors might easily be taught rope climbing; and

if "vocational bias" were extended to more advanced forms of education, medical students might attend preliminary inquests. The old notion that a child should be so trained as to have the fullest and most complete possession of its faculties, in order to rise in efficiency, to gain larger rewards and to render more complete service, is giving away to the new notion that it is quite enough if a child is trained in some aptitude to enable it to stay where it first finds itself.

The result is certain to be retrogression. If vocational training is carried to its logical outcome it will mean a static social order and a stratified one. Individual initiative and individual opportunity will come to an end, and it will not be difficult to foretell what the results will be to social order and comfort. The basis of true vocational training is a thorough knowledge of a few things, and in gaining such knowledge, there will be formed those habits of mind and of will which will fit the individual to meet new duties and unforeseen emergencies.

At the bottom of the educational process lies discipline, and the purpose of discipline is to develop the power of self discipline. The characteristics of the truly educated and disciplined man are a patience to be thorough, a concentration to understand, and a persistence to grasp and apply. These three traits are precisely those that are nowadays most overlooked or neglected.

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## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

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[In these days when the classics are attacked on the ground that they have no practical value, the following passage from Thucydides, illustrating the after effects of war, is not uninteresting.]

**M**ANY calamitous events befall states through faction—things which have been and ever will be, while human nature continues unaltered, but more extreme or milder according to circumstances, for in seasons of peace and prosperity, both states and individuals are more equably disposed. War, however, by withdrawing the means for the supply of men's daily wants, is an imperious dictator and assimilates their dispositions to circumstances.

Thus then, the Greek States were agitated by factions. They changed at their pleasure the accustomed connotation of words. A rash headlong daring was called devoted courage; provident delay, specious cowardice; prudence, a cloak for pusillanimity and the use of wisdom in any matter was being sluggish in everything. An uncontrollably passionate spirit was thought manliness; the furious and violent was regarded as dependable and the man who withstood him was suspect. The man who plotted knavery was, if successful, ac-

counted clever and he that suspected and outwitted him was esteemed as yet more shrewd; but he who used prudence and forethought was a traitor and a craven.

Relationship was accounted as a slighter tie than factious association, for such combinations were not made to promote the common good according to the existing laws, but for unjust gain contrary to them, and pledges of faith were confirmed by community in crime. Oaths continued in force until an opportunity to break them was offered, and it was the sweetest pleasure to attack an opponent who was lulled in security, partly as being the safer course, partly as giving a reputation for dexterity, for the majority of men prefer to be called clever rogues, rather than honest fools.

The source of all this was the lust for power inspired by avarice and ambition which hurried men to contentious rivalry. Those in authority courted the public, each party with a specious name, professing themselves maintainers of "political equality of rights and privileges in the people," or of a "moderate aristocracy," and yet they made the public the prize of their contention. Neither party were influenced in their conduct by any regard for religion, and those who accomplished anything memorable by the plausibility of their words were most esteemed. The moderate part of the citizens were the common victims of both.

Thus, by faction, every species of wickedness was set on foot, and simple honest-heartedness was laughed down; to be ranged against each other with mutual distrust was regarded as the best course. Persons of meaner intellect had, for the most part, the best success.

—Thucydides, Bk. III, Caps. 82 and 83.

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#### AUSTRALIAN POETRY IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19th CENTURY.

The persistent note of failure and death sounds incongruous in the poetry of a young nation, which usually prefers to dwell on its successful progress, rather than on more melancholy scenes; although there are failures enough and to spare, even among the successes of youth, just as there is many a wave on the incoming tide which fails to touch the beach. But Australian literature gained not a little in depth from its absorption in the sombre aspects of existence; and if it is advanced as an objection against the Australian poetry of this period that it, sometimes exaggerated the gloom and solitude of station life, it must be remembered that there was a very large amount of truth in its pictures of stoic endurance and quiet fortitude borne too often without reward.

—A. WYATT TILBY (in English People Overseas—Australasia).

## EDITORIAL NOTES

The contributions submitted for publication in this issue show a distinct falling off in quantity, but, happily, a corresponding improvement in quality which has made my work much easier than formerly. The higher standard of work generally is due to the fact that there has been a marked increase in the number of Fourth and Fifth Year contributors. This is something to be grateful for and much credit is due to Brock and Montgomery who have worked hard to secure contributions and to ensure the success of this issue.

As a consequence, no doubt, of inspiration afforded by the two short stories published in the last issue, a considerable number of these were sent in, three of which have been included. Two of those rejected were so good that I should have been only too glad to have printed them in any previous issue, but on this occasion, with so many examples of the form submitted, I was forced to exclude them.

Parks' story, "The Church Clock," shows distinct promise, but it fails to grip as it should, owing to inadequate realisation and expression. His villagers in the bar are better than his emotional congregation in the church. Further, his dialect is no doubt good, but it rather loses point when one considers the readers to whom it is supposed to appeal.

"The Death of the Count" began excellently but is ruined by the tameness of the conclusion. Of the stories accepted, "All at Sea" is not uninteresting, though one cannot help thinking that the sound of voices and trampling on deck are poor evidences of the fact that a vessel has left port and that there would be other and far more convincing proofs. Also one is rather surprised at the ease with which the two tramps succeeded in getting unquestioned aboard a ship which was due to sail in a few hours. The story is an imitation of Jacobs, and a very good imitation, too; also Jacobs' is by no means a bad model, but why anyone should wish to copy out one of his poorer effusions, with no alteration except a few errors in spelling and then submit it for publication is a mystery to me.

This amusing plagiarist was sufficiently prudent not to sign his name.

McCarthy sent in two extravaganzas, one in prose and the other in verse. Both belong to the "might have been" class and, though quite good enough for the magazine, should have been much better. This applies particularly to "Matters Zoographical" which a little pruning and polishing would have improved immensely. Most interesting is an article on examination in English by O.R.M., though I am inclined to think that he has personally but little to complain of, for his powers of thought and expression are well above the general standard of Fifth Year, which he has not yet reached. Quite apart, however, from the intrinsic merit of his work, he has broken new ground in that he has given us a discussion of a literary subject in which he is

genuinely interested, and I hope that the example set will be followed by others. O.R.M. writes with gusto and consequently his work is pleasurable to read, even when one disagrees with him. What an indispensable ingredient this is in literary work is plainly discernible in Riddell's sketch of Sports' Day, and in the work of McCarthy and R.J.G.

The verse section is still weak, but considerably improved, thanks to two sonnets by Bishop. Unfortunately much of the verse contributed was utter rubbish and much more was plagiarised.

"Erratic 'Erbie's Ghost" justified its title, for it had hardly the ghost of meaning and an exceedingly erratic metrical system.

"And I know what I am talking of so don't laugh so fast,  
 "He took a flying kick at him and broke the nuzzen mast;  
 "Full five more times he was undoubtedly killed,  
 "Till his thirst for adventure was thoroughly stilled."

The proud cricketer contains the following :

"Oh, the buzzing wail of the flying bail,  
 "And the green on the bowler's lips."

The bowler was a grass-fed, we presume.

A verse translation from the French by Stocks of 1C narrowly missed, and he should persevere. Arthur Lloyd submitted three poems, all of which showed considerable promise, though I was unable to publish any of them. Still he can write verse which will scan and rhyme, and has certain description power. If he continues to practise, he should be writing good verse next year.

O.R.M. submitted two fairly long poems, one in decasyllabic quatrains and the other in eights and sixes. Both of these just missed, owing to infelicities of expression. "Lounging by the Shore at Eve," is not worthy of such a mournful muse, as is O.R.M.'s. He has been influenced by Keats naturally enough for that poet died before he threw off the measles of adolescence, but despite his greatness, Keats is not a good model for youngsters. His failings in taste and infelicities of expression are so numerous that there is hardly a poem of his of any length which is not marred by one or more.

His beauties are unattainable, except by a great poet and his deformities are catching.

Young poets naturally labour under three disabilities, a tendency to a morbid unhealthiness of imagination, a disposition to indulge in redundant verbiage and lack of literary craftsmanship. Keats is hardly the model to act as a corrective and, as I suppose the imaginative disease must be fed, all that can be done is to suggest models who may help to remedy the other two defects. Byron's terseness, verve, vigour of expression are entirely admirable, and Swinburne, though prolix, is a great literary craftsman, so, if Chaucer and Dryden

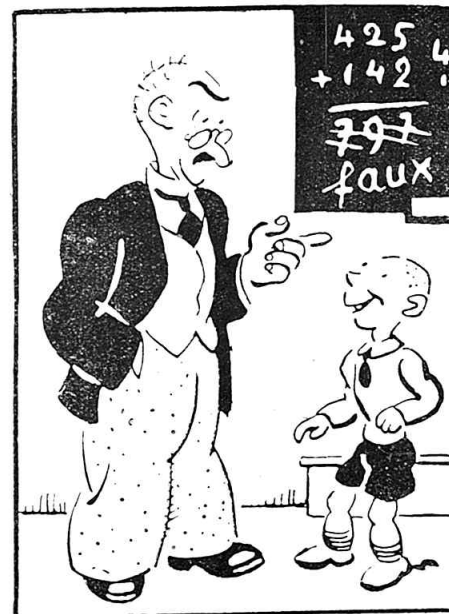
prove too solid a diet and the wine of Shelley too heady, fall back on these sweets which, if indigestible, are not poisonous.

Do our students ever read the lyrics of the late 17th and early 18th centuries ?

Our artistic contributors are markedly inartistic.

Of essays in descriptive prose, only one was received of any merit, "The Storm," by B.Y., which after much consideration was rejected largely on the probably inadequate ground that a similar effort on the same subject appeared in the magazine three years ago.

The Editor is subjected to much unnecessary inconvenience owing to the fact that contributions are frequently written on both sides of the paper, and that many are so ill-written as to be almost illegible. At least two-thirds had to be recopied before they could be sent to the printer.



Savez-vous, Toto, pourquoi la mer Caspienne ne peut communiquer avec une autre mer ?

C'est sans doute parce que son téléphone est détraqué !

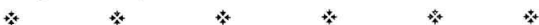


# School News

THE Annual Sports' Day was Thursday, 28th August. On this occasion, for the first time in the school's existence, the girls were not with us. A number of them, however, graced the Sports Ground by their presence as onlookers during the afternoon. When presenting the cups to the winners, Mr. Harvey commented on the drab appearance of the ground in comparison with that of the preceding year when the coloured costumes of the girls had an enlivening effect.



It is with very great regret we have to report that the Department of Education has withdrawn the subsidy of £50 paid annually to the Newcastle City Council for the use of No. 1 Sports Ground, National Park and Empire Park, for each school Wednesday of the year.



The school's difficulties have increased in the matter of providing sports grounds for the coming season, as the Council at Waratah have now asked for a batting fee of 6d instead of 3d as heretofore, for the turf wicket on the oval. In addition, a charge is made for each of the bare concrete pitches in the park surrounding the oval. Moreover, a charge is now to be made for the use of Empire Park when it is available.

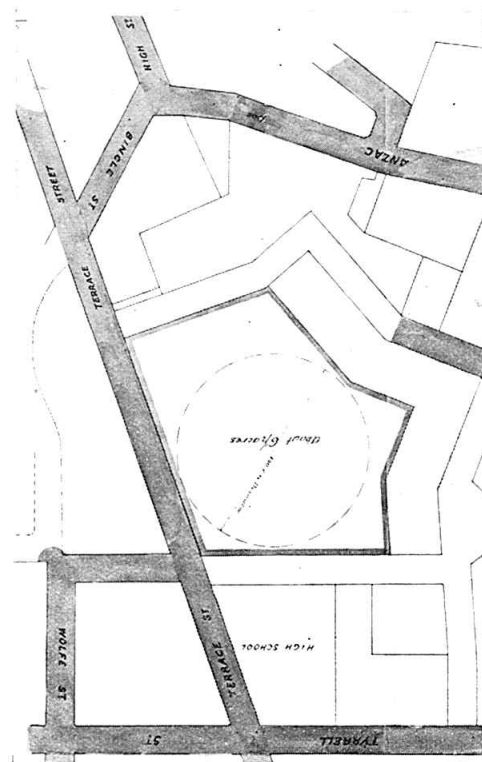
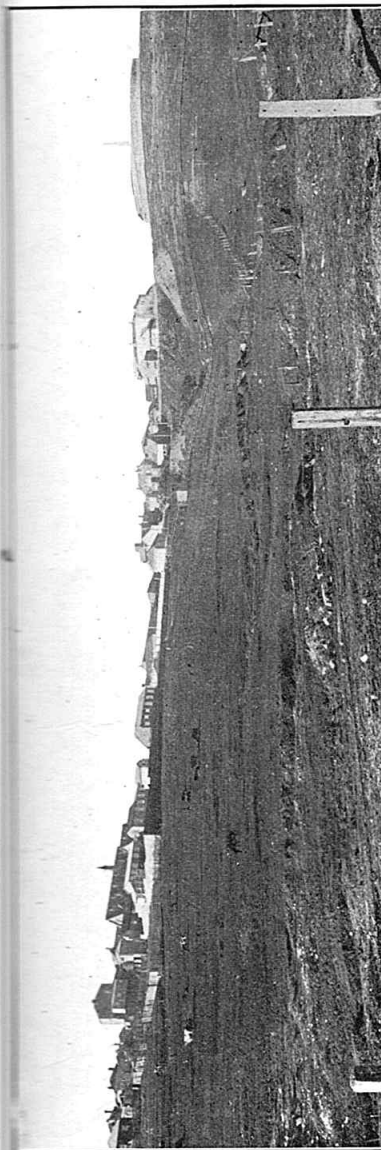


Owing to the enthusiasm for cricket at present being displayed, the school has a larger number of players than ever, many being desirous of abandoning swimming for cricket. In view of the extreme difficulty of providing sufficient playing areas, it is quite likely that sport will be indulged in only on alternate Wednesdays, one half the school participating each week, while the remaining half continues its studies. There are some difficulties in the way, however. It is devoutly to be wished that the Parents and Citizens' Association, the Newcastle Cricket Association and the various Municipal Councils will come to our assistance and thus help to encourage the nation's summer game.



The amphitheatre at the rear of the school could be made into an excellent oval if sufficient money were available. There are  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres and the owners are the Australian Agricultural Company. It is estimated that the value of this area is in the neighbourhood of £2400, and it would take at least another £3000 to put a drain through the centre and fill it from the sides of the hill. But what a playing area it would make! An oval 150 yards in diameter! Here is an opportunity for someone to perpetuate his name by helping to develop the young manhood of the district.

We publish a photograph, and also a sketch of this area in the present issue.



## A SCHOOL OVAL OF THE FUTURE ?

Showing the area at the back of the school. A par regarding the possibilities of the section marked with a circle in the plan will be found in the School News.



There does not appear to be any great likelihood of a new High School for boys being erected for some time to come. The "Head" has stated pessimistically that, were he to return to Newcastle 20 years hence, he would find the Boys' High School in the same old place. The pity of it is that public spirit in Newcastle is dead when the question of education is under consideration.

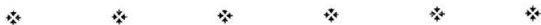


A few days ago we received an Annual, published by the Seniors of Castlemont High School, Oakland, California. This high school cost 670 thousand dollars and has accommodation for 1500 students. It was awarded the grand prize as being the most beautiful building of common brick construction in the United States. The school's auditorium has a seating capacity of 1800. The science suite of five rooms is equipped with tablet arm chairs, sliding boards, demonstration desks. The laboratory tables have alternating current. Here future electricians and inventors may learn through practical use the why and how of electricity. Side tables are provided with apalite plate glass and glass enclosed shelves. Acid proof albalene sinks are set in each of the laboratory tables. Contrast these science rooms with our own!



"The grounds, too, surrounding Castlemont High School are beautiful, both in design and keeping. Directly in front is a fishpond, narrow gravel paths wind in and about the extensive lawns; flowered beds, fountain and sunken gardens, daily growing more geogeous as masses of daffodils and tulips, poppies, iris, pansies and many other blooms burst forth."

Can you ever imagine the Newcastle Boys' High School resembling Castlemont High School, Oakland, California?



The lower playground of the school has been requisitioned recently on Sundays by tresspassers playing cricket on the concrete wicket. Cisterns in the outbuildings and windows have been broken. The matter has been reported to the police.



At the last half-yearly examinations, the following boys gained first place in their respective years: Fifth Year, Walter Kable; Fourth Year, Walter Bailey; Third Year, H. Jones; Second Year, Ralph Wilson, First Year, W. Fitts. The students who were enrolled in First Year in February last have not yet been graded. This grading will take place as a result of the Annual Examination in November next. By delaying the grading of these boys, there is little likelihood of a mistake being made when they enter upon the Second Year course. This practice was adopted last year, and as a result, 2A is one of the best classes in the school.

The Intermediate Certificate Examination begins at the High School on Wednesday, October 15th. There will be about 160 boys from various schools around Newcastle who will be candidates. After the Examination, students must return to school and attend regularly. On December 5th, returns of attendance have to be forwarded to the Education Department.



The Leaving Certificate Examination begins on Wednesday, November 19th. While we have some good students who are candidates, the majority appear to have wasted too much time in the earlier years. This is particularly so in the case of Latin and French. Much more ground should be covered during the first two years of the course. The unfortunate point is that too many of the bright boys are retarded in the first two years of the course by association with others who are unable to pick out a subordinate clause or the parts of speech in ordinary sentences. Matters will remain unsatisfactory until formal grammar is made compulsory at the Primary Final Examination.



The football season just closed has been possibly the best in the School's history. Never has such enthusiasm prevailed previously, nor more regular practice indulged in. A fine spirit of camaraderie has grown up between the staff and the boys. Much self-denying work has been done by the staff in training the lads this season; the result should be noticeable during the 1931 season.



The spirit of co-operation evidenced on the football field between staff and students has been reflected in class work. There never has been a better working spirit throughout the school.



The many photographs in this issue of the Novocastrian are the work of Mr. Tyndall, of Tyndall's Studio, Hunter Street West. While the blocks are expensive, they add value to the journal as a school record. Twenty years hence, students should look back on their school days with much interest.



Speech Night passed off very satisfactorily on the night of 7th May. The Newcastle Town Hall was filled to overflowing. Portion of the Headmaster's report is printed elsewhere in this issue.



Prizes were distributed from Mrs. Alice Chichester, The Newcastle Business College, Mr. Hepworth, The Old Novocastrians and Mr. J. Bridge of Maitland. Mrs. Chichester personally presented her beautiful volumes, representing the James and Elizabeth Meikle memorial prizes. The lady Mayoress (Mrs. Blackall) was kind enough to present all other prizes. The Mayor (Ald. T. Blackall) presided at the function.

Special attention should be directed to the advertisements in this issue. They are the work of Mr. Gillings, who has given up hours to his own time to their preparation. No effort has been spared to make them attractive. Mr. R. H. Stewart, Chemist, of Hunter Street, has presented a Kodak camera for competition. It will become the property of the student who succeeds in finding the largest number of spelling errors in the advertisements. What advertisement do you consider the most humorous?

We fully anticipate that attempts will be made to improve on our type of advertisement by other publications. The rivalry should do much in educating the public and the competitors.

At present, the number of students on the roll is 545. There are 149 students in First Year, 158 in Second Year, 99 in Third Year, 86 in Fourth Year and 53 in the Fifth Year or Leaving Certificate class. The school's accommodation has been fully taxed, despite the departure of the girls.

It has been decided by the Minister for Education (The Hon. D. H. Drummond), that all conveyance subsidies to students attending the school are to cease on 30/9/30. This applies also to the Maitland district.

Of the occupations taken up by boys at the termination of their studies at full High Schools in 1928, 8.4 per cent. entered professions, 8.3 per cent. entered the Public Service, 33.7 per cent. became clerks in Insurance Offices, Banks, etc, 9.3 per cent shop assistants, 19.2 per cent. took up pastoral or agricultural work and 6.9 per cent. became unskilled workers.

In 1928, the total sum spent in conveyance of students to High Schools and for boarding subsidies amounted to £3486, and the cost of providing books, apparatus, stationery and cleaning materials to all High Schools in the State amounted to £11,473. Books, apparatus, stationery, etc. cost £78,285 in Primary Schools, while the conveyance of pupils and boarding subsidies in these schools cost £52,688.

Of the 436 pupils who moved into unskilled work from the Secondary Schools (High, Intermediate and District) in 1928, 323 left in the First and Second years of the course.

With the constant creation of new High Schools during the past ten years, the question of school colours has become more and more complicated.

At the recent Combined High Schools' Sports Meeting, no less than

five schools ran in blue and gold, four in blue and red, and three in black and white. It is pleasing to learn that the P.S.A.A.A. has at length taken action and that all schools are expected to put in and substantiate their claims to their colours.

It is said that there are no less than seven High Schools whose colours are blue and red, our own among the number.

It has been suggested that the oldest school should be allowed to retain its colours, and that other schools should add another distinctive colour to the two already in use. This confusion of school colours indicates the more or less careless methods employed by schools in selecting colours, very little thought being given to the matter. This attitude is aggravated by the slight degree of permanence of the majority of the teaching staffs. Greater care and attention to this question of school colours and to other extra-curricular matters could reasonably be expected from more permanent staffs.

We publish in this magazine the staff and students of Newcastle High School as at November, 1906. Mr. C. R. Smith, M.A., opened the school in that year and his only assistant was Mr. T. T. Roberts. Mr. Smith is now living in retirement at Chatswood, and Mr. Roberts is senior lecturer in Education at the Sydney Teachers' College. The staff of the Boys and Girls' Schools now outnumber staff and students combined of the original school.

During last term, the school purchased the picture by Will Longstaff, "Menin Gate at Midnight." The assembled students listened with rapt attention to the moving address given by a returned soldier on this picture. It has been hung in the Library room.

It is rumoured that the Education Department proposes to build a Domestic Science School for Girls in Newcastle, costing £30,000, the money to be provided out of the Unemployed Relief Tax. This journal is at loss to understand why such a school should take precedence of the promised Boys' High School. The Parents and Citizens' Association are very much concerned at this latest proposal. Seeing that the Association was formed for the purpose of securing the removal of the school from the wretched dilapidated buildings at present in use, it is most likely that this body will take some action in the matter.

The Christmas holidays for 1930 begin on December 18th. The school will re-open on Tuesday, February 3rd, 1931.

The vacation periods for 1931 are as follow : From 19th Dec. 1930, to 2nd February, 1931; from May 15th, 1931, to June 1st, 1931; from September 4th, 1931, to September 14th, 1931.

\* \* \* \* \*

We publish in this issue a photograph of the new Library fittings. The new cabinets are now well filled and if additional cabinets are to be provided it is difficult to know where to place them.

\* \* \* \* \*

The school had a visit from Mr. W. J. Elliott, M.A., Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools on Wednesday, 3rd September.

\* \* \* \* \*

There have been no changes on the staff since the beginning of the year. This is very satisfactory.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some parents are concerned about a charge being made for the Intermediate and Leaving Certificate Examinations. No charge is to be made this year, however. If a charge were made it would help to pay for the conduct of the Examinations. Such fees too might be a contribution towards the cost of marking the papers. In 1928, the cost of marking the Intermediate, Leaving, Permit to Enrol, High School Entrance was £8544.

\* \* \* \* \*

The school, in conjunction with the Girls' High School, conducted a concert in the Central Hall on July 2nd. The proceeds were divided between the Central Methodist Mission and the O.B.U. of U. for the relief of distress in the district. The only expense incurred was the cost of a coil of wire (5d), and each of the abovementioned bodies received £39/10/0. Both boys and girls worked admirably. The sale of tickets among the various classes was very keen, the amounts collected being : 5A 37/-; 5B 24/-; 4A 41/-; 4B 35/-; 4C 40/-; 3A £3; 3B 37/-; 3AC 43/-; 2A 57/-; 2B 11/-; 2C 28/-; 2D 28/-; 2AC 27/-; 1AC —; 1C 51/-; 1B 53/-; 1A 31/-.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is intended to hold a "Play Day" before the close of the year.

\* \* \* \* \*

The thanks of the school are due to the P. & C. Association for having an extension of the telephone made to the staff room, and also for paying the charges for the last half-year. In addition, a grant of £10 was made by them for the purpose of entertaining visiting teams at lunch.

\* \* \* \* \*

When High School fees were imposed in 1923 by Mr. Bruntnell, then Minister for Education, the sum of £25,395 was received. The Minister then said that there were no decreases of a serious nature in the enrolments and that it was a debatable question whether any Secondary pupils were lost to the Department. The above sum of money was

to be devoted solely to meeting interest charges on the loans obtained to defray the cost of providing accommodation for the Primary School population.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. T. Ewing, of Union Bank Chambers, has presented the school library with a copy of Volume 1 of Frank Cash's book, "Parables of the Sydney Harbour Bridge." We offer the Doctor our thanks for the gift.

\* \* \* \* \*

The knowledge of French idiom of our students should be fully taxed in translating the French passages inserted between the advertisements.

\* \* \* \* \*

Many parents are asking what fees will be charged for enrolment at High Schools in 1931. They ask for information, also, about exemptions.

In the first case, no decision has ever been made that fees are to be charged in 1931.

The fee for tuition in High Schools was £2/2/- per quarter in 1923.

At that time the Government decided that the following pupils should be exempted from the payment of the fee :—

(a) Bursary holders; (b) Pupils attending Agricultural High Schools; (c) Pupils in excess of two attending at the same term from the same family; (d) Pupils whose parents' income did not exceed £260 per annum; (e) Pupils whose parents' income did not exceed £60 a year for each member of the household dependent on the income; (f) All pupils in attendance at Intermediate High Schools were exempt from the payment of fees.

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### LIBERTY.

Standing in his place in the Convention during the fateful spring of 1793, Robespierre pronounced this definition of liberty which is almost the best of its kind : " Liberty is the power which of right belongs to every man to use all his faculties as he may choose. Its rule is justice, its limits are the rights of others; its principles are drawn from Nature itself; its protector is the law."

Whatever judgment may be passed upon Robespierre's conduct, certainly his thought on this fundamental question of liberty was clear and sound.

## Extracts from Headmaster's Report

**T**HE gross enrolment for the year was 634. For the December quarter, the actual number on the roll was 552 (298 boys and 254 girls).

**Staff :** There were not many staff changes during the year. This was pleasing to record, as it was in striking contrast with other years. During the four years that I have occupied the position of headmaster there have been no fewer than six Deputy-Headmasters, four English masters, five Mathematical masters, four Science masters, four Modern Language masters and three lady Superintendents of the girls, not to mention numerous other changes among the assistant masters and mistresses. These changes on the staff were brought about mostly by promotions within the service, but their frequency cannot but have had a serious influence on the work of the school in addition to increasing my own work.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Examinations :** 79 students presented themselves for the Leaving Certificate and 56 passed. There were 16 honours gained and 4 of these were in the First Class. Elvie Holt gained 4th place in the State in French, Jack Britton 29th in English, Lawson Glassop 11th in History and R. Firth 16th in History.

The boy with the best pass at the Leaving Certificate was J. H. Britton, who took 10 papers; Eric Akerman, with 9 papers, had the best average mark and also came top on the best 7 papers. Janet B. Chalmers came first in all respects among girl candidates.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the Intermediate Examination, 97 candidates were successful out of 100 who sat for the examination.

\* \* \* \* \*

The total revenue of the School Union from subscriptions of students was £256/2/6, and the expenditure was £313/9/6, leaving a deficit of £57/7/0.

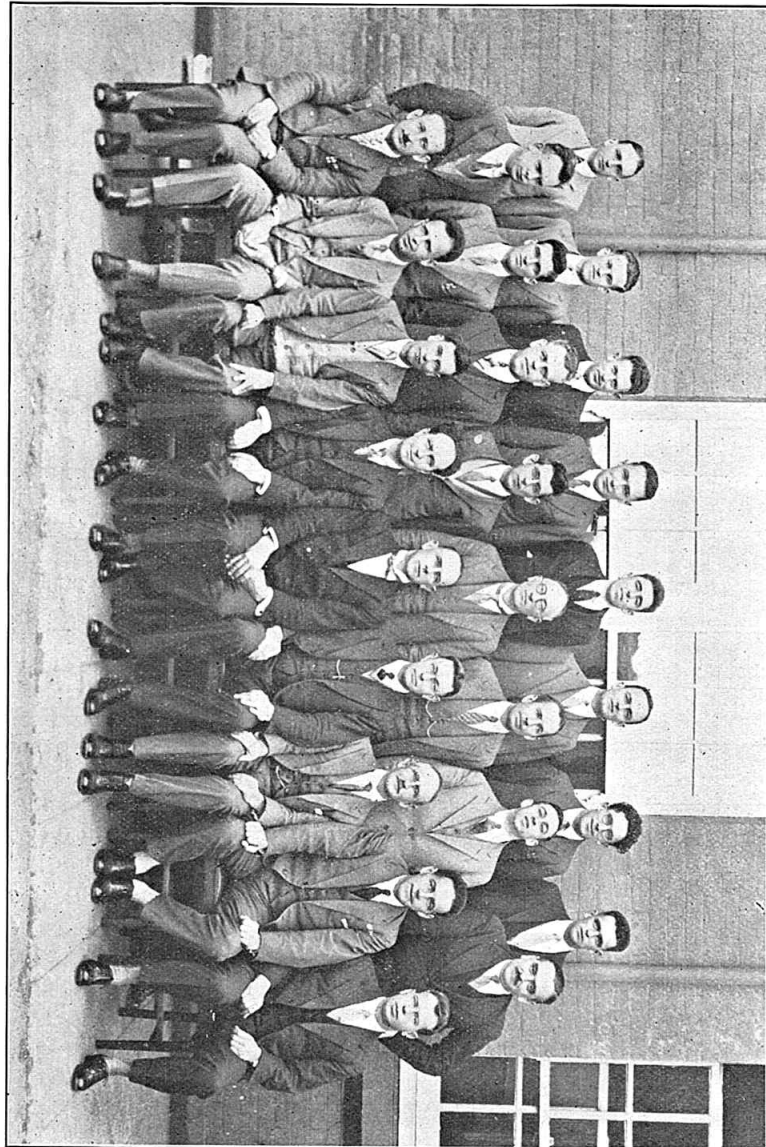
\* \* \* \* \*

The Library was developed during the year to a considerable extent. A sum of £89 was spent from the Union funds on the purchase of books, and a larger amount (£97) was provided by the Parents and Citizens' Association.

The Tuck Shop supplies a long felt want. Mr. & Mrs. Winnëy have left nothing undone in providing for the growing boy.

\* \* \* \* \*

During the year the City Council gave further proof of its deep interest in our institution by providing two bursaries to the value of £25 each per annum for a period of two years, such bursaries to be available to those in necessitous circumstances. There were several applicants satisfying this latter condition, but their passes at the Intermediate Examination were not sufficiently meritorious to warrant a bursary. Under the circumstances only one was awarded.



THE STAFF, 1930.

Mrs. Alice Chichester, in addition to giving the Meikle prizes, presented to the school a beautiful grandfather clock and some easy chairs to the value of £60. It is impossible under existing conditions to house these presentation chairs.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Harvey, in concluding his report, had something to say about Education in general.

"You are told officially," he said, "that the High School offers a cultural education and the idea uppermost in your minds is that cultural has the opposite meaning to practical. But cultural education is just as necessary as the practical or efficient side. The two aspects combined constitute the very essence of education. The terms are complementary, not identical." Mr. Harvey then went on to analyse the factors in both Culture and Efficiency, and said that the only factor common to both was a well-trained mind. "There is only one way to train the mind," he said, "and that is to employ it in real activities, to engage it in genuine vital experiences, accustoming it to reflect upon these activities and experiences, to learn from success much and from failure as much as is possible; to judge, compare, contrast, to remember what is significant and to bring what one remembers to bear on any present problem, to discern clearly the roots of the matter of issue and to ignore what is extraneous."

"To do all this long enough is to ensure a well trained mind—nothing else will produce it. No formal set of mental gymnastic exercises will suffice, nothing but educative activities, often repeated and reflected upon, will serve. Memorizing Latin declensions, and the parts of French irregular verbs and the accession dates of the English kings and the names of authors and their books, all this may produce well-filled minds, but not well-trained minds. Studies can train the mind only in proportion as these studies deal with actualities of personal import to the student. Thus studies become experience, life material, upon which the mind may reflect, even as on the events of one's own life. No one is cultured if he lacks this type of mind."

"Will you lend me your mare to go a mile?"  
 "No, she is lame leaping over a stile."  
 "But if you will her to me spare,  
 "You shall have money for your mare."  
 "Oh, oh! say you so?  
 Money will make the mare to go."

(Old Glees and Catches)



NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL—STAFF AND STUDENTS, NOVEMBER, 1906.

Top Row (left to right) : Ernie Jones, Oliver Laing, Jack Swan, V. Craig, M. Porteus, Mr. T. T. Roberts, Chris. Walker, Will Dransfield, Jack Smith.  
 2nd Row : Jack Williams, Jack Humphries, Harry Kilminster, Jim Forgie, Mr. C. R. Smith, Leo Howell, Irvine Walker, Maurice Sussmann, Eric Mulvey.  
 3rd Row : Mary Saunders, Jane Brown, Minnie Germon, Edith Baker, Evy McDonnell, Miriam Boland, Maud Ryan, A. Fry.  
 Front Row : Bertha Bootle, Dorothy Harris, Jess Hobson, Sadie Coates, Nell Sutherland.



## MARIE

(With apologies to Alfred de Musset)

Mysterious is her air  
When the woodland flower fair,  
Her petals prepares to ope,  
To zephyr's caress of hope.

And the stem, graceful, slender,  
Feeling its blossom tender  
Raise her head to the sunlight,  
Trembles with joyous delight.

Thus, when my sweetest Marie,  
In song parts her lips for me,  
And raises her wistful, blue eyes.

Midst music—midst holiness  
Her soul seems, like some goddess,  
To mount, quivering, to the skies.

—D. FISHER.

## SONNETS

### I.

When you are old and seated by your fire,  
Chatting and spinning, in the ingle bare,  
You'll say in wonder at songs from my lyre,  
Ronsard sung thus of me when I was fair.  
Then will you have no serving maid to hear,  
Whilst nearly half asleep her task she plies,  
And waken when my name sounds in her ear,  
Blessing your name with praise that never dies.  
I shall be under sod a meagre wraith,  
And long in myrtle groves asleep have lain,  
Whilst you a wrinkled crone crouch near the hearth,  
Lacking my love through your too proud disdain.  
Live, live, my dear, heed not to-morrow's strife,  
But pluck this very day the flowers of life.

—A. BISHOP.



### II.

Often when gazing on the sunset's hue,  
On purple clouds high piled, shot through with gold,  
Watching their castled splendours fade from view,  
A thought comes to me ; would he not be bold,  
If all this beauty dieth utterly,  
Who for poor man made of dull earth a clod,  
Would prophesy life to eternity,  
And place above all other works of God ?  
But hope for life we must who live enchained.  
By weakness, indecision, life itself,  
Though we to fortune's favours have attained  
And crammed our pockets with her tawdry pelf,  
Lo, deep within us sounds a voice that cries,  
"Beauty in you lives on, and never dies."

—A. BISHOP.

## A POEM

(Without Rhythm or Reason)

King Duncan was unhappy, he said his luck was out,  
The beer was getting flat 'cause the courtiers wouldn't shout,  
His men had lost a battle, they had lost a Test Match too,  
The head cook had the measles—the jester had the 'flu.  
The watch-dog wouldn't bark, the canary wouldn't sing ;  
These were a few misfortunes which befell that Scottish king.

So he called for some petrol, he called for his Ford,  
Then across the cobbled courtyard his erratic way he roared.  
He rattled down the roadway and he panted up the hill  
And forged forever onward with an eager lust to kill.  
All day he drove on, but nothing appeared before his sight  
That seemed a bit pugnacious or the least inclined to fight.

So with thought to change the subject not meaning any wrong  
He turned from right to left side, then merrily went along,  
But out of the darkling shadows with ominous intent  
Came a rushing, roaring racer, the Ford was slightly bent.  
Out leapt our brave King Duncan, "You churlish rogue," he cried  
"You horrible hopeless ruffian," with many oaths beside.

"He ! He !" chirped the knight in the racer, one Otto Verry-  
Bright,  
"You nasty, horrid boundah, you're looking for a fight,"

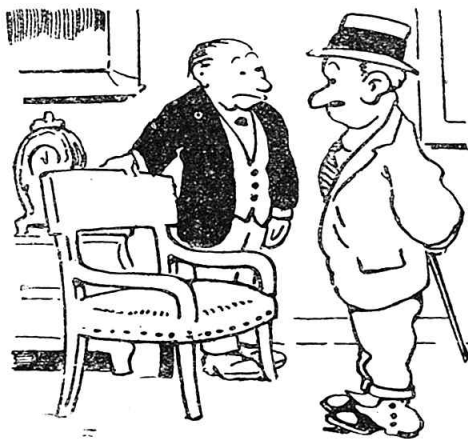
"A brainy boy," quoth Duncan, advancing with a spanner,  
But Otto threw a spark plug in a most offensive manner.  
Our hero truly angered now leapt into the fray,  
While an owl up in the tree tops looked on to see fair play.

The air was thick with curses, with gore and odds and ends,  
With groans and gasps and what-nots as each the other rends.  
The hood, the tyres, the chassis and other parts were hurled,  
As the two in frenzied anger around each other whirled.  
They kicked, they shrieked, they bickered, they gouged each  
other's eyes,  
Till at last our battered Scotsman went down and didn't rise.

Then Otto, much depleted slipped down by Duncan's side  
And so these gallant nobles in another world reside;  
Their subjects came and buried them with tears, pomp and  
style.

Now heroes come to honour them from many a weary mile.  
Now the moral of this poem as you no doubt can see,  
Is keep to the left and you'll be right and never R.I.P.

—G. McCARTHY.



—Ce fauteuil est-il vraiment de l'époque ?  
— Comment ! il était si vieux, si vermoulu que j'ai  
du changer le dossier, remettre des bras neufs, refaire  
les quatre pieds et le recouvrir !

## MATTERS ZOOGRAPHICAL.

With Illustrations by the Author.

One of the strangest animals that has come under the notice of the Benevolent Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Old Age Pensioners, is one which was known to Gaius Julius Caesar and Wm. Morris Hughes as the genus homo.

The origin of this animal has been the subject of much controversy. Theologians declare that it had its origin in a mound of dust, lunatics claim that it is the outcome of the social climbing of the jelly fish, while pacifists hold that the origin is either, neither or both. In the absence of any conclusive proof, we must accept all these suppositions as true and agree with the party in power.

Now, while all animals have been amply provided for in the matter of the satisfaction of the wants of their respective stomachs, this contrary species needs must set to work to earn his tucker (this quaint old Australian term was discovered in a pocket edition of the now extinct "Daily Guardian").

The manner in which man secured a livelihood is worthy of special mention. The favourite source of revenue for the higher order of the species and an order which was decidedly in the minority was by a peculiar system, called Taxes. These were exacted, under many headings, such as Sales Tax, Amusement Tax, Income Tax and Tin Tax, from the inferior class of beasts by a painful method of loquacity inflicted from a platform by the intellectual higher order, who were known as M's.P.

The lower order were forced to exist on a frugal diet of free air, hot air, grocery accounts, the dole and public spirit. Lord Dewar was a great exponent of the latter.

Other animals have been well equipped by nature, with necessary armament for protection of their homes, selves and families, but the only natural protection bestowed upon man were razors, fire-arms and motor vehicles. These were misused however, for while the first two were used by the more cunning of the lower order to add to their untaxable income, the latter was for the express purpose of keeping down the population.

The most interesting period in the life of this creature was between the ages of two and ninety-two, when the animal was continually falling into and out again of a sort of coma called love.

The presence of the malady (which in its worst periods was often temporarily detrimental to the appearance and health) was denoted by numerous queer actions of the afflicted creature while under its spell. The writing of poetry was one of the first signs of the disease. This horrible practice often killed off many of the youthful animals who were forced to read the horrible concoctions



THAT DREAFFUL  
DISEASE  
LOOK

VERY  
INTERESTING  
TYPE  
WHEN  
WASHEO



A MOST  
AMICABLE  
TYPE

MAN GREAT  
FEARS ARE  
CREDITED TO  
THIS ORDER



G.M.C.



THE CAUSE OF  
EXTINCTION



PERSON AFFECTED  
WITH THE DISEASE  
OLD AGE



JUST ONE  
OF THE  
SPECIES  
(lower order).



THE  
YOUTH OF  
THE  
SPECIES

G.M.C.

Such actions as kissing the tram guard good morning, plucking flower petals and bringing boxes of chocolates to the boss were also recognised symptoms of the malady.

(The tram guard mentioned was a most important order of the species—Taxi bus drivers round about 1929-30 A.D. made unsuccessful attempts to wipe him out. The boss was another not so important type, and may be likened to a drone in the bee family).

Another sickness much feared because it entailed a long lingering death, stretching over a period of years, was old age. This affliction brought on in its last stages, such awful agonies as baldness, false teeth, spectacles and bath chairs. If second childhood set in, the last years of the sufferers were eased with such comforts as cross-word puzzles, rattles and dolls.

The third, and perhaps the most feared of all, was a dreadful scourge known as bankruptcy. The only cure for this was the administration of as much neat arsenic as would cover a blue three-penny postage stamp, or in time of depression, a yellow halfpenny stamp. If this was taken after or before any meal and without fuss, all trouble would be at an end.

Although the genus lacked the characteristic of most animals, in that it did not crave blood, it had a craving for something infinitely worse, speed.

The contraptions invented for the satisfaction of this craving varied in simplicity and magnitude, from running shoes to aeroplanes. Youth from the pram upward were conversant with the methods of manipulating various agents of speed. Often the hopes of the ardent young speedster who had passed at the preliminary tests of pramming, scootering, billy-carting and push-biking, were doomed to end in steam-rolling, garbage carting or pen-pushing. Some advanced as far as Fording, but it was left to the M.'s P. and their sons and connections to reach motoring and flying, which is one of the reasons why this type is in the minority.

The chief diversions of the species were arguments, strikes, cricket, labour leaders, talkies and tiddly-winks. These, together with the forty-four hour question, kept the creatures most amicable and contented. The argument was a highly advanced activity which used to rise out of any of the other diversions, and would find its origin in almost anything on earth or off it.

A strike is an interesting sport which has often been likened to boxing. It was a "one sided" game, for the Capitalists were skilled in the game, and always either won on terms, or a lock-out.

Cricket was a peculiar pastime, in which yet another order clad in white, wielding a mystic willow, worked whole continents into frenzy. All worshippers at the shrine of the "Ashes of the Departed Wickets" were subjected to fearful agonies by the most infamous of cricketers, one Don Bradman, who nightly, in a period



called Tests, which lasted for about five months, every two years, kept the creatures awake with the aid of a diabolical instrument, the Wireless.

Talkies were most exhausting and painful sports, and consisted of an almost unrecognisable mutilation of a mode of communication, the King's English. They were the invention of an American.

Tiddly-Winks was an old sport, which then was restricted to children of eighty or under. It provided gentle exercise and was the National Sport of the Americans. The area in which this recreation was indulged in was called the Mental Asylum.

Labour Leaders might best be termed a form of entertainment. The unique variety which indulged in the game consisted of a number of nomads, nomadic in that they were eternally wandering from the truth. Keen was the competition among them as to who could tell the biggest falsehood, which is the reason why they were essentially a fish catching type.

Despite the fact that this interesting animal led a life full of interest and enjoyment, it is now extinct.

Much research work has been done by our society, and we all now agree in attributing the extinction to the female of the species.

Firstly, by the much too frequent use of her tongue, and its ally the rolling pin, she forced the entire male population into a state of bachelordom. In this state, increase in population is impossible and stagnation sets in.

Secondly, she prevented all hopes of reconciliation by trying to emulate the man's actions. She succeeded so well that the male contracted jealousy which turned to sulks. In this state he refused food, and died out.

The female then realised too late, that there was nothing left to live for and followed suit.

—GAVAN McCARTHY.

## TRANSLATION MADE EASY.

### NEW INVENTION

Exclusive to the Novocastrian.

Spitzbergen,  
Tuesday Week.

From the cablegrams which we have received from Spitzbergen, we understand that a language and literature machine has been invented on the same general principles as those which govern the manufacturer of a comptometer, gasometer or Gestetner. Successful trials, under the supervision of the Spitzbergen Customs officials and film censors, are also reported, and our correspondent has fortunately

included some of the results of the trials, which we are happy to reproduce here. The first is a new rendering of the verses from the original mss. of "D'ye Ken John Peel," (Icelandic, ier-ye, kenna to to know) into idiomatic English.

D'ye Ken John Haig

With its amber hue,

D'ye ken K.B., and Reckitt's Blue,

D'ye ken White Horse,

And Palmolive too,

And she's still going strong in the morning.

It appears from the rather meagre information contained in the cables, that the operator found the new machine rather complicated, and some slight error in manipulating the many keys, resulted in an amusing new version of Ben Jonson's well known verses. It was to have been translated into the French language, but became confused with some other lines which were to have been parsed and analysed. Our correspondent facetiously includes it in his cables.

"Drink to me only avec thine eyes,

A votre bon santé monsieur!

Blow blow thou winter win (d),

Or leave a spot dedans the cup,

To sail this new ship o' mine."

The machine was further tested for its power of paraphrasing ordinary verse. Careful attention was paid to this part of the mechanism, in view of a probable ready sale for the machine in countries where the student of Shakespeare is expected to improve, by rewriting his plays in prose. The machine having been adjusted for this particular purpose, the following line for line paraphrase of Tennyson's "Lady of Shalott," was produced.

"On either side the river lie,"

about one thousand acres, torrens title, fairly flat tilled land, fenced, permanent water supply, creek runs right through the property, wonderful value for prospective buyer.

"Long fields of barley and of rye,"

crops in first leaf, cereals, probable bumper harvest, if rain falls within the month. Full price per bushel almost certain, freights light.

"That clothe the wold and meet the sky,"

someone was getting dressed (or possibly undressed) in a spare paddock. (Wold—weald, Anglo-Saxon, plain flat land). The area under cultivation is so large that you have to stand on a bucket to see the horizon.

"And through the field the road runs by"

The M.R.B. officials and divisional engineer have proclaimed a public highway right through the property. Levels have already been taken, and the road is at present 66 feet Macadamised for 30 chains,

and will soon be wholly resurfaced with bitumen. Land values on this future main artery must increase.

"To many tower'd Camelot."

A finger post on the corner of the property bears the legend, Camelot—5¾ miles. Keep to the left.

Finally a single specimen was tried, of a translation of the heroic couplet, directly into Latin. Here it is!

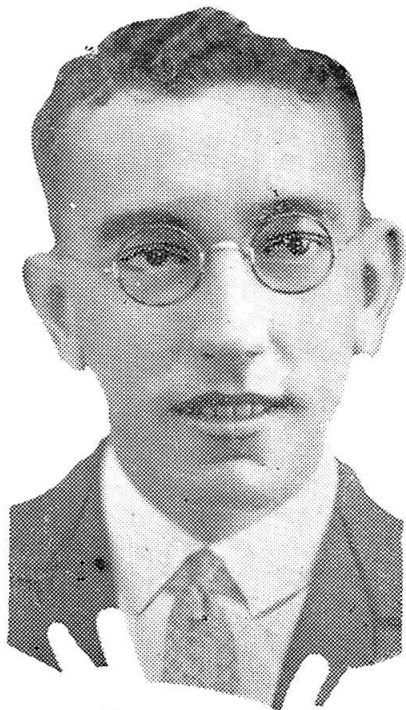
"When shall we three meet again,  
In thunder, lightning or in rain?"

Kayser Natura Germolene Vapozone Mortein,  
Bonox Kruschen Lotol Jaeger Roboleine.

At the conclusion of the trials, the machine was sent back to the inventor, who is (it is reported) a Polish Eurasian, of foreign extraction, for repairs and adjustments, particularly the latter. The general opinion of the future and possibilities of this machine among those present at the trials, was decidedly uncomplimentary.

Here the cablegrams which were rapidly becoming illegible, abruptly end.

By courtesy, Reuter's World Service and the Beam Wireless.



In the public eye at the moment is Mr. Eric Duncanson, M.Sc. This old Novocastrian in his second year at the 'Varsity won the Barker Scholarship for Mathematics; in his third year the Deas Thomson Scholarship for physics; in his fourth year, the Science Research Scholarship. He graduated as a Master of Science in May of this year, and as winner of the James King of Irrawang Travelling Scholarship, has just left Australia by the "Mooltan" on his way to Cambridge, where he will continue his research work in the Cavendish Laboratory, under the direction of Sir Ernest Rutherford.

IT is a matter of common knowledge that old girls and boys of the school are making their presence felt in the professional and commercial circles, not only of the Hunter Valley, but of the whole State. In the short space of twenty-four years, countless teachers, lawyers, doctors and business men and women are able to look back with pride to their Alma Mater on the Hill, a fact which must be a source of gratification to the present Headmaster, who, it will be remembered, first appeared in our midst in 1912, shortly after his return from France.

Now, the Old Novocastrians Association finds that only about one hundred of those distinguished ex-students consider it worth while joining up with an organisation whose members desire to give expression to their gratitude to the school for benefits received in the past, and who desire to remain in touch with the steadily growing tradition of the school. The Executive urges every boy to join the Association, even before he begins the final round of handshakes at the end of his fifth year.

Old boys and girls will rejoice to hear that Mrs. Mervyn Hughes is President of the Ball Committee this year. With the assistance of Mrs. Birtles, Mrs. Derkenne and Miss Clarke, as joint honorary secretaries, Mrs. Hughes is confident of handing over a fairly substantial sum to the Library Fund of the Newcastle Girls' High School.

Clarrie Sara and Joe Coles and their respective wives are at present in England and have met over there. Clarrie, who was married four days before sailing, went home to attend the Scouts' Jamboree at Arrow Park. After meeting Lord Baden-Powell, he stayed on to make further studies in his profession—architecture.

Arthur Foott, M.A., receives our congratulations upon his appointment as Master of Mathematics at East Maitland Boys' High School.

Perhaps many ex-students are not aware that Harold Morgan who served his articles with Basil Helmore, of the firm of Sparke and Millard, is now a partner in the old firm of Sly and Russell.

An important addition to the legal literature of this State is a new and revised edition of Millard's Law of Real Property in N.S.W., edited by Basil A. Helmore, our president.

Dr. Kem Yee, after continuing his medical studies in several European capitals, has commenced practice as a specialist in Harley Street, London.

We feel proud of Louie Bickerton, who, after winning her blue at the 'Varsity for hockey and tennis, represented Australia abroad as a member of the Ladies' Tennis team.

Hazel Grassick, B.A., another of our distinguished tennis players, is Sports Mistress at Meriden Church of England Girls' School.

The many ex-students who would like to renew acquaintance with the first Deputy Headmaster, Mr. J. W. Hayes, M.A., will be able to find him either at Newcastle or Maitland, according to his programme of work. He is now inspector of schools in charge of the Maitland district. Time has dealt very gently with him, and it is rumoured that he still wields a wicked racquet and is open to receive a challenge from any ex-student of his own weight.

The restoration of German to the school curriculum is pleasing to all lovers of the school. There are excellent reasons for teaching the second foreign language for its own sake, and a knowledge of German is useful in a sea port city, such as Newcastle. Our students can now compete on level terms with metropolitan secondary students for scholarships and bursaries in the modern languages department of the University.

Basil Helmore is the Honorary Secretary of the Newcastle District Boy Scouts' Association.

"Bill" (W. N.) Anderson is the District Secretary of the same association, and is back in Australia after attending the Jamboree in England.

Eileen Mitchell, who graduated in 1919, is now practising as an eye specialist in Goulburn. She was in the First Leaving Certificate class, 1913.

Mollie Lane is practising medicine in Brisbane.

Zeenie Clarke (now Mrs. Thompson) was for some time at Wilcannia, where her husband was practising medicine; Zeenie is now holidaying in Newcastle, until her husband settles down to his new work as resident Medical Officer at Kogarah.

Jean Breckenridge, now a member of the research department of Peters Ice Cream Ltd., recently lectured to the Dairy Farmers' Conference, a distinction achieved for the first time by a woman.

Since these notes were compiled, the Annual Ball of the Old Novocastrians' Association was held in the Tyrrell Hall. The sum of approximately thirty pounds was raised as a result of this function, and is destined for the Girls' High School Library Fund. The headmistress was represented by Mrs. Rupert Scott, who received from the Ball Committee a Victorian posy. An attendance of about 250 must be considered as satisfactory in these times of depression. At a later date, Mrs. Mervyn Hughes will present to the Headmistress the cheque for the amount raised.

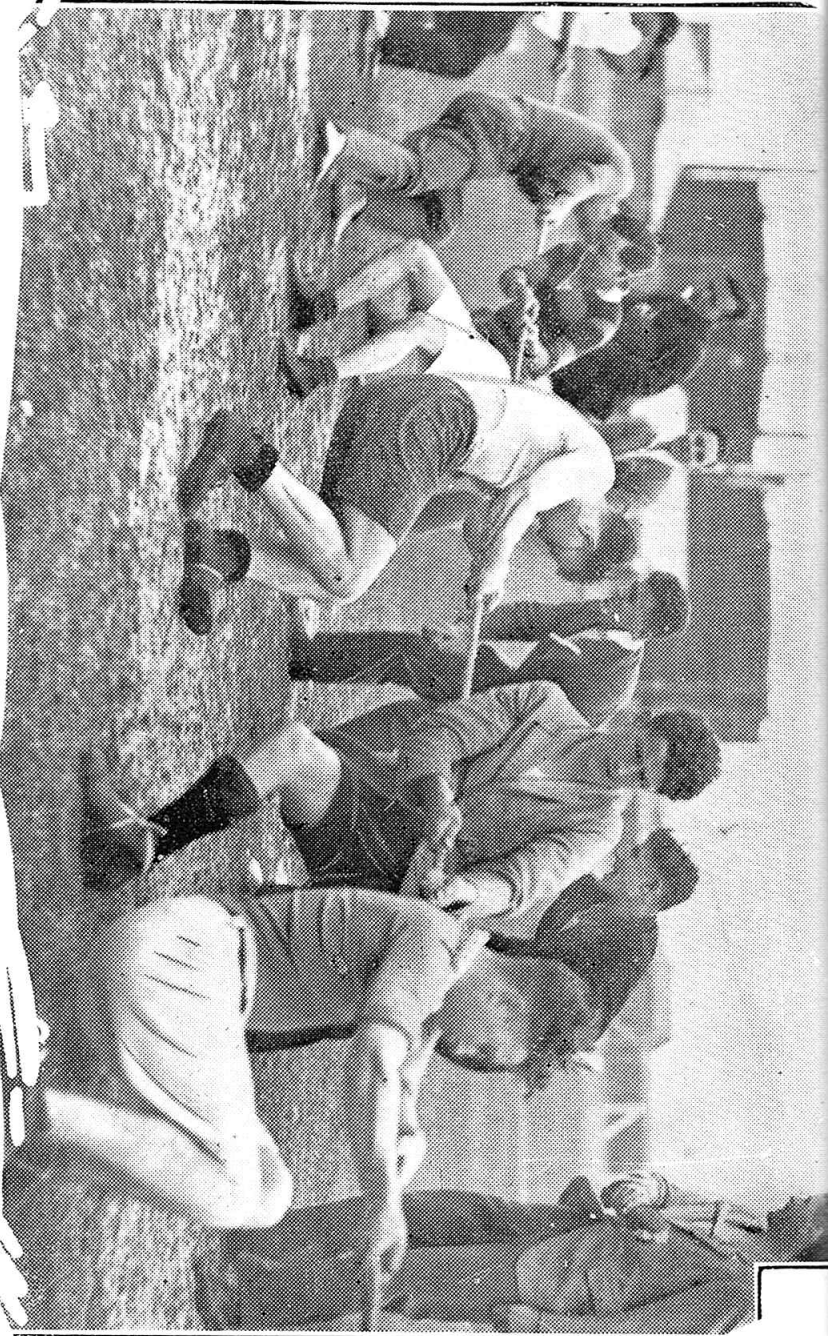
The Executive and Committee of the Association have placed on record their appreciation of the work done by the Ball Committee, and especially that done by Marjorie Lane, who, with the help of Leslie Clarke, raised the sum of eight pounds towards the expenses of the function, by means of a bridge party.

—G. R. S.



THE TUCK SHOP

The Tug O'War Contest at Newcastle High School Sports. The 4B team fully extended.



## SPORTS DAY.

ARRIVING at the Grand Stand amidst many fluttering ribbons of every hue, we made our way to the back seat, and settled down to watch the proceedings.

Firstly, some boys carried a table and a form to the oval, and set them down directly in front of the stand. Following these, came a few teachers armed with pencil and paper, looking just as though they were going to have morning tea and something to eat, while they jotted down problems and other miscellaneous worries. They did not have tea, however, but they actually tried to eat the pencils, beginning at the end, and after biting off small pieces, set to, and masticated each one thoroughly. Then one of them took a gun up to where some boys in athletic apparel were congregated, and immediately some of the boys sprang into line as though to charge him. He soon frightened them, however, by just firing the gun into the air, and they ran away from him. One of them, apparently more frightened than the rest, managed to get in front of the crowd of escapees, and led them until he became entangled in a clothes line that some practical joker had stretched across his path. I think the teachers must have had something to do with this trick, because, as soon as each group of fleeing boys fell into the trap, they quickly copied down the names of those who were the most frightened (I suppose) to gloat over them when everybody had discovered the joke.

This went on for nearly all the morning. At one time some boys were enjoying a peaceful siesta with their feet in chaff bags (to keep them warm, I suppose) when the vile villain with the gun came up and let it off near them. Of course, being taken completely by surprise, they did not have time to discard their sacks, so they left them on, to the unbounded delight of the conspirators with the clothes line. When they arrived at the trap they became even more entangled than the others, and the teachers were even more enthusiastic to secure the names of the victims.

All this time, Mr. Ford was having a great game of "schools" with the aid of a piece of black chalk and an abundant supply of white paper, secured to an easel. He often grew tired of this pastime and occasionally rang a small cow bell and put what looked like an overgrown filter funnel to his mouth and caused weird noises to issue forth, like a basso with a cold. Some "Know-All" close by said that he was announcing the races.

Then, to make matters worse, some quarrelsome boys in the centre of the oval, began to fight for a paltry piece of rope, each group striving to gain possession of it. Some teachers stood idly by,

and for once no interfering prefects came and dealt out impositions. At the end of each round the referee blew a little whistle, and after each group had had three bouts they seemed to come to some agreement, whereupon they retired and some equally greedy boys came forth and indulged in a renewed struggle for possession. We were beginning to get tired of these pranks, so we retired for dinner—(We cannot speak with our mouths full). Then—

Away down the dim vistas afforded by the "tip," some daintily clad maidens approached the ground, their graceful figures silhouetted against the winding and rugged risings of the rubbish dump. Then, as the gentle breezes from heaven flitted gracefully through the gates (Mr. Judd automatically disappeared here) we sprang to attention and entered the dressing sheds, almost wrecks, but emerged sheiks of the highest calibre, our well done hair shining brightly in the sunlight, our faces and hands incredibly and extraordinarily clean, and our clothes brushed up to the best of our ability. Out in the oval we saw Mr. Judd once again, and this time he was encouraging the boys to throw cricket balls at Mr. Black, who in turn, was very alert in dodging them. He engaged some other boys to throw the balls back, so, in the oval, a miniature battle appeared to be in progress. Nearer the stand, however, some careless individual had dropped a case of oranges, and in the true N.B.H.S. spirit, a few boys were endeavouring to collect them and put them in buckets. As soon as they had collected them, and had turned their backs for a moment, a most ungrateful and mean teacher tipped them all out again, and the poor boys were so exhausted with their previous efforts that they had to get some other boys to pick them up.

We soon forgot this preposterous outrage, and commenced "business," by pleading for autographs, and then as the familiarity increased, began exchanging ribbons, and incidentally, confidences—the rest is mere blank, as my sympathetic readers will understand, and we were in all the heavens at once, and moreover, we would cheerfully forsake the bliss of solitude for such an event, or, shall I say, opportunity as this.

—R. RIDDEL, 2AC.

### SKETCHY ILLUSTRATIONS OF A SUMMER DAY.

Expectancy—the note of the shadowy dawn.

The sea heaves restlessly and breaks in troubled foaming on the beach, the heavens are dull, unlighted, the stars and the moon have gone, the sun has not risen—silence.

Then the wind moans softly, a bird calls drowsily, a bush rustles, a ridge of light breaks the grey pall on the horizon; the day is coming.

The light spreads, the sea crashes on the shores—birds chirp noisily and the morning is alive.

The sun makes a shimmering path on the breaking turbulent waters and the gulls wheel in its warmth. The dazzling orb mounts higher and higher, and gleams on the dewy grass, shines in through the frosted windows and wandering o'er this wide expanse wakening and peopling the morn.

Children scurry about fetching the milk or the papers, fathers appear on the verandahs in various stages of hurried undress, mothers bustle in and out of kitchens, dogs and cats getting in the way pour out their unmelodious injured voices, grandfathers and grandmothers wander up and down the sun bathed gardens, the baker, the milkman, the butcher hurry about clanging gates and calling lusty greetings as they go, while all the time the sun is exploring for dark corners to warm.

Noon—the sun in its fierce joy of dominance, burns cruelly down on a scene of feverish hurry.

Whistles are shrilling, workers go hurriedly to their meals, newsboys shout, trams clatter along their rails, cars screech and rattle, lorries rumble, and all the jarring notes of the traffic combine in one long horrid song. The ceaseless talk of the moving hundreds fills the air with an incessant monotone, the steady tramp of the numberless feet beats dully on the brain—and ever above, that torturing sun.

Heaviness, drowsiness pervades the air. The workers struggle on perspiringly, traffic crawls along. Even the mechanical parts of our modern existence creak and groan tiredly, sleepily, but still that sun unblinking.

The day is dying—the sun is sinking, sinking—sinking down to the horizon.

What a glorious pageant of colour attends its farewell.

Crimson and gold mingle with the deep blue of the high, arched dome above; fleeting clouds of white are tinged with blood red, a flaming halo surrounds the fiery balls as it dips down, down, down, until it fades away, leaving behind a marvellous remembrance. All thought of the cruelty of its enduring is drowned in admiration for the glory of its parting.

Twilight—coolness—peace. Birds are trilling lazy lullabies, a murmur of flitting insects drifts through the darkness, lovely perfumes steal with the soft breeze as it sports in the trees, as it caresses the nodding flowers, whispers to the feathered minstrels and passes on—peace.

A star peeps out and then another, till the night is lit with their shining loveliness. The cold moon sails down this twinkling avenue, aloof, reserved, haughty.

Silver glistens on the grass, the wind sighs for its sleeping companions, quiet.

The moon watches, brooding and distant.

The world is dreaming, its restless voice is hushed, for the day is dead, buried beneath a canopy of stars. But still the moon waits, it knows and so it waits, waiting and watching for the resurrection of the day.

—G. McCARTHY.

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## THE LOST CITIES OF CEYLON.

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Scattered throughout the north-central province of Ceylon are ruins of great architectural beauty. The greater part are found in the areas occupied by the ancient capitals of the Sinhalese, Anuradhapura and Pollonaruwa, distant from one another about sixty miles.

It is these two so-called Lost Cities of Ceylon, which lay for ages hid in the jungle, known only by tradition, that we find the most beautiful and singular conceptions wrought in granite, in many cases, as sharp in outline as the day they were done—anything up to two thousand years ago.

The history of the kings who built these magnificent cities is one continuous struggle against the Tamil hordes who came over in raiding parties from India.

From the ancient Sanskrit we learn that the city of Anuradhapura was founded about 437 B.C., and reached the zenith of its glory under the reign of the hero-king, Dutugemunu who, in 101 B.C. ascended the throne.

We read of Anuradhapura enclosed by walls 65 miles in extent. The streets were laid out in straight lines, one at least, from gate to gate, being 16 miles long. In this wonderful city were employed no less than 500 scavengers for cleaning the streets and purifying them by removing refuse. The corporate life was carried on with a degree of civilisation amazing to consider, in view of its antiquity.

The kings adorned the temples and dagobas with bands of precious metal; there were statues of the Buddha with eyes made of precious stones, beds of fragrant flowers were grown for the use of the temple. One king covered the enormous dome of the Ruanweli dagoba—larger than the dome of St. Paul's, London—with red paste, into which were stuck flowers, until it looked like a huge nosegay.

One of the most interesting objects remaining to this day, is a collection of 1,600 granite pillars, on which was reared the Brazen Palace, with nine roofs. The king who built this magnificent palace paid the labourers with gold and gifts of butter and honey.

The interior decorations were sumptuous, including an ivory

throne, with the sun on it in gold, the moon in silver, and the stars in pearls. The carpets were made of woven wool and the implements, even down to rice ladles, were made of gleaming gold.

The building was for the use of Monks attending the sacred Bo-tree close by, which was planted in the reign of King Tissa (288 B.C.) from a branch of the Bo-tree, under which the Buddha sat when he received inspiration.

For two thousand years it has stood there, and even in the days when the city was deserted the monks tended it.

It is mainly due to the presence of this tree, the oldest historical tree in the world, that Anuradhapura became a sacred, as well as royal city.

The ruins of the Tooth Temple, with its curiously carved teeth bring to mind the Tooth of Buddha, a symbol of royalty, brought over from India. The tooth itself gave the holder a talisman of potent influence with his fellow countrymen.

The Sinhalese were very good at small work in stone. Many of the capitals of their columns, showing friezes of dwarfs and geese, are executed with grace and skill. The chief feature of all their work is its restraint; the excellent proportion and strength of line is unhampered by over-ornamentation.

At Pollonaruwa and Anuradhapura are to be seen many dagobas. These edifices are bell-shaped structures containing millions of bricks, and are usually the resting place for some relic appertaining to the Buddhist faith.

During the ages when the cities of Ceylon lay desolate in the jungle, these rounded elevations were clothed with bush and scrub. Huge roots, the thickness of a man's hand, worked their way into the crevices between the bricks, so that when the cities were rediscovered and restoration began about the end of the nineteenth century, it was found impossible to eradicate them altogether. An idea can be obtained of the enormous amount of material used in these dagobas, by an expert writing about one of the dagobas making the following computation. "The materials used are sufficient to raise 8,000 houses, each with a frontage of 20 feet."

The Sinhalese of to-day are an indolent race; worn down by conquest, they depend almost wholly on the whites for sustenance. They neglected their magnificent cities and allowed the Tamils to overrun and plunder at pleasure.

Their present-day architecture is grotesque and hideous in comparison with the graceful beauty which was the dominant feature of the architecture of their forefathers.

Pollonaruwa and Anuradhapura, like the grandeur of Egypt's civilisation, are swept in oblivion; the present-day architect with his reinforced concrete is unable to recall the ancient splendour of these lost civilisations.

—R. G. DICK.