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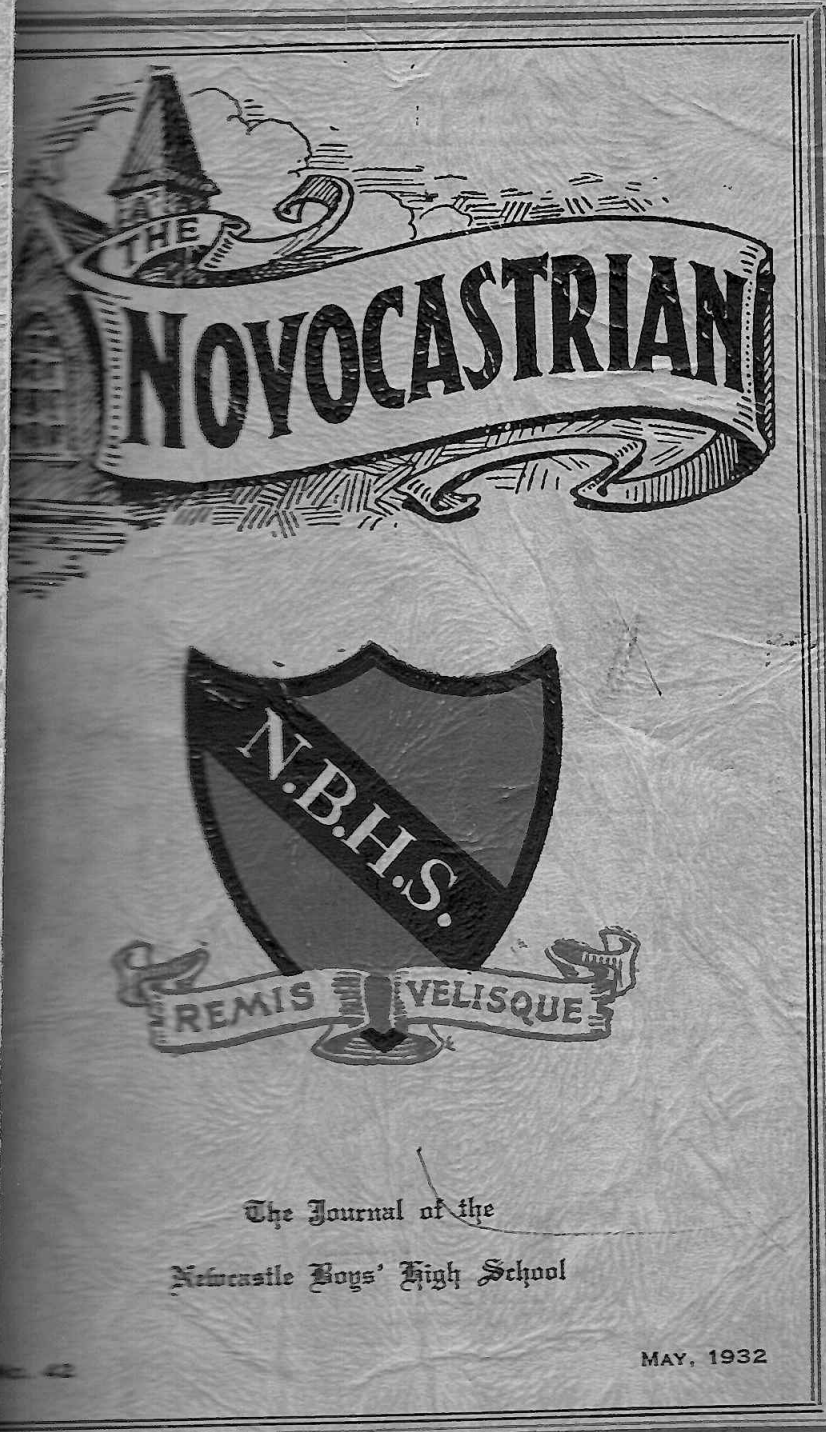
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Newcastle Business College

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Headmaster : C. H. CHRISMAS, B.A.

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

Department of English :

W. D. Noakes, M.A. (Master), G. L. Reid, B.A., H. D. Kevans, B.A.,
W. E. R. Wilson, B.A., K. Barnard, M.A., J. Williams, B.A.,
F. Allsopp, B.A.

Department of Classics :

O. N. Kelly, M.A. (Master), F. J. Moroney, B.A., A. H. Pelham, B.A.

Department of Modern Languages :

D. Short, B.A. (Master), R. Farrell, B.A., M. Cannon, B.A.,
C. A. C. Dimmock, B.A., R. G. Langford.

Department of Mathematics :

V. R. Outten, M.A. (Master), V. H. Walker, B.A., R. J. Gillings, B.Sc.,
C. Black, B.Sc., W. E. Cummings, B.A., A. Aitkin, B.Sc.,
T. E. Perrau, B.Sc.

Department of Science :

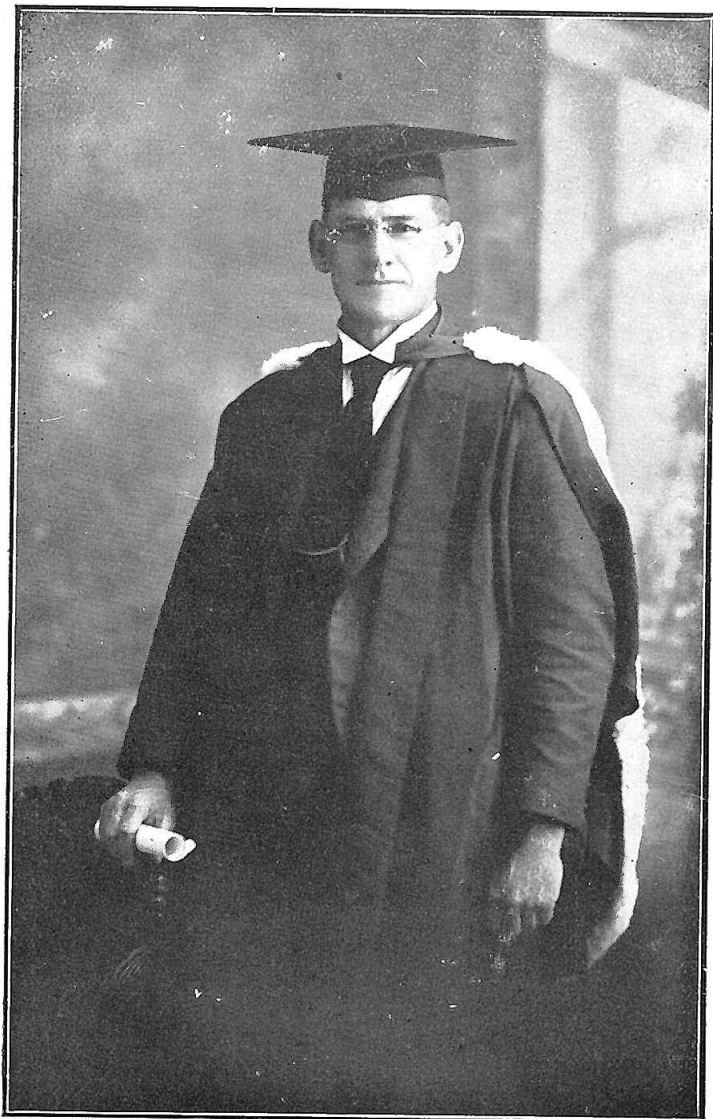
T. Hughes, B.Sc. (Master), H. Jurd, B.Sc., W. H. Roberts, B.Sc.,
T. E. Perrau, B.Sc., E. Ford, B.A.

Department of Economics :

C. E. Brown (Master).

Prefects :

L. Deed (Capt.), H. Jones (V. Capt.), L. Hannell, S. Williams, R.
Williams, R. Bass, N. Charge, N. Ellis, W. Engel, R. MacLeod,
L. Cane, W. Bailey, F. Learmonth, G. Smallman, J. Meillon, W.
Underwood, M. Marks, H. Craig, E. Edmunds, K. Willis, W. James,
F. Harris.



MR. C. H. CHRISTMAS, B.A.

The Journal of the Newcastle Boys' High School

Editor: R. J. Gillings

MAY, 1932

No. 42



Annex: Noun, an addition, as to a document or a building; a supplementary service or department.

THIS from the dictionary, but where the name came from originally, we do not know. Nor has it yet been generally accepted, and one may hear it rendered variously as the Technical College, the Newcastle Secondary classes, the Technical High School, or just briefly the College. It is still an integral part of the Newcastle High School, therefore the necessity for the annex marks a definite stage in the development of secondary education in this city, just as the establishment of the Central Technical School did in Sydney.

On June, 5th, 1906, a short paragraph in the "Newcastle Herald" stated that the Hill Primary School would thereafter be used as temporary premises for the Newcastle High School. The enrolment in its first year was 47 boys and 50 girls, and there were but three teachers, of whom our present headmaster was one. The Newcastle High School therefore celebrated its silver anniversary last year, having grown to a High School for boys only, with an enrolment of 700, and a further 120 for whom we have insufficient accommodation, thus necessitating the establishment of the Annex, at the Newcastle Technical College, with a separate staff of five. A quarter of a century of development under conditions which can only be described as deplorable!

The Annex boasts four rooms. From the rear comes the noise of the Honeysuckle Workshops, and the Main Northern Railway line, and from the front the bustle of Newcastle's busiest thoroughfare, and the noise of the tramcars. The recreation area and playground is the footpath of Hunter Street West. The more favoured 700 however, remain in the same old draughty, leaky, unhealthy, ill-lit building with its narrow Gothic windows and consequent poor ventilation, which was to have been temporary 25 years ago. We have, in addition to this archaic architectural anachronism, eight portable rooms which have been resurrected from schools where £30,000 structures have been erected, but these have nothing to recommend them. Of the High School playground area, it is sufficient to say, that space is so limited that the school is forced to assemble in three separate divisions each day. Imagine the trouble the sportsmaster has for instance, running from one place to another, making the same announcements three times.

You may go back twenty years in the publications of the Novocastrian, and you will find some reference to a nebulous new High School in every volume. The subject has become our bete noir, and without our regular biennial threnody, we would hardly be prepared to go to print. Should some misguided Minister build a new school for the first educational institution in Newcastle, then in supplying a need, he will have taken away our most cherished grievance.

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY

A recent letter from E. Adderley contains the following information:

J. Biddlecombe and H. Berriman have graduated Bachelors of Science, and W. Asprey, E. Coleman have graduated Bachelors of Arts. W. Asprey is acting president of the Teachers' College Council and Jack Britton is secretary of the Literature Society.

Billy Wells gained distinction in 1st year Geology. Garner Atkins successfully negotiated 1st year Medicine, Trevor Penny gained a credit in 1st year Chemistry. Ray Garnsey gained distinction in Philosophy I. Walter Kable came first in 1st year Physics with High Distinction, and gained also Distinction in Chemistry I. and a credit in Maths I. Arthur Bishop, school captain in 1930, gained Distinction in Latin and Credit in English in 2nd year Arts.

A. Sampson gained High Distinction in Chemistry I., J. Britton gained High Distinction in English II. H. Roarty passed in Latin II. and Philosophy II. L. Frew passed in 3rd year Pharmacy.

Page Four

Len Deed was elected School Captain, after the closest voting that has taken place over this important position, for years. Harold Jones is the new Vice-Captain.

There is a prize given this year for the best contribution to the Novocastrian, either May or September issue. Some boys will remember that this prize was won previously by H. Eddy and G. Bishop, one with a story and the other with two sonnets.

The editors are desirous of completing the bound volumes of all copies of the Novocastrian printed, since the publication first came into being. If any boy has old copies, perhaps of his father's or other relations, he can do the school a good turn by presenting them to the editors, who will have them bound and put in the library.

The school is now playing League football instead of Union. It is too soon to comment on the change, but we sincerely trust our football relations with Maitland have not been severed.

Only financial members of the School Union can get the Novocastrian. It is well to keep this in mind. Two free volumes of the Novocastrian each year means 4/6 returned to you out of your Union subscription.

The Text Book problem looks like being successfully solved, with the help of the parents and the P. & C. Association, and the boys themselves.

Mr. A. Hingst who died as a result of being hit by a ball on the cricket field last month, was an old boy of this school, and an uncle of Harry Hingst in 5th year.

Harry Rudd, of 3C, is to be congratulated on being selected to represent the Country XI against the South Africans, during the season just concluded.

Algy Leggett is now the holder of the C.H.S. junior high jump record of 5ft. 5½in., which he established last year in Sydney.

Tony Edgar has taken a position in the Prudential Assurance Company. Tony won the James Meickle Memorial Prize, dux of the 5th year for 1931.

University exhibitions were won by T. H. Brown, E. Adderley and G. O. Martin.

The following gained Teachers' College Scholarships: T. H. Brown, O. Montgomery, K. Brock, A. McConnell, A. Coady, S. Cohen, J. Arthur, M. Laycock and C. A. Yates.

Page Five

Public Service passes were secured by J. Penny, W. Bailey, A. Burke, C. Curran, T. Gardiner and A. Richards.

Hugh R. Dalziel was successful in winning a Science Exhibition at the Newcastle Technical College.

Max Hyam Reines won the Frank Albert prize for efficiency at the annual examination in 1st year economics.

There is a movement on foot by the Newcastle City Council to obtain the area behind the High School from the A.A. Company, and turn it into a playing ground. This would mean quite a lot of filling in.

Employers in the Newcastle district are invited to interview Mr. Christmas whenever they require boys in their business. Already three such men have availed themselves of opportunities offered by seeing the Headmaster.

The Newcastle Boys' High School P. and C. Association is to be thanked for its help in providing material for school use. Some help in the fitting up of the Science Room, should be the next on the list.

The P. and C. Association has completed the furnishing of the Headmaster's office, by providing a desk with a glass top, and an office chair.

One thing the School badly needs is a Notice Case. The present one is most unsatisfactory being exposed to the rain, and most notices are unreadable after being on the board for one day.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS.

Light a match Dad, I think the petrol's leaking.
 My homework's in my locker, and I've left the key at home.
 I was there at half-past three, but I couldn't find you.
 I'm pretty well sure it's not loaded.
 Of course it'll hold, Venn stood on this branch yesterday.
 See who can go closest without hitting it.
 I'll show Marre what's what.
 Watch me tackle Norm Charge low.
 I don't care if you are a prefect, do it yourself.
 Good-oh!
 Don't stop. I can hop off while she's going.
 I haven't got the deuce of my longest suit, but I'll go misere.
 Here, I'll light it if you're not game.
 I'll bet I can dive off here without hitting the bottom.
 Go on, open the gate. Mr. Short's dog won't bite.

Leaving Certificate Results, Nov. 1931

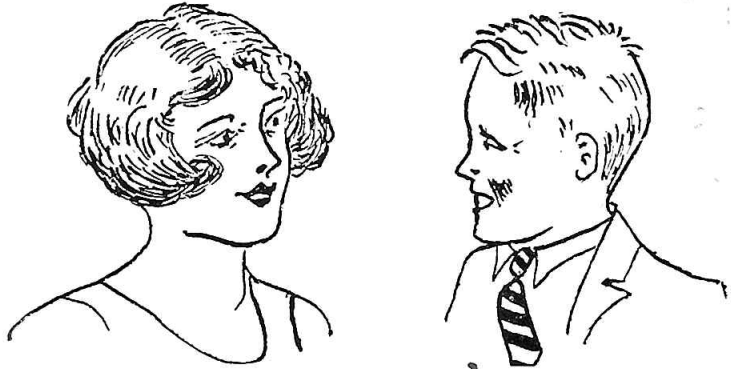
1 English, 2 Latin, 3 French, 4 German, 5 Maths. I, 6 Maths. II, 7 Mechanics, 8 Modern History, 9 Ancient History, 10 Physics, 11 Chemistry, 12 Botany, 13 Geology, 14 Geography, 16 Lower Standard Mathematics, 17 Economics, 21 Greek, 23 Technical Drawing.

Adderley, Ernest E., 1B 3B(o) 5A 6A(x2) 7B 10B.
 Anderson, James R., 1P 3B 8B 11B 13A 16pass
 Arthur, James H., 1A 2H2 3A(o) 5A 6B 8B 11B.
 Bailey, Walter F., 1A 3B 5A 6A 8B 14B 17B.
 Bass, Raymond C., 1B 3L 5B 8B 11B
 Brock, Kenneth, 1B 2A 2A(o) 5A 6B 10B 11A.
 Brown, Thomas H., 1B 3B 5A 6A 7B 10A 11H1.
 Buckland, Jack A., 1B 2A 3B(o) 5B 6B 8B.
 Burgess, Allan J., 5A 6B 8B 11L.
 Burke, Allan, 1B 2B 3L 5B 6B 8B 11B.
 Burrell, Malcolm J., 3B 5B 6B 11H2 23B.
 Charge, Norman M. F., 1A 3B 5A 6A 8B.
 Coady, Aubrey W. B., 1H2, 2B 3B 5B 6B 10B 11B.
 Cohen, Samuel W., 1B 2B 3H2(o) 5A 6B 8B.
 Cranna, Robert J., 1B 3B 5B 6B
 Cranna, Max M., 1B 2L 3B 8B 16pass
 Curran, Clifford, 1B 5B 8B 11B.
 Dalziel, Hugh R., 1B 3B(o) 5B 6A 10H2 11H2.
 Davies, Allan J., 3L 5A 6B 10H2 11A.
 Dick, Ronald G., 1B 8B 9B 14B.
 Edgar, James M., 1B 3L(o) 5A 6A(xl) 8B 11A.
 Ellis, James N., 3B 5B 6B 10B 11A.
 Evans, Thomas W., 1B 2B 3L 5B 8B.
 Gardiner, Thomas K., 1B 2B 3L(o) 5A 6B 10B 11A.
 Hannell, Leslie E., 1B 5B 9B 14B 17B.
 Hemmings, Roland A., 1B 5A 6A 8B 11B 14L.
 Langley, Jack S., 1B 5B 6A 7B 8B.
 Laycock, Stanley M., 1B 2A 3L 5A 6A 8H2 11B.
 Learmonth, Frank M., 5A 6A 7B 10H2.
 Lowbridge, Eric, 1B 5A 6B 10B 11B 14B.
 Martin, Geoffrey C., 1H1 2B 3B(o) 5B 6B 10A 11B.
 MacPhail, John D., 3B 6A 10L 23B.
 McConnell, Allan H., 1B 2B 5A 6A 10B 11A.
 McLean, Raymond L., 1B 2B 8B 11B 16pass
 Miller, Eric M., 1B 5B 6B 17B.
 Millington, Frederick S., 1B 5B 8B 14L.
 Montgomery, Owen R., 1H2 2B 3B(o) 5A 6B 10L 11A.
 Morton, Keith, 1A 2B 3A(o) 5B.
 Mulvihill, Edward J., 1B 5B 6B 14B.
 Nash, Eccles N., 1B 2B 3B 5A 6B 7B 10B.
 Nelson, Charles W., 1A 3B 5B 8B 9B 14L.
 Penny, John R., 1A 2B 3A(o) 5B 6B 8B 11B.
 Peate, Desmond L., 1B 2B 3B 5B 6B 8B 11B.
 Ray, Stanley N., 1B 5A 6A 8B 11B 14B 17B.
 Richards, Arthur, 1A 5B 6B 8B 17B.
 Sanders, Norman S., 1B 5B 6B 14B.
 Seale, John R., 1B 5B 6B 8A 17B.

Sommerville, John W., 1B 3B 5B 6B.
 Stewart, Richard W., 1B 5B 13B 14L.
 Still, Keith, 5B 6B 11B 14B.
 Symes, Frank E., 1B 3A(o) 5B 6B.
 Tennant, Frederick H., 1B 3L 5B 6B.
 Thompson, Ronald E., 1B 2L 5B 8B 11B.
 Towns, Neville Roy, 1B 5B 8B 14B.
 Venn, John F., 2B 3B(o) 5A 6A 21B.
 Walters, Edgar, 1B 2B 3L 5B 10B 11B.
 Waters, James, 1B 5B 6B 8B.
 Williams, Ronald, 1B 5A 6A 8B 11B 14B 17B.
 Williams, Samuel G., 2L 3L(o) 5B 6A 10B 11H2.
 Yates, Clement A., 5A 6A 7B 10H2 11B.

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SHAKESPEARIAN APPRECIATION.



"He doth very foolishly,
 Not to seem senseless of the bob, if not,
 The wise man's folly is anatomised
 Even by the squandering glances of the fool."

—Shakespeare—As You Like It. 11.7.

Intermediate Certificate Results, 1931

1 English, 2 History, 3 Geography, 4 Maths. I, 5 Maths. II, 6 Latin,
 7 French, 8 German, 9 Physics, 10 Chemistry, 11 Elementary Science,
 15 Business Principles, 16 Shorthand, 21 Music, 27 Greek.

- Adams, Charles J., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7A 11A.
- Adams, Walter J., 1B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 16A(s).
- Anson, Lindsay A., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 11A.
- Astbury, Jack, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7A 16A.
- Aurelius, Oliver S., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 7B 11B.
- Aus, Norman, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
- Bailey, Kenneth W., 1B 3B 4B 5B 7B (o) 11B.
- Ball, C. W., 1A 2A 3A 4B 5B 7A 11B 15B 16A(s).
- Balmer, Keith, 1B 3B 6B 7B(o).
- Banks, Albert D., 3B 4B 5B 7B 11A.
- Barrack, Cecil, 1B 3B 4A 5B 7A(o) 11B 16A(s).
- Barratt, Ronald L., 1B 2B 3A 4B 5B 11B.
- Beeston, Lawrence D., 1B 3B 4B 5B 7B(o) 11B.
- Benson, Edward W., 1B 2B 3A 5B 11B.
- Bishop George A., 1B 4A 5B 6A 7B(o) 8B(o) 11A.
- Boylan, Thomas H., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B.
- Brent, Will, 1B 4A 5B 6A 7A 8B 11A.
- Britz, Karl Joseph, 1B 3B 4A 5B 6A 7B 11A.
- Brooks, John H., 1B 2B 3A 7B.
- Brown-Bishop, Beresford, 1B 2B 3B 7B 11B.
- Brown, Richard J., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11A.
- Brown, Thomas G., 1B 5B 7B(o) 11A.
- Buchanan, A. T., 1B 2B 3A 4A 5B 7A 11B 15B 16A(s).
- Burgess, Frank McC., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11A.
- Cairns, Aubrey M., 1B 2B 3B 5B 7B.
- Campbell, Charles D., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7A(o) 8A(o) 11A.
- Clark, Roland J., 1B 5B 7B 11A.
- Clode, Alan E., 1B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 17B 20A.
- Cox, Henry N., 1B 2B 3B 5B 7B 11B.
- Cox, Jack, 1A 4B 5B 6B 7B(o) 8B 11A.
- * Creagh, John T., 1B 6B 7B 8B 11B.
- * Dent, James M., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7A 11A 15B 16B.
- Diemar, Alfred E., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11A.
- Dunlop, Ronald, 1B 4B 6A 7A(o) 8B 11B 27A.
- Dyer, Victor, 1B 2B 3A 4B 5B 7B 11B.
- Eaton, Kelvin J., 1B 2B 3B 4B 6B 7B(o) 11B.
- Edwards, Wallace F., 1B 4A 5B 6A 7A(o) 8A(o) 11A.
- Elliott, Albert, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6A 7B 11B.
- Embleton, Leonard R., 1B 6B 7B 11B.
- Errington, Kenneth P., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
- Felton, Linsley, 1B 3B 4A 5B 11B.
- Ferguson, George R., 1A 2B 3A 4B 5B 7B 11A.
- * Ford, Mervyn H., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B 16B.
- Fowler, Keith R., 1B 4B 5B 7B.
- Garratt, George E., 1A 4A 5B 6A 7A 8A(o) 11A 21A.
- Goodenough, Keith C., 1B 4A 5B 6A 7A(o) 8A(o) 11A.
- Greentree, John D., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
- Hamblin, John M., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 6B 7B 11A.
- Hill, Wallace J., 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11A.

STAFF CHANGES

Hobson, Roy P., 1A 2A 3A 4A 5B 7A 11A 16B 16A(s)
 Hopkins, Charles D., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B.
 Hunter, Thomas, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7A(o) 11B 16B.
 Jenkins, Henry P., 1B 2B 3A 4B 5B 6B 11B.
 Jenkins, John C., 2B 3B 5B 7B 11B.
 Jones, Arthur E., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 16A.
 Kempe, Arthur R., 1A 2B 4B 5B.
 Kirkwood Victor S., 1B 2B 3B 4B 7B 11B.
 Leedham, Harold W., 1A 2B 3B 4B 5B 7A(o) 11A 15B 16B.
 Marsden, William R., 1B 3B 4A 5B 7B 11B.
 Martin, Leslie D., 1B 6B 7A(o) 8B 7B 11A. ?
 Mason, Keith W., 1B 2B 3B 4B 11B.
 Mathieson, Thomas C., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11A.
 *McConnell, Jack F., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A(o) 11A.
 Mee, Harry C., 1B 2B 3B 4B 7B 16A.
 Merrilees, Milton J., 1B 2B 3B 11A.
 Moir, Alexander, 1B 2B 3B 5B 11B.
 Moore, John W., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6A 7A(o) 8B 11A.
 Morgan, Jack W., 1B 2B 3B 5B 11B.
 Morgan, John P., 1B 3B 4B 5A 7A 11A 16B.
 Newman, George P., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B 15B 16B.
 Oldham, Alexander G., 1A 2A 3A 4B 5B 7B 11A.
 O'Neile, James C., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11A.
 *Owens, Barry H., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
 Pears, Mark G., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
 Percival, Alan N., 1B 4A 5B 6B 7A(o) 8B(o) 11A.
 Percy, Thomas E., 1B 2B 3A 4B 5B 7A 11B 16A(s).
 Pragnell, James H., 1B 2B 3B 4B 6B 7B 11A.
 Pullen, Wallace J., 1A 4A 5B 6A 7A 8A 11A.
 *Roddenby, William H., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B(o) 8B(o) 11A.
 Sampson, William R., 1A 2A 3B 4A 5B 7A(o) 11A 16A.
 Silcock, Harry R., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5A 6B 7B 11A.
 *Slarks, Wilfred J., 1A 2B 3B 4B 5B 11B.
 Skelton, Algar P., 1B 4A 5A 6A 7A(o) 8A(o) 11A.
 Sommerlad, Verdun C., 1B 4B 5B 7B.
 Stevens, Eric A., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B(o) 11A.
 Stevens, Robert A., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7A 11A.
 Stewart, James W., 1B 2B 3B 4B 7B 11B.
 Talamini, Leo R., 1A 4A 5B 6A 7A 8B 11A.
 Taylor, Alexander, 1B 4A 5B 6A 7A(o) 8A(o) 11A.
 Thomas, Trevor D., 1B 4B 6B 7A(o) 8B(o) 11B.
 *Triplet, Robert G., 1B 5B 6A 7A(o) 8A(o) 11A.
 *Venning, Harry B., 1A 2B 3B 7B.
 Verdon, Colin N., 1A 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
 Vidal, Kenneth A., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B.
 Watt, Prosper R., 1B 4B 6B 7B 11B.
 Wendt, John, 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
 White, Eric, 1B 3B 7B 11B.
 White, William, 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B(o) 11B 15B 16A(s).
 *Whitford, William F., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11A.
 Williams, James L., 1B 4A 5B 6B 7B 11A.
 Willis, Frederick C., 1A 2B 4A 5B 6A 7A(o) 11A.
 Wilson, Ralph C., 1A 4A 5B 6A 7A(o) 8A(o) 11A.
 Withycombe, Peter S., 1A 2B 3B 4A 5B 6B 7A 11A.
 Woodman, Vincent A., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.
 Young, Sydney, 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B.

Mr. C. H. Christmas, B.A., is our new headmaster, and is certainly no stranger to us, having been the headmaster for the past seven years of the East Maitland High School. Newcastle and East Maitland High Schools have been rivals for nearly 25 years, and naturally they both are well acquainted with the other's staffs.

Mr. Christmas was a teacher at Newcastle High School when it was first opened in June, 1906, with Mr. C. R. (Caesar) Smith in charge. At that time there was only one other teacher on the staff, Miss L. Cole, B.A., and the attendance was 97, boys and girls. The school was housed on the hill in "temporary premises," and a quarter of a century later, he finds the same building still being used, with the addition of a few portable weatherboard rooms, an attendance of nearly 700, and a surplus of over 100 boys removed to the Technical Colleges.

Mr. Christmas' subject is Mathematics.

Mr. V. R. Outten, M.A., Dip. Ed., comes to us from Fort Street High School, where he has been for the last five years. He takes Mr. Golding's place as Master of Mathematics. He is interested in cricket and debating.

Mr. T. Hughes, B.Sc., is an old boy of the Newcastle High School, and is a Vice-President of the Old Novocastrians' Association. He takes Mr. Austin's place as Master of Science, and comes from Wagga High, where he was the Deputy Headmaster.

Mr. O. N. Kelly, M.A., Dip. Ed., left the Sydney Teachers' College where he was lecturer in Latin for five years, to take over Mr. Gibbs' position as Master of Classics. Mr. Kelly was previously at Sydney Boys' High School for nine years.

Mr. T. E. Perrau, B.Sc., is also an old Novocastrian, and now joins the Science staff of his old school. He was previously at Sydney High, Katoomba Intermediate and Inverell Intermediate High Schools.

Mr. F. J. Allsopp, B.A., joins the English and History staff, and has previously taught at Chatswood Intermediate and Cessnock Intermediate High Schools. He intends taking some interest in Play Day.

Mr. C. A. C. Dimmock, B.A., came from Broken Hill, where he has been for the last three years. He joins the French staff and has taken charge of the tennis in the school.

Mr. R. G. Langford, comes to us from Cleveland Street Intermediate High School, and was previously at Parramatta High for two years. He is best known to us at the moment as the famous Mr. "X" of the French staff.

Mr. R. G. Golding went to Enmore to take charge of the new Secondary Classes there. Mr. J. P. Austin went to Temora Intermediate High School as headmaster.

Mr. J. Gibbes is now Master of Classics at North Sydney High School under Mr. Harvey.

Mr. Motte was transferred to Sydney High School.

Mr. McCaffery went to Chatswood, Mr. Stack to Parramatta Inter. High, and Mr. Pfeiffer to Griffith.

Of all living creatures birds are the most difficult to paint with scientific accuracy. Nearly all the paintings of birds appear incorrect to the eye of the ornithologist, principally because the grouping of the feathers is generally quite wrong. Of inanimate objects, flames are exceedingly difficult to portray correctly because they combine as fit were, the inanimate with motion. Those who see the picture know that the flames are not alive and yet that they ought to be moving; and in this fact, and the great difficulty in combining the leaping flames with the rolling smoke, lies the reason of the failure of so many artists to depict a conflagration as it really is.

Down to the year 1748, cricket was an illegal game in England. Any person allowing it to be played on his land was liable to a fine of £20 and three years imprisonment, and the players, £10 fine and two years imprisonment, while the "implements" were to be burnt. This was a statute of Edward IV, enacted because the popularity of cricket was interfering with archery. Nevertheless the first county match was played while the tremendous penalties were still in force. It was played between elevens of Kent and Sussex at Sevenoaks in 1735.

MR. C. H. CHRISTMAS

The Editors of The Novocastrian would be remiss indeed if they allowed this volume to go to print without some reference, facetious or no, to the Headmaster's prowess as a bowler. Therefore the editors knowing something of the intricacies of the game that Drake played, felt it incumbent upon them to meet this contingency in a fit and proper manner. Mr. Christmas has been a skipper for some years now, and was for some time, President of the East Maitland Bowling Club. He will play in the Newcastle district with the Lowlands Bowling Club, and if he is not a blue pennant skipper at once, it will be because in his modesty, he will ask to play lead or third, to some of the Lowland's skippers who have been long members of the Club. To the popular tune, then, of "Burlington Bertie," let us sing as well as our cracked voices will permit us,

They all call me Chris,
I don't take it amiss,
I spend half of my life on the green.
I said to my leader,
"Now draw me a sneezer,"
He sent me a weak one too lean, TOO LEAN!
I cried to the third man,
"Now draw me the shot," and
He with rapidity
Carried the kitty,
I'm skip skip,
But I nearly quit,
I nearly went off the deep end!
When I finished drawing,
The second was scoring,
Down nine and a measure for ten.

—R.J.G.

Their manner of writing is very peculiar, being neither from the left to the right, like the Europeans; nor from the right to the left, like the Arabians; nor up and down like the Chinese; but aslant from one corner of the page to the other, like ladies in England.

Swift, Gulliver's Travels. Ch. vi.



MR. R. F. HARVEY, B.A.

MR. HARVEY

It was with regret that the school learnt of Mr. Harvey's transference to North Sydney, a few days before the long vacation.

He was so much an essential part of the school's mechanism, that it seemed impossible to carry on without his efficient administration.

Mr. Harvey may have been sometimes misunderstood, but those in close touch with him at the school, knew well that his first thoughts were always for the school.

During his five years of Headmastership, he lifted the school from mediocrity to pre-eminence among the schools of the Newcastle district, indeed of the State, would not be exaggeration. On his arrival he found the school somewhat confused, a state which he immediately set about transforming, with all that energy, of which, we are only too well aware, he is capable. Although the school at first chafed under the new disciplinary methods that he adopted, it soon grew to recognise them as necessary for its own betterment. The outcome of his methods is the high standard of deportment, demanded by a school with our traditions. His energetic mind soon saw the necessity of, and benefit which would accrue from, a well stocked library. Books of every description found their way to our library, which he had renovated, and when Mr. Harvey left, there remained the particularly good library, of which we are justly proud.

Another valuable institution in which Mr. Harvey was greatly interested, and of which, perhaps, he was the guiding light, is the Parents and Citizens' Association, to which we are greatly indebted for its incessant endeavours to help the school.

Mr. Harvey was a man of fine character, his judicious ruling in our school bearing eloquent testimony of his ability as a Headmaster. Owing to his ability to see eye to eye with our sporting staff, sport progressed more favourably than in former years. His unbounding energy and lack of personal concern, often brought about severe illness but even when unfit for work he returned to take up the reins of Government.

Although Mr. Harvey has gone, possibly never to return, he has left behind a lasting impression and an irreproachable record which will go down in the annals of the Newcastle High School.

L. L. DEED.

THE PREFECTS ROOM

The Prefects have a room of their own now, and very comfortable they are making it. In the centre of the room the pride of place is given to the table, upon which the big men of the school may be seen resting their feet. At the far side, opposite the door, we find the best spot in the room, the cane lounge, at present occupied by the heavy weight. Works of art adorn the walls, and now we hear the "heads" speaking affectionately of the "Corot" and the "Rembrandt." When the prefects had been in their room a month, their publicity officer went round to various school identities and asked their opinions of the innovation. These were the answers:—

Mr. Christmas : "I now know where to find a prefect without having to go over the whole school."

Mr. Noakes and Mr. Ford : The same.

Mr. V. Outten : "If the logarithm of the ratio of the boys in the school, to the number of prefects, is a mean proportional between—." We left hurriedly.

Mr. R. J. Gillings : "A good idea, when any of the boys in 1A do not do their homework, I say 'Report to the Prefects' Room at 3.30.'"

Len Deed : "The only things that are missing are a telephone, some typewriters and a stenographer, lounge chairs for all, radiators for winter, electric fans for summer, a wireless set, some carpets, and— I will think of some more later."

Harold Jones said he derived much aesthetic satisfaction from the works of art on the walls, but he has seen better legs on chairs.

Les Hannell : "The cane lounge isn't too bad."

Norm Charge (his mind characteristically away from the subject): "I would have liked to have seen a cricket match, Staff v. School."

Tom Churnside (1st Year): "I don't know much about the room, but I don't like drilling in front of it."

Bill Smith (2C): "The prefects' room is too close to our own room, so we can't stay in to do homework."

President of the P. & C. Association : "Anything you need in the way of furniture or ornaments, just let me know."

The Old Novocastrian Association (per Vice-President): "We can arrange to have one of our youngest lady members on duty during recess, luncheon, and at 3.30 p.m. to look after in a general way, the more pressing requirements of the prefects."

Mr. D. Short : "What an excellent room in which to read Maupassant and Izaak Walton's 'Compleat Angler.'"

Clarice : "Well, the room is a nice room, only there are so many of you in it."

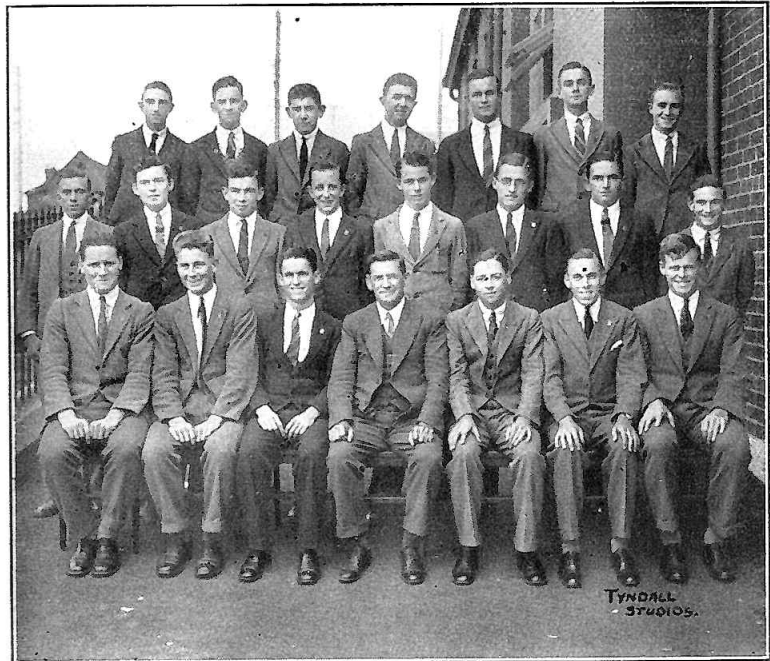
Mr. D. Kevans : "Within the portals of this ancient Gothic pile, wherein have toiled in past ages the rude forefathers of the hamlet, here should the mystic muse and goddess of aesthetic beauty find quiet rest and solace; of course I don't profess to be able to criticise, that's only my opinion, I may not be right."

Mr. F. J. Moroney : "What do you do there anyway?"

Mr. K. Barnard : "Excellent! I'll form a W.E.A. branch class there immediately."

Boys in 3rd Year were unanimous in saying, "A really good scheme, they are now at the other end of the school and don't bother us."

L. HANNEL (Publicity Officer)



PREFECTS.

W. James, F. Learmonth, W. Bailey, H. Craig, W. Engel, J. Meillon, M. Marks, I. Edmunds, F. Harris, R. Bass, N. Charge, G. Smallman, W. Underwood, K. Willis, R. Williams, L. Hannell, S. Williams, L. Deed (Capt.), C. H. Christmas, H. Jones (V. Capt.), R. MacLeod, L. Cane.

PREFECTS NOTES

As we write these notes an air of grandeur surrounds us, for we are in the prefects' room, with its flowers, its cane lounge, its Corot and its Rembrandt.

When Norm Charge enters the room, his morose spirits spread to the others. We feel with him in the sad event that has overtaken him. His cricket team was beaten by Maitland!

Mr. Short's 3oz. leatherjacket pales in comparison with Bill Engel's 80lb. jewfish. In one way we are not surprised that Bill can beat Mr. Short at fishing, for Bill has longer arms.

Len Deed has shown some fine turns of speed, chasing little boys who try to evade drill parades.

We can say much about this drill squad and it is all good. Consider the amount of training some of our footballers are receiving without realising it. Some of the prefects have received excellent training for their voices, which will prove handy in any speeches they may have to make.

One curly-headed, dimple-chinned member of the staff, considers that he does not exercise his voice enough in class, so he kindly turns up and helps the prefects on drill.

Another member of the staff says it is a good idea, and is doing his utmost to keep it going, by sending along many batches of recruits.

Keith Willis, however, has other things to do; he thinks all day of the beautiful vision he meets every afternoon, and who prevents him staying one minute after 3.30.

It was with regret that we heard that "Chalky" had left us. In recognition of his excellent services on the incinerator, he has been presented with the "Order of the Burnt Paper."

One of our prefects has set a very bad example by coming late. I wonder if Toby knows anything about it?

It is pleasing to note that many of the newly appointed prefects have been together in the same classes since First Year.

The new prefects are carrying out their duties very well. Notice Garge looking after Third Year! See also Teddy and the incinerator; Frank and the bins and Milton cleaning up the wall sitters.

The standard of our "lingerie" has lately been improved by the addition of "Undie."

During renovations, there was unearthed from amongst the debris of our now luxurious abode, some bottles of that rare old vintage, "School Spirit," for which Mr. V. H. Walker has been searching.

Watch Gar Meillon (6ft.) directing a (3ft.) 1st Year imp, with a bin to the incinerator.

James' presence seems to denote silence. Hence his choice as a librarian.

THE LIBRARY

During the past year the library has become increasingly popular, until the number of members has become so great that restrictions have had to be framed limiting the number admitted. It is a matter of great regret that this has become necessary, but the capacity of the room is obviously limited.

An apology is also due for the short time for which books can be borrowed, it is realised that this may inflict hardship on 5th year boys particularly, but when so many have to be catered for there is no alternative. We appeal to all borrowers to play the game by returning books promptly so that their fellow pupils will not suffer.

A large number of books were added to the shelves during the year, but there are still many gaps to be filled. A list is being prepared, and the librarians would welcome any suggestions so that the books may be secured as soon as funds are available.

The separation of the Geography Library was such a success that the History has also been moved to another room and it is hoped that the congestion will be greatly relieved.

The library now consists of some 1700 volumes and about 40 books are borrowed every day while all seating accommodation is filled by eager readers.

The requirements of the library are watched over by a number of keen assistants, and all boys are asked to co-operate with them to secure the greatest possible efficiency and benefit. Any suggestions of practical value will be welcomed, for it is our endeavour to make the library an even greater aid to education and culture.

"After perusing a false and scurrilous letter, printed at New York and signed Edward Cole, it was tho't proper that the same should be publicly whipt, as tending to beget ill-will, and brushing a Disunion in the several Governments in America, the contrary of which at this time and present situation of our affairs is much wanted. Accordingly it was here, at 4 of the clock this afternoon, after proper notice by beat of the Drum, publicly whipt, according to Moses' law. Forty stripes save one, by the common whipper and then burnt."

—Historical Magazine and Notes and Queries for America. 1859, Vol III.



MR. V. H. WALKER

"Jargon" is by no means accurate, its method being to walk circumspectly round its target. The concrete before the abstract always, for style, is the man, and where a man's treasure is there his heart, and his brain, and his writing will be also. Words to beware of, are "instance," "character," "nature," "condition," "persuasion," "degree," "case" (Jargon's pet child), "as such," "order," "quality," "as regards," "as to," "in respect of," "according as to whether," "in connection with." When writing these words or phrases, pull yourself up and take thought.

—From Quiller Couch on The Art of Writing.

MR. V. H. WALKER

In recent years organised sport has become a very important department of educational establishments, and all branches of sport have to be catered for. Newcastle High School has been very successful in its various sporting contests, and this result has been contributed to by the sportsmasters of the past. The school has been fortunate in having gentlemen filling the position of sportsmaster, who have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the heavy work entailed. But no master has been more popular or worked harder than Mr. Walker, and it is due to his untiring efforts that sport has been so successful of late years.

Coming to the school in 1926, he immediately took a prominent part in sport. He became master in charge of athletics in 1927, and in this position his complete and sympathetic understanding of the boys who passed through his hands, aroused the esteem of all associated with this branch of sport. His duties as master entailed a remarkable amount of organisation, especially in conjunction with Sports' Day, and the efficient manner in which these carnivals were carried out was due entirely to Mr. Walker's efforts.

In 1929 he became sportsmaster, but still continued as master in charge of athletics, which latter position he held until last year, when he handed the reins of his office to Mr. Cummings. From 1929 till his resignation, Mr. Walker's influence was felt in all other branches of sport. Under his supervision, cricket, football, tennis and swimming flourished. Football and cricket were raised and maintained at their present high standard. Mr. Walker showed his interest by endeavouring to arrange matches with Sydney teams, and last year made great efforts to enter the 1st XV in the Sydney competition. When success seemed assured, departmental sanction was refused and his dream was shattered in an instant.

During his three years of office, Mr. Walker worked loyally and faithfully in the interests of the school. His enthusiasm for team games was largely responsible for the enormous increase in the number of boys playing cricket and football. We appreciate his work as sportsmaster and desire to take this opportunity of placing our thanks on record. We trust that one day he will see his way clear once again to take up his old position.

N.C.



SONNET.

The pale, cold moon is waning in the west,
Her fading glory lights the sleeping earth,
And loitering lovers lately seeking rest,
Have long forgot her lowly eastern birth.
The slumbering trees stir restless in the breeze,
The cool night breeze that soothes the fevered soil,
While liquid Lady Moon her master sees
And slips into the velvet darkness' coil.
The trees are stilled as by a voice supreme
And nature waits, with strained attention, waits,
In the hush of new born day, for earliest gleam,
And clothed with dew, seems sheathed in jewelled plate.
The stillness of the night gives way to song,
The hush of dawn dissolves in paeons long.

F. SYMES, 5B.

THE LAY OF THE LAST FORD.

(With apologies to Sir Walter Scott, and the author of the lyric, "My Brother Makes the Noises for the Talkies.")

The night was dark, the engine cold,
The Ford it was infirm and old;
Its battered front and hood a-fray,
Reminded one of an old tip-dray.
The horn, its sole remaining joy,
The sleeping neighbours did annoy;
The last of all the Fords was he—
A car devoid of rivalry.
For well-a-day their time had fled,
His rattling brethren all were dead;
And, he, neglected and unblest'd,
Wished he'd gone with all the rest.
No more upheld and praised by men—
But used as nest for the broody hen.
He spread his woe to the listening night
While the stars looked down on the sorrowful sight.
Old times are gone, old manners past,
And he is borne to the tip at last.

I. MCKENSEY, 1A.



SONNET.

How brief is time, how long eternity !
Are we but flowers in the Almighty's plan,
Which in the field do perish utterly,
With but one breath of life their fleeting span ?
How small is earth, how vast an ocean space !
Are we but atoms of the universal theme,
Mere grains of sand which leaving ne'er a trace
Are lost in Lethe's dark, oblivious stream ?
How puny man, how great the Omnipotent One !
Are we so far below Him in the power
He gently wields, mere candles to His sun,
Some few confused men on Babel's tower ?
Yes these we are but still for us reserved,
There is a destiny not yet deserved.

FRANK SYMES, 5B.

NIGHT.

Those ragged clouds, stirred by the breath of night,
Urveil the chaste cool radiance of the moon;
Smoothly swelling waves with hollow roar
In pensive grace roll on, and lowly croon,
To spill their stolen silver on the shore.
One lovely gull in flight
Wheels high above the headline dim, to scream
And start the oft repeating echoes round,
To stir with dull monotony of sound
The drowsy, sweet remembrance of a dream.

Wanton breezes from the ocean stray,
Caress the nodding grasses of the dunes;
Wand'ring through the quiet forest glades
They wake the sleeping leaves with stolen tunes,
Sung by the stream hid in the willow shades,
A careless songster, rambling on his way.
Ah ! sweet to be alone;
In solitude companioned by the stars,
That, in eternal silence from afar
Send some glimmering of the unknown.

RARA AVIS.

INSECTS.

The shades of night were falling fast,
When down the hill there came at last,
A schoolboy with his head hung low,
As if he did not wish to show
That worried look upon his face,
Which lengthened with each heavy pace.

"It's been a sorry day for me,
I didn't do my history.
My teacher says, "it's a disgrace,"
He muttered, while his heavy pace
Still carried him 'way down the town,
And still he kept the worried frown.

"If I hadn't had that beastly fight,
I wouldn't have this impo for to-night,
Gee! but I'm a nervous wreck—
To-night I've gotta go to tech,
And yesterday I got the cane!
Well, thank the Lord, here comes my train."

H. WALTERS, 2B

THE UNHAPPY SCHOOLBOY.

The ant is a warrior, brave and bold,
Who works for the good of his race;
His comrades and he will a-pillaging go,
And return at night from the chase.

The fly is a housemaid, timid and weak,
Who buzzes around all day;
She picks at the sugar and sits on the bread,
While she hums her merry lay.

The moth is a watchman, who at night
Creeps out from the wardrobe dim,
And frolics and plays round the study light,
Then returns to his lair so grim.

M. N. KELLY, 1A.

SONNET.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever";
A sunset's hues, the glorious, flaming red,
The deepening opal tints, ah! who can ever
The impress of this transient scene forget.
Glare-wearied eyes await the gathering night,
And ever soothing comes the darkness on,
The velvet darkness, setting for the light
Of the pale, cold rays of gleaming stars and moon.
But this must pass; the fading stars are lost,
The hush of dawn steals tensely o'er the land,
Till all is still, then with a joyous burst
The world breaks forth into a paean grand.
No, nothing can from memory's scroll erase
Such scenes of beauty of forgotten days.

FRANK SYMES, 5B.

THE AUTOCRAT OF THE TOUCH LINE.

(An onlooker at a Union game v. Maitland)

It's two o'clock—they're late again,
P'rhaps Maitland men have missed the train.
No—here they are! Let's give a cheer,
To show that we are sportsmen here.

They're off! Old Charge is on the ball,
They've got him—no! he's through them all,
Oh! Well run, Charge! The ball's in touch.
(I say, you ass, don't squirm so much!)

I wish our forwards weren't so slow;
I wish our backs would tackle low.
Oh! Well played, Cohen! Did you see
The way he brought down number three?

By jove! We've got the ball at last,
Now, Hannell—chump—he should have passed,
Just look at that—they're going through;
Now Brown, it's up to you.

Offside!! I say, where is the "ref."?
I do believe the man is deaf!
"Offside"!! (how hot and dry my throat is),
He doesn't take a scrap of notice.

What's that? Half time so soon? Phew!
I'm feeling hot and tired, too.
I wish they'd bring those lemons round
To us, poor fish who line the ground.

ARTHUR LLOYD, 3B.

THE POET IMBIBES.

O! for a bed to put—to
Put—m'self an' lie an' watch
The lamp shpin round.
I cannot raise me fute to—
Kick.
Me legsh are plaint wire
An' me kneesh 'ave no deshire
To hold me up. Had I a
Shtick,
I might be different,
'Cos then I might shtop totterin'
About the shtreet an' feelin'
Sick!
Sick to death of mutterin'
Me dishcords and of shplutterin'
Along, an' lookin' (hic!)
An' lookin' (hic!) a hatter;
Lumme! Wha's the matter?
'Pon me shoul, wash that a
Brick?
'Struth, 'ow I'm slitherin'
About an' ditherin'
Like a lunatic.
O to be gently sunk,
Into me downy bunk.
Not beas'ly (hic!)—
Not beas'ly (hic!)—
Not beas'ly shquintin' drunk
An' plethoric.

J.G.T., 5A.

THE OCEAN

What a wonderful place the ocean is! What remarkable changes are taking place every minute, year in and year out, in its mysterious depths, especially in those lower forms of life, quite devoid of mind! The ocean has seas which are big enough to swallow the highest mountain on the earth. It harbours those grotesque fish which only the most imaginative mind could conceive. It is strong enough to toss about the biggest ship that man can build, as if it were a cork.

The coral reefs, the mountains of the ocean, are the work of myriads of polyps through countless ages. Though a menace to the sailor, the coral reef is the home of many of the most beautiful coloured inhabitants of the ocean. Fish of all shapes and sizes swim about the reefs and some of these are so brilliantly marked that they are rivals in colour to the gaudy birds of the air. Anemones, much like a vegetable in form, abound in the pools of a coral reef. They protect themselves with little poisonous cells which are situated at the end of many tentacles strong enough to draw a small crab or other small marine animal into its interior. The victim once inside, becomes powerless, for it is immediately paralysed by the poison, and then its edible organs are absorbed by the captor. Shell fish make a home for sea anemones by placing them on their moveable residence, the shell. The Hermit Crab is so devoted to the anemone that on growing too big for its shell it finds another, and taking the anemone from its old home places it on the new one.

What a picture the ocean must present to the deep sea diver? Sharks cruise around him inquisitively, but are quickly scared off by a few bubbles of air released from his helmet. Yawning giant clams are ever ready to ensnare the unwary diver. The shells of these gigantic oysters are so big that they are used as baths by natives. How wonderful it must be to see fantastically shaped fish in their natural haunts swimming about in schools.

The ocean has forests just as the land has. These forests are of innumerable varieties of seaweed which stretch from the ocean bed to the rippling or tempest torn surface above. Many of these are so tall that they would tower above our highest gum trees. A few kinds of seaweed are edible, whilst others by treatment may be made to yield iodine and soda. For the land, rotted seaweed is valuable as a manure.

The ocean will certainly have a wonderful future. Scientists will probe its secrets and provide man with foods quite different to those in the familiar tin of sardines or salmon. T. JAMES, 4C.

MOUNT KOSCIUSKO

Mount Kosciusko, the highest mountain in Australia, is situated in the far south-eastern corner of New South Wales. Although it is a little over seven thousand feet in height, it cannot be compared with the numerous other mountains of the world. The summit of Kosciusko is just under the line of perpetual snow, that is, snow will not be there all the year round.

At the summit a succession of plain, uncovered hills is seen on the northern side, whilst the southern side is very rocky and precipitous. A direction plate, mounted in concrete, enables the visitor to find the relative positions of various towns and points of interest. In the vicinity of the summit, there is a number of small lakes, including Lake Cootapatamba and the Blue Lake. These lakes are, unfortunately, some distance from the road and are only accessible, either by walking or on horseback. Consequently only a limited number of tourists to Mount Kosciusko are successful in seeing them.

As the visitor commences the eighteen mile descent to the Hotel Kosciusko, he is confronted with a weathershed on his left, which is made conspicuous by the deep red painting of its roof. This weathershed, containing a supply of food, blankets and wood, stands as a memorial to Laurie Seaman, who was lost in a blizzard a few years ago.

In the course of the next mile, the head of the Snowy River is crossed. The water is remarkably cold and clear, and is said to be full of trout. Continuing on, it is very monotonous and tiresome, and the many small creeks and watercourses, which cross the road, make travelling unpleasant.

On entering Charlotte Pass the Chalet is seen down in a gully on the right. The Hotel Kosciusko is not an ideal place for skiing, although it is quite satisfactory for beginners. To the clever and experienced skiers, the snow at the hotel is very unsuitable. As a result, the Chalet was built closer to the summit and indeed it is a place well worth seeing.

The Hotel Kosciusko is a fine structure and contains many of the conveniences of a modern up-to-date city hotel. The building itself is of stone and wood, and although one may in winter approach the verandah on skis, it is surprisingly warm outside. The hotel is heated throughout by steam pipes and electric radiators, the electricity being generated on the premises. A staff of about fifty is employed, and all the latest contrivances are used in the domestic department of the establishment. Provision is made for over two hundred guests, and at holiday times, the hotel is filled to the utmost.

Plenty of entertainment is provided for the guests. A cinematograph has been installed and on various evenings, pictures are screened. Apart from this, there is an excellent dance floor, thus dancing is indulged in very frequently.

L. ATTWOOD, 4C.

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Forty miles westward from Sydney, and reached by a first-class service of speedy trains, are the famous Blue Mountains, forming the giant eastern wall guarding the Central Tablelands of the New South Wales plateau system.

For over 60 miles the train travels through magnificent rugged mountain scenery, the line being flanked throughout by vast forest-clad gorges.

On all sides is the grand, cloud-shadowed expanse of the Australian bush. Viewed from any of the many mountain stations, the surrounding country is enchanting in the extreme, grey-blue valleys extending as far as the eye can see.

Shrouding the distant ridges and valleys is a light blue haze, colouring the whole scene with the faint bluish tint from which these mountains derive their name, whilst over the whole region is a faint scent of eucalyptus and wild flowers, borne upward from the verdured depths on the breast of the morning mist.

Seen through this fairy veil of blue, the wide-spread mountain panoramas are truly fascinating and delightful. Scattered throughout this sylvan wilderness are many magnificent waterfalls and cascades, their crystal loveliness accentuating the delicate and scented beauty of countless ferny groves and bowers.

Occasional streams and small rivers are glimpsed. They boldly break into the mountains, flowing then placidly under beetling cliffs. Rapids alternate with limpid sheets of open water; while far up stream, standing out in bold relief, towers some peak, around the base of which the mountain torrent, and where, save the noise of the distant fall, the purling of running water, with perhaps the note of the bell-bird, heard far away in the glades of some creek, there is all that stillness necessary to complete one's imagination of the home of fairy and romance.

KEN PETERSON, 3A.

The Pearling Industry In Australia

Australia is the world's largest pearl-fishing ground, and some idea of the vastness of the grounds may be obtained from the fact that it is approximately 2000 shore miles in length, stretching from Cape York to Shark Bay. This covers practically the whole of the tropical waters, washing the shores of Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia—waters which are peculiarly favourable to the propagation of the pearl oyster and wherein it flourishes prolifically.

The North-west field in itself is of considerable area and as is well known, this corner of the State is comparatively isolated, the existence of the desert basin having somewhat reacted against railway pioneering, with the result that there is not the disposition to wander too far afield. The most commonly worked ground is between North-West Cape and King Sound. It is in this belt that the large and commercially valuable pearl-shell oyster is found.

The pearl fishery in these parts has been pursued for many decades past, but it is only within a relatively short time that the work has been conducted on an elaborate scale. In the early days the fishing was conducted from the beach, only the shallow waters being probed for the precious shell.

To-day, the naked diver is naught but a memory, the new scientific methods having driven him from the scene, or at the least, having deprived him of his importance, for he has been superseded by the man in the diving costume, who, by virtue of his air line, is able to venture farther from the shore into deeper waters where richer prizes have been responsible for the venturing into water ranging from ten to twenty-four fathoms, while the more expert and intrepid of the skilled fishers do not hesitate to descend to still greater depths.

The one difficulty attending the pearl fishery, if difficulty it can be called, is in regard to labour. The Asiatics, virtually control the diving business, in almost every instance the diver being a Jap. or Malayan who has embraced modern diving methods. As a matter of fact, the pearling industry is almost wholly dependent on Asiatic labour, the crews being recruited from these races.

A. E. ROACH, 3C.

The accusing spirit, which flew up to heaven's chancery with the oath, blushed as he gave it in; and the recording Angel, as he wrote it down, dropped a tear upon the word and blotted it out for ever.

—Sterne, Tristram Shandy

EARLY NEWCASTLE

In 1801, Governor King issued a general order notifying the establishment of a settlement at Coal River or King's Town, now Newcastle. But this settlement was abandoned, due to mutiny following the cruel despotism of Surgeon Mason, the Commandant. In January, 1802, it was closed. Two years later, the Governor decided to reform the settlement. On March 15th, 1804, he appointed Lieut. Charles Menzies commandant of the settlement, and named the locality "Newcastle, in the county of Northumberland."

The appointment of Governor Macquarie in 1809, heralded an improvement in the settlement and the commencement of many necessary public works. In 1812, three small vessels were engaged in regularly carrying coal from Allen's Hill (Signal Hill), to Sydney.

The next year saw the joining of Nobbys to Signal Hill by a breakwater. The principal tunnel of the first coal mine was located behind the present Strand Theatre. The first wharf was constructed at the foot of Watt Street. Christ Church, which was begun in 1827 was completed four years later. During 1821, the first Court House was erected. Mr. Platt, the first "free selector," took up land at the "Folly," near Mayfield.

The earliest free residents lived in tents at a site near the present Honeysuckle Station. These people had originally settled at Hexham, but had broken away, and came to Newcastle.

In 1822, negotiations, for the removal of the penal settlement to Port Macquarie, were undergone; because the free settlers objected to the nearness of the convicts. Another vital cause for the change, was that the coal industry was small and there was not enough to support a large body of convicts. Next year Newcastle became a free settlement.

In 1825, the first hospital was built on the site of the present building. Two years later the Government approached the A.A. Co. (Australian Agricultural Company), to take over and develop the coal mines already opened, which were in a very crude condition.

In 1831, the steamers "Tarmar" and "Sophia Ann" began a daily service to and from Sydney and Morpeth. A coach was daily sent from Newcastle to meet it. The event marked a decided advance in the progress of Newcastle. Up to this date all communication between Newcastle and the outside world involved the choice of a sea trip in a small sailing cutter, or the trip overland which cost twenty-six shillings, or a hundred and fifty mile ride on horseback.

In 1856, the first parliamentary election was held in Newcastle. Messrs. Hely, Piddington and Scott being returned. Another year saw the opening of the Great Northern Railway for traffic. Also, in 1857,