

NHS

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The Journal of the
Newcastle Boys' High School

OCTOBER, 1932

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F. Allsopp, B.A.

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C. A. C. Dimmock, B.A., R. G. Langford

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T. E. Perrau, B.Sc., E. Ford B.A.

Department of Economics :

C. E. Brown (Master)

THE ANNEX :

Deputy Headmaster in Charge : J. J. Forster, B.Sc.

English : H. L. Yelland, B. A., W. J. Hardy, B.A.

Science and Mathematics : B. R. Noble, B.Sc., J. J. Forster, B.Sc.
B. N. Farlow, B.Sc., K. B. Fordyce, B.Sc.

Technical Drawing : J. C. Irish.

PREFECTS :

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

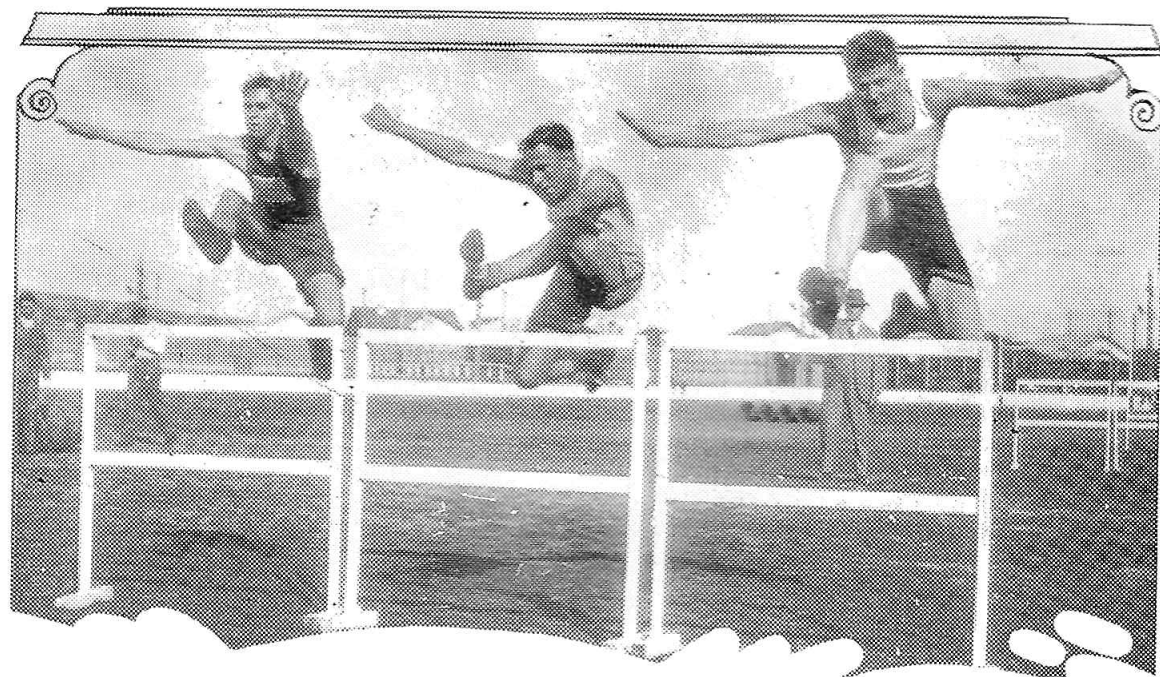
The Annex : Frank York (Capt.), Norman Swan, Luke Wilde, Arthur
Porter, Fred Millington.

LIBRARIANS :

G. Glen, G. Wheatley, A. Moir, E. White, C. Verdon.

Geography Librarians : J. Boardman, W. Jones.

History Librarians : C. Ball, A. Cairns.



I. Edmunds (3rd), Ross MacLeod (2nd) and F. Burdekin (1st) in the final of the Senior Hurdles, at the School Sports.

The Journal of the Newcastle Boys' High School

Editor: R. J. Gillings

OCTOBER, 1932

No. 433



COMING to the close of the year, we are reminded that another hundred boys will have completed their secondary education at the Newcastle High School, and they who should be the best of the youth of the city, are about to enter the commercial or professional world. Each year approximately one hundred boys complete five years of study and pass out of our hands. In past years, the transient feelings of sadness at leaving the old school, the severing of long associations, and the breaking of friendships of five years, have been leavened by the fact that a new world is about to be opened to them, a world where each must make his way according to his light, fortified as well as may be, by five years of preparation. There was an eagerness about it, a loss and corresponding gain, a "je ne sais quoi" of adventure which gave zest to the coming change.

But it is not quite like that now. No! The fight has become much sterner, and not only the weakest but the weaker will go to the wall and while the spectre of unemployment is still with us, many we know leave with no material prospects ahead of them. Well, it was the same last year, indeed it was worse. Were we not unable to print the "Novocastrian" because we lacked the finance? Let us then consider what happened, so far as the facts are available, to those who finished their High School course last year, for the matter becomes of interest when we come to those who are about to leave us this year.

Of the number (in round figures, one hundred), 20 left to continue their education after passing the Leaving Certificate examination, 5 going to the University, 1 to the Newcastle Technical College, 6 to Business Colleges, and 8 to the Sydney Teachers' College.

Those who entered the professions were distributed as follows, Architecture 1, Pharmacy 5, Accountancy 4, Journalism 1, Analytical Chemistry 1. The Commercial world attracted 12, distributed as follows, Shipping Offices 2, Commercial Houses 3, Insurance Offices 1, and Shop Assistants 7, while those who learnt trades were, Fitters and Turners 4, Brassfounders 2, Blacksmiths 1, Motor Engineers 3, Plasterers 1, Bakers 1, and Butchers 2. Those who left to take up Pastoral and Agricultural pursuits numbered 5, and 2 became mine employees. The remainder, numbering just over 30, as far as we knew in May last, were unemployed.

Now in these times, one would expect the latter number to be much larger, for we have known much of depression, reduction and rationing, so that it gives us great satisfaction to know that over 70 per cent. of those who left, were absorbed in the economic life of the community. No better evidence of the material benefit of a High School training could be given, even in good times, and if an industrial centre like Newcastle with as large a percentage of unemployed as any city outside the metropolis, rates the product of the Newcastle High School so highly, it is clear that secondary education can have a value in terms of £. s. d., even though the enlightened among us do know that educational values should not be added in terms of the arithmetic table.

But let no student of statistics, dissect these figures too meticulously. Conclusions may be misleading. For instance, some few of those recorded above were not 5th year boys, there were 12 leaving certificate candidates who repeated their 5th year course, some of the 30 unemployed may now be in good positions, and some of the accountants may have lost their jobs. We cannot tell. As Stephen Leacock has put it, in "Behind the Beyond,"

"Thus doth the race of man decay or rot,
Some men can hold the jobs and some can not."

So you see that conclusions may be misleading.

The essential fact remains however, that the year's work had not been in vain, that we have given to the state, pharmacists and blacksmiths, undergraduates and shop assistants, architects and butchers, teachers and fitters, and lest you should think these anti-theoretical, let us say at once that we take pride in bracketing them, knowing that we are meeting the requirements of the community eclectically, and, that there is as much of honour and service in the one, as in the other.

THE 9 stone 3 lb. grade final between Newcastle High and Technical High, was played as a preliminary match to the grand League final on Saturday, 17th September, between Cessnock and East Newcastle. Newcastle won—7-nil.

* * *

At the recent school inspection, Messrs. Cramp, Laird, Davies, Lewis and Breakwell were present.

* * *

When the final of the Northern zone of the University Shield was played at Taree, the staff was represented by Messrs. Ford, Roberts, Cummings, Walker and Farrell, in addition to Mr. Allsopp. A further instance of the enthusiasm of the staff in the school activities.

* * *

The Directors of Education from the various States of the Commonwealth visited Newcastle on 20th and 21st September. Their first port of call was Newcastle High, but this was changed, and we saw them not. Our school is bad enough, but when it drives away such distinguished visitors, we feel that everything in the garden is not quite as it should be.

* * *

Mr. K. Barnard, with his wife and daughter, left on the 13th September for England, where he will take up his studies at the London University.

* * *

Mr. A. D. Hope, B.A., takes Mr. Barnard's place on the staff. He comes to us from Belmore Technical School.

* * *

We have to congratulate Mr A. H. Pelham on his recent marriage. The staff presented him with an electric kettle.

* * *

The following issues of the Novocastrian are still missing from the library volumes: June, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1917, 1920, 1921, 1922. Anyone able to send any of these to us, will receive our thanks.

LISTEN IN

2NBH NEWCASTLE

Programme of Broadcasting Station 2NBH, owned and maintained by Newcastle Boys' High School.

9 a.m.—Chimes from the School Clock from Headmaster's Office.

9.2 a.m.—Weather Forecast by Mr. E. Ford, who is well versed in "matters of strict fact."

9.15 a.m.—News from the *Novo*, by Mr. W. E. Cummings, star reporter of the "Novocastrian," member of the Organizer Club.

9.40 a.m.—A Lecture on "The Nutritious Elements of Dieting," by Mr. L. Hannell, who exhibits a great co-ordination in dealing with his subject.

9.50 a.m.—Selections by School Orchestra, conducted by Professor G. R. Reid, C.A.B. "Asleep in the Ditch" and "Alice, Where is She?"

9.55 a.m.—Trombone Solo by Mr. A. Knight, "Clad in Armour Bright" and "Slide, Kelly, Slide."

10 a.m.—Morning Devotion, conducted by Rev. J. Pike, Q.E.D., whose topic will be "Spring."

10.15 a.m.—F. Symes, the boy contralto, son of the Long Bay Warden, in two numbers. "Thank God for a Pardon" and "Love Laughs at Locksmiths."

10.20 a.m.—Gardening Hints by Mr. K. Barnard.

10.40 a.m.—Radio Rhythm by 5D Syncopators "Hail, Hail! for Spring is Here!"

11 a.m.—Chimes from Office Clock. Close Down.

12 p.m.—Lunch Hour Community Singing from the Prefects' Room, conducted by L. Deed.

2 p.m.—Chimes from Office Clock. Close Down.

3 p.m.—Hints on Angling, by Mr. D. Short, member of Throsby Creek Angling Association.

3.20 p.m.—"Pioneers of the Dirt Track," by Mr. Banks, whose motor-cycle is one of the last of the earlier machines.

3.50 p.m.—"The Long and Short of Physical Build." The first of a series of talks by "Gar" Meillon and Mr. R. Langford.

4.10 p.m.—Women's Session, conducted by Mme. Bozo (Mrs. L. Deed) who will relate some of her adventures in the Chicago Underworld as "Redlight Annie."

4.30 p.m.—Selections for Rosebery, and Probable Riders, by Mr. A. ("Poppa") Burke.

4.50 p.m.—Another Thrilling Instalment of our gripping serial, "When the Clock Strikes," by Mr. H. Jones.

5 p.m.—Kiddies' Session conducted by Uncle Tod. (All birthday letters must be addressed to Mr. J. Hunter, 5A, Newcastle High.

5.45 p.m.—"Military Tactics," by Corporal Lowbridge.

6 p.m.—Chimes from Office Clock. Close Down.

8 p.m.—Relay from Girls' High of the Opera, "Giggoletto," with the famous "Torn Cornsack's Choir."

9.5 p.m.—Description of the Wrestling Match from the ringside of the Union Stadium between "Tiger" Hannell and "Young" Wheatley. Referee, Mr. G. W. Williams.

10 p.m.—Talk on "Bias, Its Cause and Prevention," by Mr. C. H. Christmas, B.A., Leader of the "Brighter Bowls" Movement.

10.15 p.m.—Solo by Mr. C. Brown, the eminent commercialist. "Till Ends Meet Again," and "Look for the Silver Lining."

10.20 p.m.—Health Talk on "The Value of Sleep," by Mr. J. A. Williams, Member of the Lethargic Club."

10.30 p.m.—Dance Music from the Palais by the "Teetotallers" Orchestra in several numbers including "O Crystal Water Bright," "There Are No Mists After Parties" and "We're Getting All Hazy."

11 p.m.—Chimes from School Clock. Close Down. W.E.J., 5D.

LIBRARY NOTES

"BOOKS are instruments of almost miraculous value in the hands of a scholar."—Pryde.

It is pleasing to note that the popularity of the library has in no way declined, and that the number of books borrowed is high and constant, averaging about forty (40) per day.

To cope with the pressing need of the student for further sources of reference, principally in the sphere of English and Science, a few more books have recently been added to the shelves. Owing to the high cost of these books, it is hoped that due care will be taken of them.

The library is supervised by a group of willing librarians, under the direction of Messrs. Wilson and Reid.

This opportunity cannot be missed to appeal to all students who use the library, to play fair and return all books within the specified time. Bacon said, "Reading maketh a full man," and to realise his statement strict silence should be observed by all readers. No person can read and derive benefit from his reading in noisy and unsettled surroundings. The students are therefore asked to maintain a general silence.

The Geography Library has been progressing successfully during the past quarter, but it is still hampered by lack of presses and cramped reading room. Several new books have been added to the library of late and have been extensively used by the older students. It may be stated here, that first year students are excluded from using this section of the Library.

POETRY

ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL

The school bell tolls the knell of parting day,
The noisy crowd runs quickly down the hill,
The student homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the school to cleaners and to "Bill."

Now fades the portable classroom from the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the master wields his awful right,
And keeps poor schoolboys from their distant folds.

For here in this neglected dump is laid
The educational centre of the town;
For here our future gangster shall be made,
Our politician, garbage man and clown.

G.A.B., 4A.

SONNET UPON THE TEMPORARY DEARTH OF MUSIC AND SONG

The Lyre is broken, and the singer dead ;
The praise of beauty is a thing unknown,
And Orpheus from a silent world is fled,
With beating wings to other spheres is flown.

The heav'n born breeze that in a garden blows
Will steal the fragrance of the primrose yellow ;
What cares a business man of this, he knows
'Tis better far to rob his business fellow.

But still the birds will syllable sweet song,
The airy leaves sigh rustic melodies,
And stars above, for countless ages long
To Ocean chant mysterious harmonies.

But yet again a singer will arise
And music live—its spirit never dies !

E.P.N.S., 5D.

THE NOVOCASTRIAN

SONNET ON UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER OF VARIOUS ARTICLES, AND SUING FOR TERMS OF MERCY.

An introduction I've appended
To contributions that I've sended.
(I'll ask you just excuse the grammer,
'Tis in excepted free-style manner).

The attempt, the subject, and the writer
Might easily have been much brighter ;
But aspiration fled away
Round better nibbed pens to play.

Before I close, O let me plead !
(For bounteous mercy is my need)
For though these be,
As you may see,
"Pot boilers" of the meanest mettle ;
Upon my knees,
I beg you, please !
Don't use 'em for the staff room kettle.

E.P.N.S.

MORNING SONG

An hour since, the dawn has flushed
To warm the rosy east.
An hour since, fair morn has blushed,—
To smile on man and beast.

O list ! the merry birds do sing
And carol, loud and long.
Now every night some joy must bring,
And only sloth is wrong.

Now ev'ry lake and pond's a gem
As fair as ever shone
And from the earth, the mists that hem
The skirts of night are gone.

Arise ! from sleep's dull charms make haste
There's better pleasures far,
O sweeter, merrier joys to taste
With Mistress Morning—Star.

E.P.N.S.



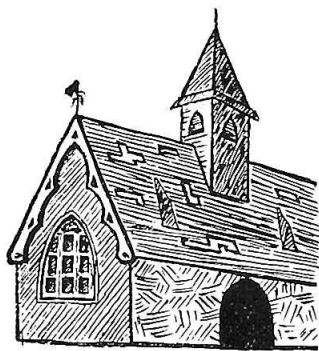
THE HOUSE THAT
JACK BUILT

(With Variatons)

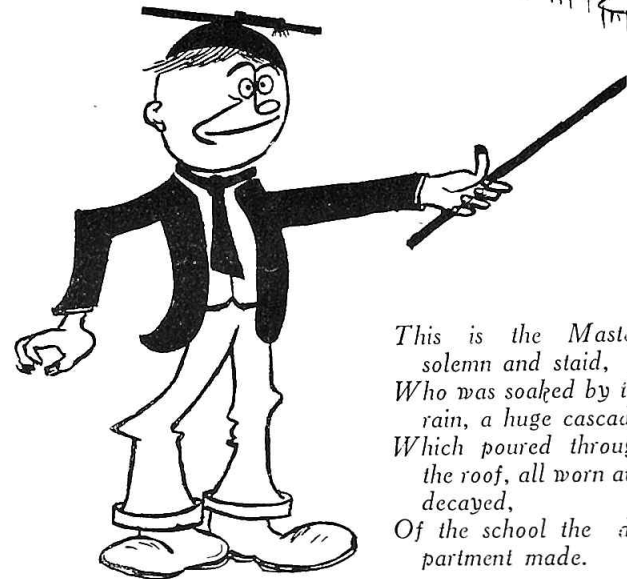
*This is the school the depart-
ment made.*

*This is the roof, all worn and de-
cayed,*

Of the school the department made.

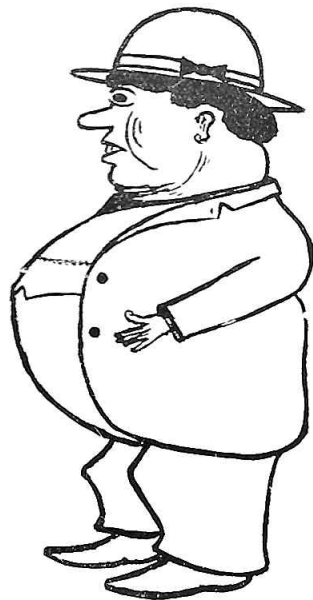


*This is the rain that
poured, in a huge cas-
cade,
Through the holes in the
roof, all worn and de-
cayed,
Of the school the depart-
ment made.*

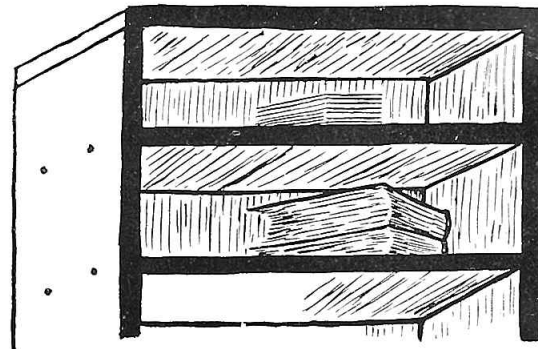


*This is the Master,
solemn and staid,
Who was soaked by the
rain, a huge cascade,
Which poured through
the roof, all worn and
decayed,
Of the school the de-
partment made.*

*This is the doctor who rushed
to the aid,
Of the master usually, solemn
and staid,
Who was soaked by the rain, a
huge cascade,
Which poured through the roof,
all worn and decayed,
Of the school the department
made.*



*This is the report, so carefully
made,
By the doctor who rushed, too
late to the aid,
Of the master usually solemn
and staid,
Who was soaked by the rain, a
huge cascade,
Which poured through the roof,
all worn and decayed,
Of the school the department
made.*



*This is the shelf where the minister laid,
The neat report, so carefully made,
By the doctor, who rushed, too late to the aid,
Of the master usually solemn and staid,
Who was soaked by the rain, a huge cascade,
Which poured through the roof, all worn and decayed,
Of the school the department made.*

*And that is the end of my long tirade,
And I hope that perchance in the next decade,
There'll be something done so as to persuade,
The minister, ah well, I'm much afraid,
I've run short of rhymes, except cochade,
And one or two more, like rodomontade,
But I can't use these, so let's set it to music and call it our sad serenade.*

R.J.G.





A NORSE SAGA

*Olaf the bold,
From the Norseland cold*

*Came riding the wintry main ;
His craft and crew
They both were true
And great was his disdain.*

*For he had won
'Neath the midnight sun
Great battles where he'd fought ;
He loved the sight
Of blood and fight,,
And for plunder fresh he sought.*

*A galley appeared,
And his own craft veered
To meet the coming fray ;
His fierce eyes shone
As they met head on
In a welter of flying spray.*

*The oars were broke
Like splints of oak,
As the ships together crashed ;
Then over the side
In a mighty tide
Fierce Olaf's Norsemen dashed.*

*Now here, now there
The fight did bear,
Advantage on neither side,
Till the sea turned red
Till all were dead
Till peace reigned o'er the tide.*

*But one 'mid the dead
Now raised his head,
And saw the heaps of slain ;
Awhile he mourned,
His resolve was formed,
He began his task of pain,*

*A crackle of flame
Through the stillness came,
Then a roar as the timbers caught ;
A blaze of glory,
A King's proud glory,
And their souls Valhalla sought.*

F. SYMES.

SONNET

Alone I lay beside the silver stream,
Watching the waves slide swiftly o'er the stones,
Gazing full long on limpid pools, where gleam
The smiling waters, in their woodland home.
E'en thus to youth is life ; its surface clear,
A lightly tripping melody of love,
Free, careless laughter glossing o'er the drear,
Of hidden rocks that lurk unseen by eye above.
But then methought, the stream runs on its way,
And gains its goal in broad majestic style ;
So too must we progress, nor ever stay,,
Till fuller knowledge comes in times of trial.
Another thought came to me—but no more
It rained, it poured, the poet's day was o'er.

F. SYMES.

MOONSHINE

The moon upon a cloudless night
The silent woods with radiance fills.
But even on the darkest night
The woods have Moonshine stills.

E.N., 5D.



A hic in the air, a girl on the spree,
The moon was as drunk as she well
could be.

A fearful sound came to her ear,
Satan below was stealing her beer.
C.W., 5D.

The man stood on the swaying floor
Six keys he had and but one door,
His lobster danced upon his tail
Green snakes were curled about the rail.
He took three hours from seven till nine,
To get keyhole and key in line,
And then with one determined thrust,
The key went in, he bit the dust,
This makes it easy for my rhyme,
The door was open all the time.

A.W., 5D.



There was an old hobo, a Novo,
Whose drink was warm brandy and
so so.
Which he took with a spoon,
By the light of the moon,
Now we call him our moonshining
bozo.

G.R., 5D.

When you're rolling on home, de-
termined to try,
To set your watch right by the
moon in the sky,
Or ask of the lamp post, why not
have one?
And watch the tall buildings get
set and then run,
It's moonshine old chap, simply
moonshine!

If you stand and beat time to the
tom cat that mourns,
And try to play chess on the lino
with prawns,
Or climb on the milk cart, and yell
fit to burst,
"All hands on deck, and the wo-
men go first!"
It's moonshine old chap simply
moonshine.

W.J., 5D.



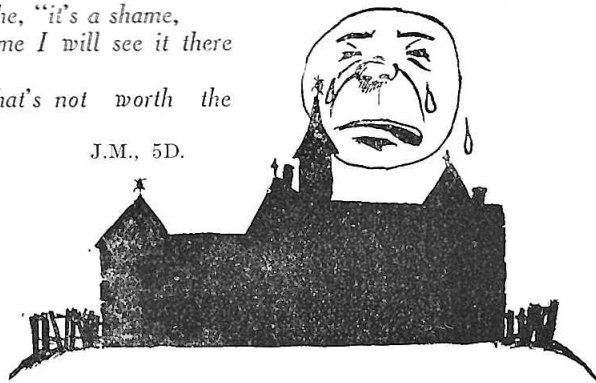


*There's a chap called the Man in the moon,
Who can only be reached by balloon,
They say that his beams,
Are conducive to dreams,
But I'm sure many use them to spoon.*

J.M., 5D.

*The Man in the Moon I am sure we
all know,
He's usually merry and bright,
But look at him now, his spirits are
low,
His face does not beam with delight.
He looks at the school on top of the
hill
"Alas!" thinks he, "it's a shame,
In fifty years' time I will see it there
still,
A high school that's not worth the
name.*

J.M., 5D.



SONNET

Across the sky the Sun has made his way
Once more has sought repose beyond the hills ;
The last long cricket chirps departing day
And I am left to learn what Nature wills.
A rustle in the tree-tops o'er my bed,
A twittering protest from some feathered breast,
A sighing wind that breathes above my head
These are my lullaby, these bring me rest.
The trees my canopy, kind earth my bed
Thus would I woo the endless sleep of death ;
There 'neath the star-lit sky, my spirit led
From wand'ring o'er this earth, with my last breath.
Here 'mid these peaceful slumbrous scenes
Would I cry out "Learn ! learn what Nature means."

F. SYMES.

IN CAUDA VENENUM

My fair Annette I loved you all too well,
Your smiles to me, were gifts divinely sweet ;
But you have left me, left me, yes in hell,
To bring another victim to your feet.
Then laugh Annette !
Laugh my hurt to scorn,
Laugh at my sad and mournful air ;
Laugh at the heart you've torn.

You told me once that you were mine
Whene'er I chose to say ;
But always would you play for time,
You never named the day,
And I might never see you home,
Your people were too strict,
And I might never to you phone.
My word ! how I was tricked ;
For yesterday I met a man,
To see him you're accustomed ;
You know him well ; this fellow, Anne
Has been three years your husband.

F. SYMES.

THE UNIVERSITY

ALL intending students should arrive in Sydney a few days before the commencement of lectures and become acquainted with the general layout of the place.

The Fisher Library is free to all students as a reference library, but a deposit of £1 must be left with the librarian if a book is to be borrowed and taken away.

A copy of the University Calendar should be obtained by all students. Price 2/-. It contains all the by-laws and rules governing the lectures, etc.

GENERAL MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS.

- (1) English.
- (2) Mathematics.
- (3) Latin, Greek, French, German, Italian or Japanese.
- (4) One or more of the following.
 - (a) One or more of the foregoing languages.
 - (b) Mechanics.
 - (c) (i) English History.
(ii) Modern History.
 - (d) (i) Botany.
(ii) Inorganic Chemistry.
(iii) Geology.
(iv) Physics.
(v) Physiology.
(vi) Zoology.

All subjects except English and Mechanics have a higher and a lower standard.

In addition—

ARTS—Latin or Greek at Higher Standard.

LAW—Latin at Higher Standard and another language other than English.

MEDICINE and DENTISTRY—Latin and another language other than English, one at the Higher Standard.

SCIENCE—Mechanics or a Science subject at the Higher Standard.

ENGINEERING—Maths at Higher Standard and Mechanics.

ARCHITECTURE—Maths at Higher Standard.

There are three terms, Lent term, Trinity term, Michaelmas term.

Lectures are supposed to begin and end on the hour, but really they begin 5 minutes after the hour and end 5 minutes before the hour, thus allowing students time to conveniently proceed from one lecture room to another.

Trams from railway for University, Abbotsford, Leichardt, Five Dock, Haberfield, second stop after Grace Bros. The enquiry office notice board should be watched for date of payment of fees. First term fees, £1/1/0 General Service fee, for services not provided for by the ordinary lecture fees. £1 for membership of University Union (compulsory for matriculated students). This is a type of men's club incorporated stationery, confectionery, tobacco, etc., reading room, billiard room, games room, two halls, a branch of David Jones Ltd., a book exchange, a barber's shop and a branch of the Commonwealth Bank.

On payment of fees, certain cards and tickets obtainable at the enquiry office have to be handed in for making records and rolls, etc. The tickets known as lecture tickets are to be filled in, one for each subject taken, initialled by the officer receiving payments and handed in to the various professors or lecturers at their respective lectures.



Maurice Felsch carried to the Ambulance by Ron Williams and Harold Jones, after being spiked in the 220 yards Open Handicap.

The Three Most Beautiful Things in The World

W. N. P. BARBELLION wrote the last lines of his "Diary of a Disappointed Man," (Vol. 2) suffering from disseminated sclerosis, from which four months later, he died at the age of 30.

"June 1st, 1919. Rupert Brooke said that the most beautiful thing in the world was a leaf with the sun shining on it. God pity his ignorance! The most beautiful thing in the world is a ctenophor in a glass jar standing in the sun."

A century earlier the German sceptic, Arthur Schopenhauer, wrote surprisingly enough, "The three most beautiful things in the world are the first kiss of love, powder blue, and the chord of the dominant seventh. And now we give some of the thoughts of the students of N.H.S. :

Lower School : Books, Birds, Happiness.
Honesty, Courage, Home.
Books, Mother, An Unseen Brother.
An Aeroplane, A Bicycle, A Farm.
Mother, Music, Soccer Football.
A Hornby Train lay out, Mother, A Voyage Round
the World.
Books, Mother Music.
A Sailing Ship, The Greek Parthenon, A Mother.
My Mother, The Calls of Birds, A Rolls Royce Car.
Money, Sport, Adventure.
Love, Mother, A Moonlight Night.
Sunset, A Large Cathedral, A Garden.
The Sea, Woman, Plant Life.
The Three Sisters, Birds Singing, The Beach.
Moonlight on Snow, Mother, Bush Fire at Night.
Jenolan Caves, Bell Bird's Song, Weeping Willows.
True Love, A Mountain Glen, The Ocean.
The Kookaburra, Sunrise, A Blonde.
A Fern Clad Gully, A Tropical Island, A Lithe
Cream Pony.
Aeroplanes in Formation, Harbour Bridge, Sky at
Sunset.
The Dear Old School, The Symphony of Melody,
L'amour.
The Taj Mahal, Rose Scent, Moonlight on the Sea.

Upper School : Birds, Deep Blue Eyes, An Old Time Sailing Ship.
Nature, Love, Imagination.
Summer, Women, Eating.
To have plenty of Brains, To have a Good Home,
To be Single.
A Peacock with Tail Fanned Out, A Good Tenor
Voice, Jenolan Caves.
Flowers, Wealth, Life.
Mother, Honesty, Literature.
Love, Music Moonlight.
Flowers, Birds, A Young Lady.
Nature, Sport, Knowledge.
Sunrise, Dreams, Freedom.
Music, A Good Horse, Women.
Beautiful Women, Mountain Scenery, A Full Moon.
Sun Shining on Ice, Flowers, Wealth.
The Sea, Flowers, Sunshine.
Nature, Personal Beauty, Music.

One versed in psychology might make illuminating comments on these little trios, about which there was no compulsion or coercion of any kind. That however is not our intention, but we must admit that there are some most surprising statements in these lists.



The reason why lovers are never weary of talking to each other is that they are always talking of themselves.—Rochefoucauld.

Good taste is based on judgment rather than on intelligence.—Rochefoucauld.

THE DETECTIVE NOVEL

SCIENCE is killing the modern detective novel. It is becoming almost impossible to keep up with output of the modern novelist, especially when we realise that ninety per cent. of the novels are concerned with mysteries, murders and detectives. The well known fictional heroes of yesterday, are rapidly giving place to a more advanced, intelligent, educated, scientific type, which is the product of modern democracy. Whereas the hero of the good old English novel always had, as Bernard Shaw pointed out, brown curly hair, smoked a briar pipe, and was called Dick, the latest in heroes has a permanent wave, smokes Turkish cigarettes in a two foot holder, and is called Derek. Such tremendous advances are getting us to a stage where no one will be able to predict what the novelist of the future will do for characters. The concoction of a plot is already a difficult problem, since it is generally accepted that there are no more than twenty possible plots, all others being variations of these.

In order to make the matter clear, let us take the heroes we knew a decade ago, and compare them with our modern characters.

The Old :	The New :
Hawkshaw	Bull Dog Drummond
Nelson Lee	Inspector McLean
Sexton Blake	Dr. Thorndyke
Dupin	Inspector French
Lecoq	Father Brown
Sherlock Holmes	Roger Sheringham
Ganimard	Mons. Poirot
Arsène Lupin	Michael Lanyard (The Lone Wolf)
Jimmy Dale (The Grey Seal)	Henry Arthur Milton (The Ringer)
Val Fox	Inspector Dickins

I leave out one or two like The Bat, Insp. Trent, George Manfred, for the list is long and these are not representative.

The reader who is not a bachelor of science, is unable to follow the intricacies of reasoning, the finer points of chemistry and physics, the mechanics of machines, anatomy, photography, mathematics, therapeutics, which the modern detective is able to bring to bear upon his problem. No one less than an honours graduate in either science or medicine has a chance of getting a job at Scotland Yard or Pinkerton's. A medical degree, for some unaccountable reason, is a great help. For example take the following solution of a murder by the detective, and think how you would have felt had you been in his place.

"The right note played on the Sanctuary Organ sets in action a simple mechanism that I have fitted to the garage door. The sound wave makes a stretched piano wire vibrate, until it touches a metal ring through which it runs. The metal makes contact and an electro-magnet does the rest."

Notice it is a simple mechanism, when the author sets out to write something really difficult, one will need Brown's Physics and log tables at the left elbow. But this is not all, the reader's own inadequacy becomes apparent when he reads.

"—— brought out a two shilling piece and poised the silver coin carefully and let it drop. For a long time he listened and then a faint metallic tinkle came up to him."

"Nine seconds!" He looked up into Olga's face. "Deduct from the velocity of a falling object, the speed at which sound travels, and tell me how deep this hole is!"

You see the problem is difficult even for the modern detective, and he certainly has Olga stumped. It is particularly difficult because a falling body has not a velocity, but an acceleration, and even then the subtraction would not produce the answer. Do not however, reckon without your author, for the next paragraph explains why everything will be all right, and has been provided for.

"—— It will be an interesting morning's occupation for one, who in his youth was something of a mathematical genius."

Now this is the scientific method developed far beyond the mere application of radio, and aeroplanes to mystery stories; but what will the reader say when he finds Inspector Dickins in disguise taking part in the following.

"——Make it two thousand," the fat man said. They were all round the table now, Sam Rubens was still confident but not disposed to risk catastrophe. "I'll see you," he decided. "Four aces here." "I've got a run of those little chaps all in one suit," Fordham announced scarcely able to speak for excitement, "One, two, three, four, five of Spades. How's that?" Straight flush Passiter gasped, "My God, he wins!"

There you are; "How's that?" asks Fordham. Well I think I know how it would have been if I were sitting in. Men have been shot in Texas for less than that.

The Bat was knocked unconscious, and handcuffed, but in less than five minutes he escaped and locked a dozen people in a large room with three separate doors, switched out the lights, and pinned a paper bat on the inside of one door. Science! Why, this was lofty! The annoying thing is that when Jervis wants to know how it all happened, he gets the answer, "You have all the facts Jervis, make your deductions," and we know that we will learn nothing until after the trial.

Compare these selections with the old type.

New readers begin here.

Martin Champion discovers part of a mysterious parchment which shows a map relating to a wonderful treasure. Captain Blood, the ruthless pirate is determined to get the precious document and charters an aeroplane. Martin and his pal Black Jed, visit the ruins of the old castle of Deepmere, where they find a dead man with a curious blue mark on his throat. Captain Blood begins to bombard the castle from the air.

Now read on.

I read on! This is not hard to follow, no science here to trouble the reader, it is all plain sailing and full of thrills. We don't require long scientific explanations to enjoy this as we do with the modern novel. And finally the modern novelist does not deal with us honestly. We do not follow the characters through all phases of the plot and share all the data. This is frequently the case with G. K. Chesterton, and R. Austin Freeman (except in his inverted stories). Dr. Thorndyke takes hairs from the suspect's hat, dust from his pockets and finger prints from his pipe. We are about to investigate these things thoroughly with a microscope and fuchin powder, when presto! off we go with Jervis (who is useless in these matters anyway) to keep an appointment with his Aunt from Plymouth. When we do get back, Thorndyke has finished the investigation, and is smoking a trichinopoly in an armchair, with a bottle of Scotch whisky at his elbow. The problem is solved of course, but his face is absolutely inscrutable, and will remain so until the inquest.

Now, in the old days, we were trapped in the cellar of a warehouse in Wapping, with Hawkshaw, sent morse code to Tinker by means of an improvised telegraph from his pocket electric torch battery, and a hair pin, and just before the water rose above our chins, we are rescued by Tinker, with the box of jewels stolen from the Peruvian Temple, still in our possession. We can't do that nowadays.

That is why I say that science is killing the detective novel.

R.J.G.

THE Old Novocastrians' Association continues to flourish. The membership is steadily increasing and the year 1932 will be regarded by members as one of satisfactory progress. The sub-committees have not been idle, and their various activities have met with the success they merited.

Although the annual ball was not the financial success that was anticipated, those who attended voted it one of the most happy functions they had ever attended. It was a real reunion of Old Novocastrians with many friendships renewed and old tales of school days retold. The second sub-committee responsible for the ball is to be congratulated on a great social success which should insure a good attendance next year.

Several very successful dances have been held since the ball, resulting in the rehabilitation of the Association's finances.

The efforts of the sports sub-committee to arrange matches with the Boys' High School were not successful, but matches have been played against hockey and tennis teams from the Girls' High School. Also the sports sub-committee has demonstrated its modernity by organising a "hike" for members and friends on 25th September.

The doings of the dramatic section are shrouded in mystery; there have been occasional suggestions that something was doing but so far nothing has been produced.

All Novocastrians and their friends are asked to note the fact that the next Reunion dance is to be held on Saturday, 8th October in the supper room of the Empire Palais, at 8 p.m. Come along and meet your old friends and at the same time help your old school. Tickets are two shillings. The Association hopes to arrange a moonlight excursion sometime in November. Watch the newspapers for further particulars.

It will be evident from the above that the Association is very much alive.

After many years of faithful service to the Association in the capacity of honorary secretary, Miss Marjorie Mulvey was obliged reluctantly to resign. Her resignation was accepted with regret at a meeting of the general committee where eulogistic references to Miss Mulvey's work on behalf of the Association were made. Mr. Lorrimer has kindly consented to act as secretary till the end of the year. His burning desire is to receive numerous letters containing subscriptions from intending members. Do not disappoint him.

T.H.H.

OLD NOVOCASTRIANS' IN SYDNEY.

Due, possibly, to the renewed enthusiasm that is inspiring the Association in Newcastle, the Sydney branch is gradually becoming

ON DIT

PARLIAMENT lost an excellent "whip" when the honourable Science Master, Mr. Hughes, turned his attention to the enlightening of dull youths.

At a recent Re-Union scramble, eight members of the staff were present. Some with their wives—and some without. The outstanding feature of the whole evening was the fox trotting of a certain English master, although his efforts were almost eclipsed by a very dark maths. expounder.

The "Jolly Miller" proved most popular, at least for the staff, for it was noticed they never danced with their wives.

You would be surprised how dashing some young members of the staff can be when they don their bow ties and "dickies."

On the subject of ties—did Lady Chayter teach Mr. G. to tie a bow tie ?

Of course, the tie tied by Mr. G. may have been tied by his wife. So you see Mr. G. is properly tied.

After two years of fighting, the school has acquired a new starting pistol. What a start ! Mr. Walker was properly broken up about it, but the small energetic ball of humanity would not take nay as an answer, so at the Union meeting the committee answered aye.

How many pupils know that we have a school flag. We didn't. The prefects, however, with school spirit oozing from every pore, gallantly offered to present one. Who knows, but within a few months we shall see it floating over the battlements of our domicile.

One of the outstanding features of the year was the acquisition of the long wanted notice-case. We are pleased to say that it is the best notice-case we have seen. The 1st XIII may now condescend to fix up the next team, so the school will have some idea who its representatives are.

Our golf partner was discussing education, and how, after months of study, pupils still fail to grasp outstanding facts. We agreed with him and told him the one about the schoolboy who in explaining an English passage said "Choler" was a drink. Probably the examiner got hot around the collar. We must not evade the issue however, and will admit that we cannot explain "choler." After tapping various sources in the staff room, we found that although the majority could name drinks ranging from cold tea to methylated spirits, choler was one they did not know.

We have all heard about the excuses given by pupils for absence. The following one we think deserves the olive branch. A fourth year

boy's reason for absence was that he was bitten by a bee. He probably had hives.

It takes many people to make the world. Recently our senior football team was entertained at lunch by the Rugby League Association. The dinner was free—probably why a certain 9st. 3lb. player was found at the table. Does anyone know who it was ? Well, can't you guess ? We could, even if we were blindfolded, and the clue is that he plays in the 9.3 team.

Interviews with heads of departments are being sought after by boys every day. Yet strange to say, when the Head and Masters of the subjects interviewed each boy when the results of the Half-Yearly were available, a strange reluctance was evident. Of course there is a difference between interviews and post-mortems.

The Great White God enthroned in the front portion of his medieval castle occasionally looks around his portico and frowns upon his minions—we almost said millions. The following conversation took place in the free period room :

The Lord : "What class is this, 2C ?"

Minion : "No master, 2AC."

The Lord : "Oh ! 2 LAY C. Too right you are."

Thus even monarchs can be human sometimes

The Prefects' room might well be called room "X." On our first visit it was a sanitarium, then a luncheon room, followed by a garage, cleaver's room, free period room, and last but not least the abode of Miss Australia.

It is interesting to note that the prefects hope to acquire Miss America in the latest costume. We are looking forward to seeing it. The costume of course is silly.

The staff were very interested in the Cessnock v. Newcastle shield match. Mr. Walker took a car load to Cessnock where Mr. Reid and Kevans excelled as "rooters." The last seen of the party was on one of the corners in Cessnock's main street.

Quite recently Mr. Allsop arrived at Newcastle station with his football team, to find he hadn't the tickets. Like good Australians the team searched the carriage but no tickets could be found. The team got anxious, so did Mr. Allsop. However, he found them in his hip pocket just in time to stop the boys from removing the engine wheels and looking in the axle boxes.

Does sticking plaster improve the complexion ? It sounds like "how many beans make five." Anyhow, Mr. Hughes generally manages to stick strips of it indiscriminately about his countenance. The obvious question to ask is "Has Mr. Hughes a wife ?"

The Taree football trip had many little sidelights, including the red rear lights of the train. The Guard literally saw red when someone reversed the lights, but before the trip was completed he

grew tired, whereupon the boys showed some consideration for him and offered to leave them alone. On the same trip one member poked his head out a window. The window, unknown to him, was closed, but being hard-headed the pane shattered to pieces. Whereupon the said youth removed every piece of glass and no one was the wiser.

The richest story of the year comes from Taree where the team was billeted for several nights. Frank L. awoke on the first morning to find he was in a maternity hospital. Taree townspeople are still chuckling over Frank's expression.

Burdekin has held the record for slowness ever since he came, and on the trip to Sydney for C.H.S. increased his reputation by catching the train with 15 seconds to spare. A record, however, that was smashed 17 seconds later when G. V. Ross dashed on to the platform and was dragged into the carriage by way of a window as the train left the station.

The long expected has at last happened. The Department has seen fit to decrease our over-large play area. In fact so large are our grounds that the boys herd together for comfort and warmth and the result is that many get hurt. But now that our grounds have had a beautiful weatherboard cottage erected upon them the awe inspiring feeling occasioned by our vast open spaces has been removed and we hope that the danger of accidents will be removed.

Discussing the question of accidents, many minor injuries have been brought about by thoughtless action. Recently a young fellow was playfully hit in the chest while sitting on the wall at the lower playground. He fell backwards, but luckily received no hurt. Prefects are on the look-out for dangerous games and the delinquents will be severely punished, so, as a word of warning, stick to "ring-a-rosies" or "blind man's bluff."

In auditing the Tuck Shop balance sheet we noticed a remarkable increase in profit. Mrs. Timmins cannot explain this phenomenon, but the staff, who know a great deal about human nature, put it down to the nice engaging helpers. Of course, considering the fact that these girls get lunch for many of the staff it is only natural they would be nice and engaging. With a staff like ours they would have to be. We might add, that the staff still miss the familiar figure of Clara. So do we!

We have in our midst an author of no mean repute. His complete first edition was sold out in something like record time. The book however, is not a novel, it is more exciting than a mere story. Chapter after chapter it unfolds the majestic grandeur of our earth with an intensity that grips and holds the reader spellbound. The late Edgar Wallace has nothing on the present Edgar Ford, so get your copy of this soul stirring drama before it is banned.

MR. SPEAKER!

3rd May

THE Senior Debating Society held its first debate on the above date. The subject for discussion was "that education is conducive to happiness." Willis and Clayton spoke for the government, while Bodley and Harris constituted the opposition. All the speakers were solemn except Bodley who introduced a little humour by saying "The white man came to the islands with his tribe and his beer and look at the result." The opposition scored an easy victory.

9th May

"That motion pictures influence the community for the better," was the subject chosen for the above date. The teams were: Government, Knight, Brown, Edmunds; Opposition, Symes, Telford, Deed. This debate was excellent, because each speaker seemed to keep the audience laughing all the time. Indeed, at one period it took two or three minutes to restore order. Here are two statements made by speakers:

"The censor most bitterly and caustically complained of the exploitation of the bedroom scene ad nauseam."

"The picture ended in a wave of sloppy sentimentalism, to the accompaniment of tears drawn from the leaky waterworks of the female portion of the audience."

7th June.

The old question, "Is machinery a friend to man?" was debated again to-day. The teams were:—

Government, Bailey, Miller, Telford; Opposition, Dick, Hunter, Brown.

Most of the speakers used the stock arguments and the only diversion was caused by an interjector. Tod, in pointing out that the machine produced nothing noble or beautiful, said, "Did a machine make me," with a noble gesture. "Yes, a sausage machine, by the look of you," interjected someone. The Government won.

15th June.

"Should Australian citizens undergo military training?" was debated pretty hotly on both sides. The teams were—Government, Willis, Hannell, Underwood; Opposition, Bass, Hammerton, Curran.

Each speaker seemed to be giving his real feelings on the matter. China and Japan were mentioned frequently and one speaker dragged in the bogey of Communism. This crops up again and again, and someone or other always seems to squeeze it in, no matter what the topic is.

21st June.

The subject chosen for to-day was "The White Australia Policy is beneficial to Australia." The teams were—Government: Symes, Bodley, Willis; Opposition: Telford, Marks, Harris.

The Government raised the question of half castes, and the fact that Eastern peoples breed prolifically. The opposition said that Chinese were in many ways superior, and that the Government based its arguments on the exploded superstition of nationalism. The chairman, Mr. Kevans, then invited Inspector Cramp to address us.

10th July.

The subject for debate was, "That mental fitness is more desirable than physical fitness." This debate was dull and boring. At the conclusion, infuriated members of the audience attacked both sides for their handling of the subject. The fact that the Chairman seemed to be a bit liverish enlivened the atmosphere somewhat. The teams were—Government: Knight, Hunter, Symes; Opposition, MacLeod, Newburn, Willis.

15th July.

Impromptu speaking took the place of the usual debate. By means of drawing, various speakers were called upon to address the chair, which was groaning under the weight of its worthy occupant, Mr. Hannell.

During the term, a debate was held against the W.E.A. The topic was concerned with the abolition of State Governments. The following were the scores:

Workers' Educational Association, 286; Newcastle High School, 270. The adjudicator reported that more team work was required among our representatives.

The debate against Parramatta High was a very close contest. The following were the scores:

PARRAMATTA			
	Matter	Manner	Effect
Sydney Wadsworth	34	32	6
Reg. Jerome	33	30	4
Neil Armstrong	37	36	8
Leader's Reply	7	7	9
Total 243.			

NEWCASTLE HIGH.			
	Matter	Manner	Effect
F. Symes	32	35	7
H. Bodley	35	32	6
R. MacLeod	32	31	6
Leader's Reply	8	9	7
Total 240.			

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18th July.

"That Coriolanus was justified in his delays with the Tribunes." Government: Deed, Meillon, Bailey; Opposition: Jones, Parkes, Woods.

This debate was most interesting. Meillon, Parkes, Jones, were splendid. The former two were quiet and unassuming. Jones, with his strident voice was convincing. Our worthy school captain, Mr. Deed, however, was hopeless. He stopped, glanced desperately around for inspiration, then flopped and floundered, had recourse to his notes, lost the thread of his discourse and finally sat down. Bailey kept the audience in laughter by his continued use of an original pronunciation of Coriolanus—Corolianus.

The Chairman, Mr. Dick, then put the question to the meeting and the opposition won.

24th July.

"That universal suffrage is in the best interests of the community."

The debate was open to all members, but strangely enough, none kept to the point. Several wandered on to the relative merits of Capitalism and Socialism. The speakers during the first twenty minutes were continually admonished by the chairman and by a sarcastic and infuriated curly-haired member of the staff who had conferred upon us the doubtful honour of attendance at our meeting. By the end of the meeting the Chairman, Mr. Dick, who was now looking thoroughly grim, bashful and business-like, lost his patience and closed the meeting summarily in disgust, even refusing to accept a motion from a member "that the question be now put."

To-day Mr. Kevans asked the meeting if it did not think it advisable, in view of the fact that the Leaving is looming in the distance to discontinue the meetings and hand over the business to fourth year. He suggested this in a very tactful way and immediately the meeting cried unanimously "aye." Mr. Kevans then reviewed the progress of the society and the interest exhibited in the debates, and then told us that the reason that he had remained in the background so much was that he believed when boys had reached the adolescent stage teachers should simply guide them, and not enforce their authority and ideas upon their pupils. He spoke in this strain for some time, and when he had concluded, several boys thanked him for the interest he had taken in the debating. I am sure we all appreciated it. Towards the conclusion, Mr. Christmas entered and gave us a happy, affectionate address, in which he illustrated to us the use of school debating from his own experiences, one of them being an amusing account of how he rose for the first time in public, to toast the ladies.

I am sure that all the fifth year lads, with the exception of a minority who refer to the Debating Society as "the hot-air club" thoroughly enjoyed the debating.

J. G. TELFORD.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MOTHER GRUNDY

Dear Mr. Editor,

Would you grant me a little space to protest against the recent attempt to curtail our undoubted ancient rights and privileges? Prefects have been posted at all gates and they have incurred the displeasure of fifth year by their bureaucratic methods. It was bureaucracy which destroyed the Roman Empire so beware, I say, beware! Cannot the poor, downtrodden student have his pot of beer or his goblet full of the cool, the blissful Hippocrene, with beaded bubbles winking at the brim, or his usual smoke at dinnertime? Down with Mrs. Grundy and mid-Victorianism! Nunc te, Bacchum canam! Glory to beer.

[Space granted. We are not in favour of this bureaucracy ourselves, and intend to beware very carefully. What is this Hippocrene you speak of? Not too much of the "Nunc te," however, even the worm will turn.—Ed.]



SWIMMING.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Our High School is undoubtedly the finest in the district and has an energetic staff and eager prefects.

We have our Sport's Union which caters, as the name implies, for the advancement of sport in its various branches, but the attention given to swimming appears to be of a semi-dormant type, which is no doubt an oversight on the part of the committee. That the Union is doing good work in other branches is shown by the manner in which our recent Athletic Meeting was carried out. The Sport's Union gives suitable trophies for individual effort and also a very nice pennant for the combined efforts of the class which tops the point score, and is supported enthusiastically by the great majority of pupils.

To this Union each pupil is expected to pay the sum of ten shillings per annum and receives in return the privilege of attending sport on Wednesday afternoons, and two copies of the School Magazine each year. In addition to this fee, the boys interested in swimming have to pay their own fare into the baths (admittedly at a reduction) and the fairness of this is open to question.

Now swimming is the best known exercise for the promotion of health, while in many cases lives have been saved by persons able to swim. Only at the beginning of this year, one of our pupils while

attempting to save another boy from drowning nearly met his death and as a result, was ill for a considerable time afterwards. Had he been properly instructed in swimming and the methods of rescue and release, he would probably have been able to save the other chap's life without much danger to himself.

Pupils of our school are not sufficiently encouraged to take an interest in this particular branch of sport, and very few teachers of the High seem to give the matter any thought.

In Sydney High Schools aquatic sports are encouraged to such an extent, that our team (when there is one) has no chance to bring the Cup to N.B.H.S., but there still remains the small group of swimmers assisted by a few interested teachers who keep doing their best to bring honour to the school at the Combined High Schools Annual Swimming Carnival.

When is our sporting staff going to make the swimming carnivals interesting enough to create an interest in them? For the past two years our annual carnival has been a farce, and last year only the championships were held, while these events did not carry any prizes whatsoever.

Surely swimming can be as interesting as any other athletic meeting? Look at the number of novelty events which can be run; cork scramble, diving, balloon races, etc.

For quite a small sum a pennant worthy of winning could be bought and certificates printed. This would give the boys something to swim for and would be cherished in after life as a reminder of their athletic career, while at the "School on the Hill." If this were done the same wonderful spirit we experience in other athletic meetings would be created in our swimming carnival.

H.S.W.

[In 1930 the swimming carnival was abandoned owing to too few entries and lack of interest on the part of the boys. Three weeks effort produced entries from only 30 boys of the 500 in the school. In 1931 the same trouble was experienced. Although entries were free, only 40 boys entered, and of these 35 finally competed. In spite of this lack of enthusiasm, Newcastle qualified for every final in which it was represented at the Combined High Schools' Carnival in Sydney in 1930, and was beaten by one point for first place in the under 14 years' shield. This year and last, teams selected were unable to make the trip owing to the cost, but they were successful both years, in carrying off the Newcastle Surf Club Cup, at the combined Newcastle High Schools' Carnival. In 1930-31 Life Saving classes were conducted and approximately 80 boys underwent instruction. When examinations were held, 16 boys gained bronze medallions and 20 proficiency certificates.—Ed.]