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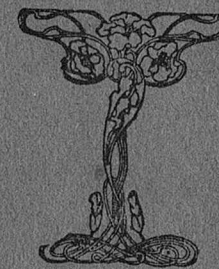
The Novocastrian

"REMIS VELISQUE."

:: The Organ of the ::
Newcastle High School

DECEMBER, 1920.

Vol. 10 :: No. 2.



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The Novocastrian

The Magazine of the Newcastle High School.

Vol. 10.

DECEMBER, 1920.

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OFFICERS:

Patron G. C. SAXBY, B.A.
Editor R. G. HENDERSON.
Committee SPORTS OFFICIALS AND SUB-PREFECTS.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF JOURNALISM.

(BY JOHN DICK.)

At the mighty age of sixteen I left the Newcastle High School with the fixed determination to become a journalist. No other profession appealed to me a scrap, and the mere thought of entering commercial life and being cooped up in a dark stuffy office all day long, sitting on top of a high stool, and adding up huge lists of figures, was most abhorrent. I may say at this stage that I have had no reason to regret my choice, and that my ideas regarding commercial work have not altered. The gods were kind, and a few days after I left the old school I secured employment of a most congenial character on the literary staff of a new daily which was then just about to start in this town. The advantage of being actively associated with a newspaper from the issue of the first edition, and being able to follow its progress, appears to me to be the best possible training for the young journalistic aspirant. It was a proud day for me when I saw my first "story" in print, even if I had earned a few caustic remarks from the sub-editor on the subject of paraphrased police reports.

To supply the citizens of a large and scattered town and the surrounding districts for the modest outlay of three halfpence, with a fairly complete record of important events taking place in every corner of the world, editorial leaders, market quotations, reviews of new books, plays and films, critiques of concerts and instrumental recitals, fashion hints, recipes for cooking, illustrations, as well as advertisements of all kinds, would seem to be a stupendous undertaking if it was not a daily phenomenon. A single copy of a large newspaper published daily in Sydney contains, exclusive of advertisements, from sixty to eighty thousand words, or about as many, approximately, as there are in the modern novel. The metropolitan papers print anything from 100,000 copies daily, a number far in excess of the editions of most successful novels. While it takes

the novelist months to prepare his manuscript, and months for his publisher to print it, the daily newspaper is set up and printed in from one to six editions in less than 24 hours. Any event of importance in any part of the Commonwealth is known to the readers of the big metropolitan papers and provincial dailies within a few hours. As an actual example it might be mentioned that at the time of a recent race meeting held at Melbourne the result of an important race was on the front page of newspapers being sold by paper boys in Hunter-street eleven minutes after the race.

The successful achievement of such an undertaking day by day requires extensive equipment. The rapid printing of a large edition requires many expensive and intricate machines to set the written matter into type, and huge presses to print the papers at high speed. A description of the mechanical process of printing a newspaper would occupy too much space, and would be too involved to describe here, but if any scholar of the High School is sufficiently interested he can, by communicating with me, arrange to be shown through the composing and press rooms of "The Newcastle Sun."

Now I will tell you something of the type of man I encountered in the editorial office. To the common mortal the managing editor of a newspaper may not appear to be any different from the hundreds of professional men one meets "in town," but to the initiated he is the monarch of all he surveys in the land of paper, pens, printing ink, and perspiration. His badges of authority when on duty are usually a pair of long-distance spectacles, a pen of the "ink hose" ilk, a pair of murderous-looking shears, and—I almost forgot—an eternal pipe. From those billowy clouds of tobacco smoke there arise ideas that even the famous witches in "Macbeth" could not have evolved.

In the inner sanctuary of the editorial offices is to be found the sub-editor—a sort of managing editor drawn to half scale. Monarchs fade into insignificance alongside subs. Like Ben Bolt we

"Weep with delight when he gives us a smile,
And tremble with fear at his frown"

His desk is usually ornamented with an unnecessarily big pair of "pruning hooks," a capacious paste-pot which diffuses more undesirable odours than paste, a weather-beaten Webster's, and a few assorted proof files. The largest and most conspicuous thing in the office is the "soup bucket," which is known to lesser beings as the waste paper basket. At the end of each day this receptacle is usually well stocked with miscellaneous contributions which have failed to meet with his august approval. There are usually several telephones gracing the cutting-plastered walls. An antique typewriter of the "active service" type usually completes the office equipment.

When a reporter has completed his copy he lodges it with the sub., and this gentleman falls to, and arranges the article to his own satisfaction. Whether the copy, which ultimately reaches the printer, bears the slightest resemblance to the original is a matter of absolutely no importance to the sub. As a means of gratifying my curiosity, I rescued my first piece of copy from the hands of the readers, and although I could pick out a word or two here and there in my own handwriting, the major portion of the space on each folio was decorated with a weird collection of hieroglyphics. Then I understood why our linotypers are all grey-haired men.

The reportorial staff I found completely to my satisfaction. From the human furnace known as the star to the junior I found the reporters a happy family. From my colleagues I received advice and encouragement at all times, and nothing was too much trouble for them to do if they deemed it of service to myself.

Those who have not come into personal contact with journalists have little idea of the work which he has to handle, and the training which is absolutely essential. Australian journalists are now advocating a University educational scheme, but although the pressman of to-day must of necessity be fairly well educated, only years of practical experience on the staff of a newspaper will give him the training he requires. Some of the "old hands" look upon journalism as a profession. To me it appeals rather as a "game." Each scribe is a player. Some, because of their superior skill, experience, and ability, are given special positions where they will be of most advantage to their side (the newspaper which employs them). The news is the football; the object of play, and the playing area is the world. The public of the universe represents the audience. Although those who watch the game may not know the players, they see the ball all the time.

The training of a young journalist is largely in his own hands. He must be prepared to undertake any class of work, and if he does not know how to do it that will not be accepted by the editor as a valid excuse for failing to try to carry out his instructions. He must give a determined "I will" to every call from his superiors. The most interesting part of the training is the study of "men and things." Coming into almost daily contact with people in all walks of life, from the Prime Minister to a chimney sweep, the journalist has a wonderful opportunity of studying life in the rough, and in every branch of his work he has to show that he is a gentleman and can be trusted implicitly. Once he gains the reputation of being trustworthy and honourable his path is smoothed considerably, and he gets the most valuable news available with the least effort. Once betray the confidence of a man of high standing who controls an important news channel, and that channel is closed to the reporter for ever.

And now, before concluding, I have a word of advice to utter to all my boy friends at the High School. It is popularly supposed that the High School and college-trained man has before him a royal road to success. This is the greatest of mistakes. The world is waiting for every beginner to prove himself. Nobody wants to know who a man is, but everyone is interested in what he is. The fact that he has had four or five years' standard information poured into his ears does not interest the world. The employer is anxious to find out how he can use his knowledge, and how he can apply in practice what he has been taught. While at the High School and the University he is taking in, absorbing. When he starts life in earnest he has to radiate his knowledge and show how he can use it.

The average student finds when he launches out into the real struggle of life that he is only a freshman. He is like a raw recruit in a battalion who has his full equipment and has been shown how to use them, but has had no actual practice. The world assumes that he is a gentleman because he is educated, and he is, therefore, judged more harshly by those above and around him.

In newspaper offices the cub reporters are usually turned over to the office boy. He doesn't know the difference between the Hydrostatic Paradox and Archimedes Principle, but he is well versed in the principal news sources, and knows to a nicety just how many sides of the copy paper can be written on. He splits rules of rhetoric in a manner that would prostrate High School teachers who teach that it is a sin to split infinitives. The office boy learned his lessons in the gristing mill of life.

In conclusion I would make this confession. If I had had the opportunity of doing a year's practical work at the end of the third year at the High School, it would have meant everything in my education. Only when one loses a thing does the loser begin to realise the opportunities that he has missed.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL UNION.

- 1.—The Union shall be called the "Newcastle High School Union."
- 2.—The affiliated clubs shall be as follows:—Cricket, Tennis, Football, Swimming, Basket Ball, Hockey, Athletics, and Pastime Clubs, Debating Society, School Magazine, Library, Choir, and such others as may be sanctioned from time to time by the Committee of the Union.
- 3.—Membership shall be open to all boys and girls attending the school, together with the staff of the school.
- 4.—The annual subscription shall be six (6) shillings, payable quarterly in advance.
- 5.—Any member of the Union shall be eligible for membership in one or more of the affiliated clubs without payment of further subscription.
- 6.—The management shall be conducted by a committee consisting of a President (Headmaster of the school ex-officio) and Vice-Presidents of the affiliated clubs (who must be members of the staff), three joint treasurers (one master, one boy, and one girl), and one member from the sub-committee of each affiliated club.
- 7.—The general annual meeting shall be held in the month of February of each year, at which meeting the report of the committee shall be submitted to the members, also the balance-sheet (duly audited).
- 8.—Each affiliated club or activity shall be governed, subject to the approval of the committee, by a sub-committee consisting of a master or mistress and four pupils (boys and girls, according to the sport), the teachers' representatives on the committee and sub-committee to be elected by the staff, and the pupils' representatives by the pupils enrolled in each particular sport, except in case of pupils' hon. secretaries and treasurers, who shall be elected at the annual meeting.
- 9.—The committee shall meet at least once a month, as far as possible on the first Monday or Tuesday in each month. An attendance of three to form a quorum.
- 10.—Sub-committees shall meet at times determined upon, an attendance of three to form a quorum.
- 11.—The committee shall have power to make such by-laws for the management and conduct of the union as they may deem necessary.
- 12.—The committee shall have power to call a special meeting at any time, and shall also call one on receiving a written requisition from not less than 20 members. The object must be notified at least seven days prior to the meeting, and only that business may be transacted. At all meetings, in the case of equality of votes, the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member of the committee.
- 13.—Each affiliated club must forward a written report through its secretary to the secretary of the Union on the Friday preceding the day on which the committee is to meet. Such written report to state (a) general progress of club during the month, (b) special developments, (c) financial statement, (d) inventory and state of material, (e) any other relevant matters.
- 14.—A club is liable to forfeit affiliation if, on two successive occasions, it fails to produce this report, unless being out of season it has received the permission of the Union to act otherwise.
- 15.—The committee has the right to discuss the monthly reports and allot the funds of the Union as it deems desirable.

16.—The committee shall grant sums for school purposes to meet expenses which might occur outside of affiliated clubs and activities, these sums to be dealt with by the headmaster.

17.—The committee is the final court of appeal in any controversial matter that may arise in any of the affiliated clubs.

18.—This constitution may be amended at general meeting of the Union, and all matters for its alteration must be in the hands of the secretary at least seven days before the general meeting is held.

EPICOENE, OR THE SILENT WOMAN.

Examination at 9.30 to-morrow on Elizabethan literature. This decree sentenced me to a night of hard labour. It had been my intention to finish "The Three Musketeers" that night, but instead of reading literature I had to read about the lives and work of literary men.

My twin sister Blabs and Elizabethan literature do not blend well together. She has no liking for it, and no sympathy for me. That girl is incorrigible! She was talking to Mary in the same room, and her voice flowed on like a waterfall, and the conversation was lavishly punctuated with giggles and cackles.

Her voice became quite mixed up with Ben Jonson's life, and while I learned that he was born in 1573 I heard that it was "frightfully lovely" in the surf.

My brain tried hard to grasp the fact that he wrote "Everyman in His Humour," and "Epicœne, or The Silent Woman."

"The Silent Woman," forsooth! I wished with all my heart that my twin had learned the value of silence. Here she was that moment gabbling about "a gorgeous ice-cream I had to-day."

I thought to myself how soothing it would be to meet a silent woman. All the girls I know are like Blabs. At school they talk all the time, and the noisy boys are told to be quiet. Ye gods!

Then I must have fallen asleep, because I seemed to be in a train, and opposite me was a small, neat woman, with brown eyes and greyish hair. I could not tell you what she wore, but my twin could, in a shot. She looked at me once with a quiet smile, and I said: "It is a fine day, isn't it?"

She just nodded, and then I knew conclusively that this was a "silent woman." Most people would gush, "Yes, glorious, isn't it!" But she just nodded.

I was reading "The Three Musketeers," and I saw her glance at it inquiringly. I asked her if she knew Porthos and Athos, and she answered with a quiet "Yes."

Soon I was telling her about my difficulty in learning because of my sister.

She listened attentively, and replied in monosyllables.

At last we arrived at the station, and the train stopped with a jerk. It was my "frightfully lovely" twin, tipping up my chair to waken me. I told her about my dream to show her how I appreciated a quiet woman. She answered airily: "Well, it's a mercy you woke when you did. Probably she spent the morning telling her friends about the "funny little schoolboy" in the train!"

I went to bed firmly convinced that Jonson was right. There never was or will be a "silent woman."

Form Reports.

IV. YEAR.

Ultimo anno adpropinquante, examinationibus iam perfectis, quarta classe ad Olympum progressa— (Not in this magazine!—Ed.)

The entire society of Fourth Year has been revolutionised. Where are the old familiar faces? Livy has departed, Virgil is no more; Carslaw, Patterson, and Lamb have gone like lambs to the slaughter. Now we obey the impulse of nature—pictures, socials, picnics, and beach teas hold sway.

The eve of our departure was rendered a little bright by a social given us by Third Year. There was great excitement, caused by a number of black cats, parting in the middle, and refusing to be made one. Wiser species of the felines invaded the tables.

Our vast knowledge, formerly so freely flowing, has been all expended in the examination, and so we must now close, wishing all who follow in our footsteps the best of luck, although owing to our departure the school has been ruined.

We are, but are to be no more,

"THE HEAVY-HEARTED FOURTHS."

3A.

Worthy Friends and Brother Sufferers, for one short minute hold, and of the noble-minded ones hear virtues yet untold. Our spirited form still retains the honours of old Neptune, and optimistically awaits the coming Sydney swimmers. In all branches of sport, however, the renowned 3A has shone, and, no doubt, as fourths, will wipe all from its path.

Sed melius est iam discere quam semper ludere, and the library fish, in keeping with the 2A-ites of 1919, still possess the brains of N.H.S.

But we have now completed the fourth lap, and are allowed a brief respite before the steep and stony crags of duty be scaled.

So, wishing 4th a "bon voyage" through "Leaving's" stormy way, to face the giant ogre yet,

ILLUSTRIOUS 3A.

3AC.

3AC! The six girls and three boys of our class are not yet breathing freely, for results are coming back with startling rapidity. However, we are looking forward with enjoyment to a number of events, among which are seven weeks' holiday, the picnic, the carnival, and a room to ourselves.

The "Black Hand" society of the back seat excites the interest of all, including the French master, but its doings are shrouded in mystery and silence. The members take a huge delight in acting plays, especially when sundry cushions and such paraphernalia are procurable. The acting of the redoubtable B—s is decidedly real; we strongly advise him to become a parson. L—n is absolutely bored here. Perhaps picking tea in China would be a diversion.

Soon to be 4AC! Well, we'll do our best to keep up the tradition of the old school, and wave triumphantly the flag that Fourth Year has so kindly presented.

2A.

2A has at last managed to pass the Inter. (it is past now), and is now studiously working away at third year work.

A very prominent (in length) member of our illustrious class is seriously thinking of publishing an English and Maths. book. The theme of the former is a new definition of an abstract noun. "An abstract noun is anything which can be put in a bottle," while the maths. is a complete study on square roots where 4 and 1 figure as the square root of 4.

Remove A has evidently placed a new bill before Parliament to the effect that a blackboard duster which has been sufficiently borrowed, after a reasonable length of time becomes the property of the borrower.

Are 2A loafers? No! No! No!

Quite rightly, as everyone agrees, both prizes have been won by 2A.

One of the main features of the Inter. results will be an A in physiology won by our famous student of "logic."

We take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to Remove for the very enjoyable beach afternoon tea rendered to us prior to the Inter.

THE UNEQUALLED 2A.

2AC.

We few, we happy few,
We band of brothers—AND sisters.

But however few our numbers, we faced with never-failing hearts "the fatal balls of murdering papers." Our motto, "A very little little let us do, and all is done," we found somehow did not act.

During the year the love scene between Henry and Katherine was well acted by M. and F.

"I'll kiss your dirty shoe" seems to be a favourite remark with some of our boys.

Since the horrors of the examination have flown, one of our budding tennis players (M.) seemed to have an amusing tendency to indulge in love sets. It was very interesting to watch.

Remove Year-very thoughtfully gave us a "good luck" beach tea. Everything was A1. Our rep., Mr. R., resembled a veritable Apollo, reading his maiden speech on the table off a piece of paper. The speech of our other rep., Miss D., was evidently straight from the heart. Her body seemed to shake in unison. By her mere words, we, the greatest of Second Years, were turned into Remove. She wishes here to make her apology.

Wishing ourselves a Merry Christmas, we still remain,

THE CLASS THAT GETS THINGS DONE (UNTIL 1921), TWACY.

REMOVE A.

Though decreasing in size we still remain head of the Removes.

We have a majority of girls in our class, which is most unfortunate, but the boys strive hard to put up with their noise.

Our girls almost succeeded in beating 4AC in tennis, but unfortunately that famous class defeated us by one game.

Those of us who went down to Sydney had a most enjoyable time. We are all looking forward to a trip again next year, and hope we will not be disappointed.

Our exams are over, but we have not received all our results yet. We do hope a girl will succeed in beating our genius. It is about time one of us did.

We have purchased a lock for our press, and we no longer have to search the school for our vases or our duster.

Our famous Latin fag, who excels chiefly in essays on marriage, has not returned since the exam.

To the second and fourth year students we convey our wishes of best luck.

In conclusion we will add that we wish for A Remove into 2nd year next year.

REMOVE B.

During the year RB has had many mascots, including T. M.'s dead cat, a dog which came into the room, and a couple of mice.

At last the great inventive brain of Geoffrey has stumbled upon a success. He has found out a new way for making a tram go by electricity. I hope he sells his invention to the council, as they badly need it, and also that he will find out a way for doing exams. without writing for them.

It has been rumoured that T.M. will have to look to his laurels in the exam., for our country wayback is having a good try.

The argument, which is the best suburb, Westy or Adamstown, is very popular in our class; Sandy and Joe are the chief debaters.

War was declared between our class and First Year Commercial on account of their habit of taking our inkwells. But they feared the consequences, and so peaceful relations were resumed.

Joe S. expects to get ninety per cent. in his history paper. He has a great habit of rubbing his hands together while he is speaking; he may be a great politician some day.

In the yearly athletic meeting RB did very well, McKay, Sowerby, Arthur, and Malcomson being the chief scorers.

Professor Pacey is leaving the High School to become a cockie-farmer, and we wish him every success.

The brush-back is very common amongst the boys of our class. I wonder why?

The dandy of RB is T.M.

RC.

LOST, STOLEN, OR STRAYED, 1 Inmate of the Incubator, branded J.A., not seen since prior to the exam. Anybody finding same please return to Room II. Reward.

We are sorry—some are glad—to say that our Bolshie has gone west, and no longer darkens our door.

The Jazz Band has been resurrected, and now comprises:—"D.K.R.," R. Jones, F. Cooksey, and our battered bandsman, J. Clement, with "Dody" as an occasional performer.

Our pet "Drake" has performed the hat trick again, coming out "Ducks"—for the third time.

With perhaps one exception the old brigade will be back after the holidays to enter into the mystic realms of Second Year.

The girls—least, but not last—are still an important factor in the class, and although they only number 7 make enough noise for 27.

To our successors we say, "DO AS WELL." So, with best wishes to all, we are,

THE CHICKENS.

R.A.C.

Fagging done for a while. Hurrah! Exam over. We are only waiting with anxiety for the time when we break up. On the whole we have not had too bad a time during the year. A voice from the deep says: "We have got to get over our Removitus by next year, and settle down.

We would like estimates or tenders to supply pens which will not run hot and will ensure a sure pass.

Where did those wee commas and exasperated faces go to after the exam? They seemed to have vanished into space, perhaps there to remain.

We wish everyone a Merry Xmas and a Bright New Year, and hope all will come back after a jolly good time.

We are the

CROWS (Quaw! Quaw!).

1A.

Johnnie Walker is still going strong, so is 1A still alive, at least the boys, not the girls. They yawn and blink and keep looking at the watches of other people.

The exam. is over now; maths. was our failure. "Show-off" as usual got a good mark, so did "Professor," but he is worth it.

Latin was good, and the class came off all right, thanks to Beresford and Mr. Geddes, who worked hard during the year for us.

What do you think, our "deep-sea flathead" came to school with his hair done nicely for once.

The class has a magazine called the "Revealer," quite a credit to the editor, Beth Cherry, and the sub-editor, Madge Smith. It comes out once a month, and is now due.

Cricket and swimming are the sports carried on in our room.

Only one boy left us last half, but that did not matter as the boys are still kings of the averages.

It is quite usual for anyone to find his books in the four corners of the room, as a mob of red-raggers in the front seats delight in such pleasure.

We are very enthusiastic about our sport. For the girls swimming is the favourite, and only three take tennis.

Three Taree High School girls wrote to three girls of 1A, and now correspond regularly with them.

It is surprising to think that a "certain person" in our class uses shinoleum for a nose polish.

THE 1A.

1B.

1BG is still the same as ever. The exams. are over (until next time), and many are sorry, many glad, with the results. But, as the old saying goes, "It is no good crying over spilt milk." So we who have failed are going to put our shoulders to the wheel and . . . well, the coming year will give forth its results. But talking like this bores everyone. We will pass to the pleasant affairs.

Our class picnic was a great success. We picked a Saturday which turned out to be a glorious one, except for a slight shower in the afternoon, and the place was Mt. Sugarloaf. We left our various homes, and arrived at the foot of the mountain at about 11 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Mearns were kind enough to accept our invitation to accompany us, and we spent a very enjoyable day indeed.

The various denominations represented in our class are generally having a heated discussion on the subject: "Are the Orangemen greater than the Irishmen?" The orators are Mutton, Geff, and Mervin the Great.

Our advice to our aviator (E.B.) is to think of a new plan for the construction of aircraft, as his old machine hit a fence while in the air, and collapsed.

Our dearly beloved J.J. is creating a beautifully-coloured growth of hair, which surrounds and covers his head like a halo.

Brad's eye is taking on quite an unnatural colour, owing to it having stopped an arrangement more like a house than a cricket ball.

The three vases belonging to our room have disappeared. We would be glad of information concerning their whereabouts.

Some weeks ago our class spent a very pleasant day at Mt. Sugarloaf.

We are glad to say some of our girls helped to represent our school at the combined High Schools sports in Sydney.

1B.

1AC.

Our numbers have been sadly reduced since last you heard our innocent and merry prattle. Among the most distinguished are "Ada," the snake dancer, and Jones, Aubrey Jones, the illustrious he of the melodious laugh. The giggling quartette are progressing favourable under the baton of Miss D. Marks. We have a small menagerie consisting of one monkey being run by a man who "Owens" it. A youth whose name is very fishy is troubling the feet of the gentler sex with his No. 9's. The old grandfathers are getting on well, in spite of their "reumatics" and gout and nervous troubles, and have managed to add three more bass notes to their voices, which now resemble a grisly bear in a fight.

We were all at school at 5 o'clock anxiously awaiting our fate. At half-past nine the exam. papers were distributed. The boys stood it stoically, but there was open sobbing among the girls.

1B.

THE LIBRARY.

(BY "CHRYSALIS.")

O room of ancient knights of field and pen,
Whose many-volumed records fill thy walls,
The majestic features of the mighty bards
Bring back to us the days long since gone by,
The days when we were young, twelve months ago.
Thy stately walls, thy gorgeous gilded frames
(How antithetic to the grave poets framed!)
Give pleasure to the now finished second year,
And grant their luck may better be than ours:
For in thee, dungeon, ten long months have gone,
Ten weary months of misery and pain;
In thee, the budding fourths have prisoned been
For seeming years, in Dantean agony.
But hark! the doer unlocks, the dawn shines out,
A new world seems to shine before our eyes,
Until, the past forgot, we come upon
A palace, sparkling in the sun, Room 10.

IB's MASCOT.

We once had a dear little mascot,
 The best little thing in the world,
 His face was so sweet and so smiling,
 And his whiskers so charmingly curled.
 But we lost our dear little mascot
 When we left the school one day,
 And we could not do our work, dears,
 When our luck was taken away.
 But we found our tricky dear mascot,
 As we roamed through a room one day,
 And we placed him high on the mantelpiece,
 And there he smiles to-day.

BAC AT PARNASSUS.

1.—SPRING.

Welcome, thou season beautiful and gay,
 With sun so bright and fields so sweetly green
 As sympathetic eyes have ever seen
 On any fine September's opening day.
 The time of cold, wild winds has passed away,
 And fresh and happy is Australia's youth,
 Who now can see the never-fading truth
 That Spring's the time when all sad things decay.
 So, let the magic of beloved Spring
 Work in our veins, and make our hearts renew
 The eager hopes and visions we used to sing,
 When the world was made for singing, and the hue
 Of life was never grey, but always gold,
 And everything seemed possible to the bold.

WATTLE DAY.

Pluck golden blooms of wattle from the tree,
 And fashion them as children do at play.
 This is Australia's gladsome Wattle Day,
 Beloved of all her children fair and free.
 The beauteous national emblem now is worn
 By all who love the native flower; in sign
 That for Australia and her soldiers fine
 They'll stand or fall, despite all alien scorn.
 And so when "Diggers" in an alien land,
 Found wattles growing, of as fine gold as here,
 At once, a happy, laughing, riotous band,
 They felt the breath of home, and gave a cheer
 For the fair flower that brought old Aussie near,
 And gave them visions of her distant strand.

AUSTRALIA.

Australia, land of bright and sunny days,
 The home of those who claim the right to be
 Unfettered by the bonds of slavery,
 To thee, I lift to thee each morn my voice of praise.
 Thou land who earn'st our love a thousand ways,
 Whose shores are circled by a crystal sea,
 Whose morning dew a new life gives to me,
 Thy memory long time can ne'er erase.
 I love the land of yellow wattle bloom,
 I love the crispness of her winter night,
 I love to hear her ocean breakers boom
 On the long shores in their unconscious night.
 I pray that her brown soil will be my tomb
 Until that day when all attain their right.

CONCERT.

The fifth annual concert was held on August 26, in the Central Hall.

PROGRAMME.

Part I.

1. Overture, "The Marionettes" (Gurlitt)
 SCHOOL ORCHESTRA.
2. (a) "Hail, Smiling Morn" (Spofforth)
 (b) "Fair Shines the Moon To-night." (The Melody from "Rigoletto") (Verdi)
 SCHOOL CHOIR.
3. Song, "April Morn" Robert Batten)
 MISS MOLLIE ROSS.
4. (a) 'O We'rt Thou in the Cauld Blast" (Mendelssohn)
 (b) "Onward to Battle" (from "Il Trovatore") (Verdi)
 SCHOOL CHOIR.
5. Song, "Sing Joyous Bird" (Montague Phillips)
 MISS TOMPSON.
6. (a) "Hymn of the Fishermen's Children" (Herald)
 (Melody from "Zampa.")
 (b) "Good Night" (Scott Gatty)
 SCHOOL CHOIR.

INTERVAL.

Part II.

7. Barcarolle (Offenbach)
 SCHOOL ORCHESTRA.
8. Song (Selected)
 MR. HEMELEERS.
9. Recitation (Selected)
 MISS MADGE STEVENSON.
10. Mimi's Song, "La Boheme" (Puccini)
 MISS MOLLIE ROSS.
11. "Between the Soup and the Savoury" (Gertrude Jennings)
 Marie, the Cook Madge Stephenson.
 Ada, the Maid Kittie Bowie.
 Emily, the Kitchenmaid Dora Toll.

The concert was a great success, there being a large audience, who, judging by their applause, derived much enjoyment from the various items. The school choir, under the guidance of Mr. Gibson, was, as usual, an entire success. We must specially mention the first appearance of the school orchestra, conducted by Miss Tompson. They are a very welcome addition to our musical resources. We owe especial thanks to Miss Johnson, Miss Mollie Ross, Miss Tompson, and Mr. Hemeleers for their assistance.

The comedietta went off well, Dora Toll, who had the biggest part, successfully struggling with the pangs of love and a formidable array of dishes, while Madge Stevenson and Kitty Bowie, with less opportunities, made the most of them.

A pleasant addition to the programme was the presentation of a baton to Mr. Gibson, and of bouquets to Miss Johnson and Miss Tompson, who had put in so much work at the piano and with the orchestra.

BOYS' SPORTS.

CRICKET.

BATTING AVERAGES.

Name.	Runs.	Innings.	N.O.	H.S.	Average.
F. Cassidy	193	9	2	51	27.5
R. Kem Yee	199	10	0	50	19.9
R. Cochrane	153	9	1	44	19
R. Huntley	108	9	1	24	13.5
E. Fitzgerald	95	9	0	23	10.5
R. Brooks	72	8	1	26	10.3
S. Scorer	83	10	1	20	9.2

BOWLING.

Name.	Wickets.	Runs.	Overs.	Average.
F. Cassidy	45	222	52	5.02
R. Brooks	49	248	63	5.06
Mr. Mearns	19	98	20	5.1
R. Hayman	40	218	46	5.4
W. Bradford	42	253	50	6.02
R. Kem Yee	35	225	40	6.04
H. Bryant	22	136	32	6.1
J. Layton	13	156	20	12.0

RESULTS OF MATCHES.

The cricket this year has been well above last year's standard, particularly in the bowling department. The second team have stood out in the competition, and are leading with nine points. A feature of this team is that their two bowlers bowl unchanged with great success.

The best individual innings is that of F. Cassidy (1sts), who scored 51 against the Fourths, with R. Kem Yee next best, with a solid 50. The fielding has been remarkably good, T. Jones fielding at point for the 2nds being most successful, securing 10 catches to date, while he has stopped innumerable runs. D. Rodgers (2nds) is the most successful wicketkeeper; he has stumped 5 and caught 8, while out of 485 runs scored against his side only 25 byes have been scored.

F. Cassidy is undoubtedly the best player in the competition. Up to date he has secured both bowling and batting averages. Following are results:—

FIRST ROUND.

Played on 9th October, 1920.

Seconds beat Firsts by an innings and 8 runs. Seconds, first innings, 62 (S. Scorer 18, P. Lusk 16 not out). Bowling: F. Cassidy 6 for 12, R. Lovett 1 for 2, Nelson 1 for 19, Mr. Henderson 1 for 0. Firsts, first innings 27 (J. Sneddon 13). Bowling: W. Bradford 6 for 16, R. Brooks 3 for 10. Second innings, 27. Bowling: R. Brooks 6 for 4, W. Bradford 3 for 13.

Thirds defeated Fourths by 10 runs on first innings. Thirds, first innings, 98 (R. Kem Yee 50, E. Fitzgerald 20, F. Gray 11). Bowling: R. Hayman 7 for 26, Campbell 2 for 30, G. Johnston 1 for 36. Fourth's, first innings, 88 (R. Hayman 22, D. Sharp 13). Bowling: R. Kem Yee 8 for 30, E. Fitzgerald 2 for 50.

Played 16th October, 1920.

Fourth's defeated Seconds by 43 runs. Fourth's, first innings, 53 (J. Estell 11, D. Sharp 10). Bowling: R. Brooks 6 for 20, W. Bradford 4 for 26. Second innings, 67 (R. Huntley 29, R. Hayman 14). Bowling: W. Bradford 8 for 30, R. Brooks 2 for

36. Seconds, first innings, 26 (R. Brooks 11 not out). Bowling: R. Hayman 6 for 10, H. Bryant 4 for 16. Second innings, 51 (D. Rodgers 12, R. Cochrane 12, H. Williams 11). Bowling: R. Hayman 7 for 17, G. Johnston 2 for 7, H. Bryant 1 for 12.

Firsts beat Thirds by 3 wickets and 21 runs. Thirds, first innings, 46 (R. Kem Yee 23). Bowling: J. Layton 6 for 30, F. Cassidy 3 for 10. Second innings, 45. Bowling: F. Cassidy 3 for 24, Mr. Mearns 2 for 0, J. Layton 1 for 13. Firsts, first innings, 84 (E. James 26, F. Cassidy 31). Bowling: R. Kem Yee 5 for 30, E. Fitzgerald 3 for 50. Second innings, 7 wickets for 48 (Mr. Mearns 13, J. Bloomfield 12 not out). Bowling: R. Kem Yee 4 for 24, E. Fitzgerald 2 for 17.

Played on 20th October, 1920.

Seconds defeated Thirds by 7 wickets. Thirds, first innings, 63 (R. Kem Yee 29, E. Fitzgerald 12, A. Sneddon 10). Bowling: W. Bradford 5 for 25, R. Brooks 4 for 33. Second innings, 86 (R. Kem Yee 31, E. Fitzgerald 23, A. Sneddon 15). Bowling: R. Brooks 6 for 30, W. Bradford 2 for 54. Seconds, first innings, 147 (R. Cochrane 39 not out, R. Brooks 26, T. Jones 15, W. Bradford 14, H. Williams 12, J. Burke 11, D. Rodgers 10). Bowling: R. Kem Yee 4 for 70, E. Fitzgerald 3 for 32, L. McManus 2 for 45. Second innings, 5 wickets for 55 (D. Rodgers 16, retired, R. Cochrane 13, retired, S. Scorer 12, retired). Bowling: R. Kem Yee 5 for 30.

Firsts beat Fourth's by 7 wickets and 10 runs. Fourth's, first innings, 56 (R. Hayman 12). Bowling: F. Cassidy 5 for 22, J. Layton 4 for 34. Second innings, 58 (J. Estell 17, G. Johnston 12 not out, D. Williams 12). Bowling: F. Cassidy 5 for 20, Mr. Mearns 4 for 12, J. Layton 1 for 17. Firsts, first innings, 78 (F. Cassidy 51, J. Layton 13). Bowling: R. Hayman 4 for 40, H. Bryant 3 for 34, G. Johnston 1 for 2. Second innings, 3 wickets for 46 (Mr. Henderson 18, F. Cassidy 13). Bowling: R. Hayman 3 for 30.

SECOND ROUND.

Played 27th October, 1920.

Seconds defeated Firsts by 8 runs. Seconds, first innings, 88 (R. Cochrane 44, R. Brooks 11, J. Burke not out 10). Bowling: F. Cassidy 6 for 42, Mr. Mearns 3 for 12. Second innings, 50 (R. Brooks 16). Bowling: Mr. Mearns 6 for 27, F. Cassidy 3 for 23. Firsts, first innings, 82 (F. Cassidy 43 not out, Mr. Mearns 73). Bowling: R. Brooks 5 for 40, W. Bradford 3 for 40. Second innings, 48 (J. Sneddon 17, F. Cassidy 11). Bowling: W. Bradford 4 for 17, R. Brooks 3 for 20.

Fourth's beat Thirds by an innings. Fourth, first innings, 133 (R. Collins 46, J. Estell 21, R. Huntley 13, H. Bryant 12, R. Hayman 10, G. Johnston 10). Bowling: R. Kem Yee 6 for 50, E. Fitzgerald 4 for 56. Thirds, first innings, 47 (A. Sneddon 12, W. Fisher 10). Bowling: R. Hayman 7 for 21, H. Bryant 3 for 23. Second innings, 86 (H. Barnes 40). Bowling: R. Collins 3 for 12, H. Bryant 3 for 30, R. Hayman 3 for 44.

COMPETITION TABLE.

Seconds.—Played 4, won 3, lost 1. Points, 9.
 Fourth's.—Played 4, won 2, lost 2. Points, 6.
 Firsts.—Played 4, won 2, lost 2. Points, 6.
 Thirds.—Played 4, won 1, lost 3. Points, 2.

N.H.S. v. MAITLAND H. SCHOOL.

On Wednesday, the 17th November, two elevens from Maitland played two local elevens, at the Showground. Honours were divided, the Maitland first eleven winning by 34 runs, while our seconds won by 15 runs. R. Kem Yee top-scored with 19 for the first eleven, while "ducks" were numerous. Schofield (21) and Frape (19) were in partnership for a lengthy time, and were hard to shift.

"Ducks" were also prevalent amongst the second eleven, but R. Huntley, with a well-compiled 24, helped things along. Owing to the fine bowling of Harold Bryant, Maitland fell short by 15, Redman being top score with 33.

Scores:—N.H.S. First Eleven v. M.H.S. First Eleven.—N.H.S., first innings: R. Kem Yee, l.b.w., b Frape, 19; E. Fitzgerald, b Frape, 1; T. Jones, run out, 0; R. Collins, c Schofield, b Frape, 0; F. Cassidy (c), b Frape, 9; B. James, run out, 0; R. Hayman, st Weekley, b Pendlebury, 6; J. Estell, c Weekley, b Frape, 0; J. Sneddon, b Frape, 0; R. Brooks, b Frape, 0; D. Rodgers, not out, 0. Total, 35. Bowling: Frape 7 for 6, Pendlebury 1 for 10.

M.H.S., first innings: Hungerford, b Hayman, 2; Anderson, c Jones b Hayman 1; Avery, c Rodgers, b Hayman, 11; Frape, c Sneddon, b Hayman, 19; Schofield, c Sneddon, b Cassidy, 21; Peak, c Rodgers, b Cassidy, 7; McLennan, c Jones, b Cassidy, 0; McFenry, c Jones, b Cassidy, 2; Pendlebury, c Hayman, b Cassidy, 0; Weekley, not out, 1; Gomo, b Brooks, 0. Sundries, 5. Total, 69. Bowling: F. Cassidy 5 for 33, R. Hayman 4 for 30, R. Brooks 1 for 1.

N.H.S. Second Eleven v. M.H.S. Second Eleven.—N.H.S., first innings: J. Layton, c Anderson, b Wright, 0; L. McManus, c Passfield, b Murray, 0; R. Huntley, b Connolly, 24; S. Scorer, c Henderson, b Wright, 1; H. Bryant (c), c Connolly, b Murray, 1; P. Lusk, b Murray, 0; A. Snedden, b Henderson, 15; R. Cochrane, b Connolly, 8; W. Bradford, b Henderson, 10; J. Hyslop, b Henderson, 0; J. Burke, not out, 1. Sundries, 6. Total, 66. Bowling: Wright 2 for 18, Murray 3 for 17, Connolly 2 for 13, Henderson 3 for 9.

M.H.S., first innings: Connolly, b Bryant, 1; Andrews, c Bradford, b Bryant, 2; Redman, b Bryant, 33; McMullen, c Bradford, b Bryant, 3; Murray, c Hyslop, b Bryant, 6; Kearsley, c and b Bryant, 3; Passfield, c Huntley, b Bryant, 1; Wright, c Layton, b McManus, 0; Henderson, c Layton, b Bryant, 0; Smith, not out, 0; Wilkinson, b McManus, 0. Sundry, 1. Total, 51. Bowling: H. Bryant 8 for 10, McManus 2 for 8.

JUNIOR CRICKET.

This competition, which has only been inaugurated this season, creates great enthusiasm amongst the juniors. Although no sensational scoring has taken place, the cricket displayed has been keen and interesting. The competition has been closely contested, but K. Hopper's team—a solid combination—has established a lead on the field, and heads the table with points. W. Sutton is responsible for the best individual effort to date, compiling 39 runs for Seconds versus Fourths. Dave Stirling, captain of the Seconds, has secured the best bowling average with the fine average of 2.5 runs per wicket. A. Heath is the most consistent batsman, and heads the batting list.

COMPETITION TABLE.

Firsts.—Played 5, won 5, lost 0. Points, 15.
 Thirds.—Played 5, won 3, lost 2. Points, 9.
 Seconds.—Played 5, won 1, lost 4. Points, 3.
 Fourths.—Played 5, won 1, lost 4. Points, 3.

BATTING AVERAGES.

B. Partridge, 83 runs, 11 innings, 1 not out, 19 n.o. highest score. Average, 8.3
 A. Heath, 90 runs, 12 innings, 0 not outs, 29 highest score. Average, 7.5.
 C. Fraser, 87 runs, 12 innings, 0 not outs, 26 highest score. Average, 7.2.
 T. Carter, 78 runs, 12 innings, 0 not outs, 17 highest score. Average, 6.5.

BOWLING AVERAGES.

D. Stirling, 72 overs, 54 wickets, 135 runs. Average, 2.5.
 T. Carter, 30 overs, 43 wickets, 114 runs. Average, 2.6.
 R. Lindus, 43 overs, 41 wickets, 108 runs. Average, 2.6.

FOOTBALL.

There have been more successful football seasons, but few more enjoyable or more fruitful ones.

Beginning the season with a weak combination, a fine team was gradually built up, by the acquisition of many senior boys, who had previously only played Soccer. It was a team that gave a good account of itself in all departments of the game.

Senior games were played by the first fifteen, who were beaten by Maitland High School, Taree Intermediate H.S. (twice), Fort-street H.S., and Old Boys. Victories were obtained over Combined Sydney H.S. (Dramatic Party) and Maitland H.S.

All the games were very close, with the exception of those against Taree. Much of the success of the team was due to the coaching of Mr. T. Headly, who took the keenest interest in the team, and gave it the benefit of the wide experience.

The second fifteen was formed late in the season, and played one game against Maitland H.S. second fifteen, whom it defeated by a narrow margin.

Amongst a fine pack of forwards the best were F. Hart, A. Malcomson, and G. Johnson. The backs were all fast and safe. R. Coles and R. Hayman, behind the scrum, were a very capable and heady combination. Estell was the best of a very fine three-quarter line. H. Bryant at full-back was to be relied upon at all times. His play was of a very high standard. The majority of the team will not be with us next year, but with such fine exponents of the game as R. Hayman, R. Collins, H. Bryant, J. Howard, and Campbell, and H. Williams remaining, our prospects for the coming year are bright.

The junior team, which played in the 6th 7th competition (Jackson's team) covered itself with glory. Its record speaks for itself:—v. Hamilton I.H.S., won, 6-6; v. South Newcastle P.S., won, 11-0; v. Cook's Hill I.H.S., won, 11-2; v. Technical College, won, 35-0; v. Wickham J.T.S., won, 7-0; v. Hamilton I.H.S., won, 15-3; v. Wickham J.T.S., won, 5-0; Cook's Hill I.H.S., Technical College, and South Newcastle forfeited in the second round. It was truly "Jackson's team." He scored more points than any other player, and was the mainstay of the team in offence and defence. The team was a very fine one, sound in all departments. Amongst the forwards the best were P. Burke and Riley. The "backs" were all fine players. "Dicky" Thomas's tackling was a model for juniors and seniors—no opponent passed him. "Scotty" Campbell was nothing if not forceful and heady, and Alexander was fast and safe. H. Bryant was always to be relied upon. Martin, the half-back, and baby of the team, deserves special mention. Although he received a lot of punishment, he never flinched, but worked his pack like a veteran, seldom failing to set his three-quarters moving. He is an exceedingly able and plucky player.

Amongst the juniors who were not in any of the teams are some very fine footballers, who should be of the greatest assistance in the coming season.

ATHLETICS.

The ninth annual sports meeting of the Newcastle High School was held at the Showground, Broadmeadow, on September 8th. There was a large attendance of students and friends.

The officials for the boys' sports were:—Referee, Mr. Saxby; judges (running events and hurdles), Messrs. Mearns, Geddes, Piper; judges (other events), Messrs. Nairn, Brown, Hemeleers; starter, Mr. Walker; check starter, Mr. Fraser; time-keeper, Mr. Henderson; clerks of course, Messrs. A. Malcolmson, F. Cassidy, N. Brown, F. Hart, F. Vizzard; recorders, Messrs. T. Jones, E. Jackson, R. Coles; committee, Messrs. Gibson, J. Estell, J. Sneddon, O. Oakley, E. Fitzgerald, J. Arthur.

The officials for the girls' events were: Starters, Misses Blacklock and Johnson; judges, Misses Whiteoak, Bootle, Segeart, and Martin; clerks of course, Misses Ross and Black; stewards, Misses Hunt, Newton, Bickerton, Donaldson, and Stinson.

Results:—

BOYS' EVENTS.

106 Yards Age Championships.—12 years and under: Saxby, 1; Bartley, 2; F. Smith, 3. Time, 13 1-5sec. 13 years: Malcolmson, 1; Riley, 2; Hopper, 3. 14 years: Sowerby, 1; Arthur, 2. Time, 12 1-5sec. 15 years: Collins, 1; Johnston, 2; D. Williams, 3. Time, 11 4-5sec. 16 years: J. Sneddon, 1; W. Parker, 2; F. Gray, 3. Time, 11sec. 17 years: J. Estell, 1; D. Sharp, 2; R. Kem Yee, 3. Time, 11sec.

880 Yards Handicap.—Senior: Barnes, 1; Nelson, 2. Time, 2.25. Junior: Sowerby, 1; Arthur, 2; McKay, 3. Time, 2.15. Under 14 years: Johnston, 1; Aus, 2; Pickles, 3. Time, 2.34.

Hop, Step, and Jump Championship.—Senior: Sneddon, 1; Nelson, 2; Gray, 3. Distance, 40ft 2½in. Junior: Bradford, 1; McKay, 2; Cochrane, 3. Distance, 35ft 1in. Under 14: Partridge, 1; Ryan, 2; Riley, 3. Distance, 30ft 2½in.

220 Yards Championship.—Senior: Estell, 1; Sneddon, 2; Nelson, 3. Time, 26sec. Junior: Bryant, 1; Howard, 2; P. Williams, 3. Time, 28½sec. Under 14: Malcolmson, 1; Partridge, 2; Aus and Riley, tie, 3. Time, 30 2-5sec.

100 Yards Novice Handicap.—Senior: Hyslop, 1; Kem Yee, 2; Hale, 3. Time, 12sec. Junior: Sowerby, 1; Perrau, 2; Arthur, 3. Time, 13 1-5sec. Under 14: Partridge, 1; Owens, 2; Hopper, 3. Time, 13 2-5sec.

440 Yards Handicap.—Barnes, 1; Gray, 2; Bloomfield, 3. Time, 59 3-5sec. Junior: Collins, 1; Sowerby, 2; Bryant, 3. Time, 62 1-5sec. Under 14: Hopper, 1; Johnston, 2; Ryan, 3.

Hurdles Championship.—Senior: Estell, 1; Sneddon, 2; Gray, 3. Time, 15 1-5sec. Junior: Arthur, 1; F. Asher, 2; Sowerby, 3. Time, 19 1-5sec. Under 14: Owen, 1; Hopper, 2; Riley, 3. Time, 20sec.

Mile Championship.—Estell, 1; Barnes, 2; Nelson, 3. Time, 5min 40sec. Junior: Bryant, 1; Cochrane, 2; Sowerby, 3. Under 14: Ryan, 1; Partridge, 2; Hopper, 3.

75 Yards Handicap (2 heats).—Senior: Sneddon, 1; Gray, 2; Sharp, 3. Time, 8 1-5sec. Under 14: Malcolmson, 1; Riley, 2; Saxby, 3.

100 Yards Championship of School.—Estell, 1; Parker, 2; Gray, 3. Time, 11sec. Junior: Hayman, 1; D. Williams, 2; Sowerby, 3. Under 14: Malcolmson, 1; Partridge, 2; Owen, 3. Time, 12 4-5sec.

High Jump Championship.—Senior: J. Sneddon, 1; Estell, 2; Hyslop, 3. Height, 4ft 6½in. Junior: Williams, 1; McKay, 2; Arthur, 3. Height, 4ft 4in. Under 14: Hopper, 1; Riley, 2; Pickles and Ryan, tie, 3. Height, 4ft 2in.

220 Yards Handicap.—Senior: Sneddon, 1; Nelson, 2; Parker, 3. Time, 25sec. Junior: Hayman, 1; Bryant, 2; Alexander, 3. Time, 27 2-5sec. Under 14: Malcolmson, 1; Owen, 2; Johnston, 3. Time, 33sec.

880 Yards Championship Challenge with M.H.S. and Old Boys of N.H.S.—Senior: Frap (M.H.S.), 1; Anderson (M.H.S.), 2; Riley (Old Boys), 3. Time, 2min 21 1-5sec. Junior: Bryant, 1; Howard, 2; Sowerby and Cochrane, tie, 3. Time, 2min 41 2-5sec. Under 14: Aus, 1; Johnson, 2; Ryan, 3.

Newcastle High School Championship.—Seniors: Barnes, 1; Estell, 2.

GIRLS' EVENTS.

School Championship, 100 Yards.—L. Bickerton and M. Wood, tie, 1; Time, 13 2-5sec.

50 Yards Championship.—Over 16 years: K. Bowrie and L. Bickerton, tie, 1; E. Mitchell, 3. 16 years: M. Woods, 1; E. Einsaar, 2. 15 years: E. Miner, 1; D. Pearson, 2; L. Layton, 3. 14 years: K. Morrison, 1; E. Murray, 2; J. Cameron, 3. 13 years: M. Burdon, 1; L. Hincks, 2; G. Wilson, 3.

Walking Race.—Over 16 years: L. Mitchell, 1; D. Toll, 2. 16 years: D. Billett, 1; M. Woods, 2; R. Lindsay, 3. 15 years: D. Pearson, 1; A. Dart, 2; D. Deed, 3. 14 years: M. Farrell, 1; J. Cameron and M. Spitzkowsky, tie, 2. Under 14 years: M. Burdon, 1; E. Davidson, 2.

SWIMMING.

The regular swimming periods have been rather unfortunate this term, as they have only fallen on one solitary hot day. Nevertheless almost every week a handicap competition has been held which has stimulated interest, and on the afternoons between events our champions and other representatives, Oakley, Johnson, James, Nelson, Collins, Miller, McKay, Lambert, and Keating, have been assiduous in their practice to carry off honours against the Sydney cracks.

Oakley swam particularly well the other night over 300 yards with our old friend, Armstrong, but has since developed influenza. Miller, too, put up a fine performance with the Premier Club last week.

We are looking forward with some confidence to our meeting with the Sydney visitors, of whom just an even hundred have sent in their entries.

GIRLS' SPORTS.

The winter sports have been most successfully carried out, great enthusiasm having been shown under the tuition of Miss Blacklock and Miss Bootle. Once more Louie Bickerton won the singles tennis championship of New South Wales, while Louie and Enid Mitchell were the runners-up for the doubles championship.

A new departure in girls' sports was made by Newcastle inviting girls from St. George High School to visit us. Teams played in hockey, basketball, and tennis. Newcastle was successful in basketball and tennis, and had the honour of scoring the first goal in High School hockey against St. George, the final result being a draw. The social side of the visit proved most enjoyable—a luncheon party at Stockton and a social in the Cathedral school hall. A most striking feature of the visit was the great number of friendships made by the Newcastle and Sydney girls, most of them lasting.

We paid a return visit to St. George in September, over 60 girls journeying to Sydney. The visit was made in conjunction with the first annual sports of the Sydney High School girls. We were not able to carry off many honours, but Marjorie Wood came first and Louie Bickerton second in the country High Schools championships. In the matches we lost at hockey and basketball, but won at tennis. We played a draw at basketball with Fort-street. On Saturday St. George entertained us at luncheon in the grounds, which filled us with envy when we saw trees and a fine garden connected with the school. In the evening a most enjoyable social was held at Kogarah. We cannot sufficiently thank St. George for the good time they gave us.

During the season we met Maitland High School at basketball and hockey, in which games we proved successful, but we were beaten at tennis.

The annual sports day was filled with incident. The school championship proved a most exciting race, being eventually won by Louie Bickerton, Marjorie Wood being second, and Dorothy Pearson third. The hop, step, and jump was won by Mary Hunt, in the junior section, Marjorie Burdon showing great promise. The day's sports ended with most exciting contests in overhead ball and tugs-of-war. In the latter the girls even won against a team of old boys.

Swimming has proved the most successful of the summer sports. For the first time a life-saving class has been formed, under the instruction of Mona Weber, and great results are expected from the enthusiastic band under her control.

On the whole the girls' sports have been carried out most enthusiastically, and we look forward with the utmost confidence to future successes.

IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FLATTERY.

A recent development in German schools may prove of interest to Australian school pupils. By decree of the Minister for Education, self-government among pupils is made compulsory, since recent experiments have given overwhelmingly favourable results. The scheme laid down provides for delegates to be elected by each class. These delegates form a committee for each class, and for the whole school. (Delegates from the lowest classes may be nominated by the head master.) The school committee elects a member of the staff to act as a connecting link between pupils and teachers. "It shall be the purpose of the school committee to lead the pupils to a comprehension of the great community in which they are placed, and to offer them the opportunity to co-operate in its construction and development. It shall, therefore, promote free discussion of questions concerning the school and life in general. Criticism of individual members of the staff is not permitted. With the consent of the teachers, persons from outside the school may be admitted as speakers."

One interesting feature is that these committees may meet in school time, the class committee not oftener than once a fortnight, and the school committee not less than once a month.

Apparently Prussia has been thinking deeply over the war and taking its lessons to heart.

END OF THE YEAR.

Oh, pleasant times in Third year, the Intermediate over,
 No insatiable professors lurking at the year's end,
 When your mind, amongst your studies, may go a cheerful rover,
 And all the scars of Second Year very pleasantly mend,
 And you kindly give a social to the Fourth Year you're deposing.
 You make them pretty speeches, and some perhaps you mean,
 And you reckon that, in their place, you will be much more imposing;
 It will be a great improvement with you in the scene.

And great is Fourth Year's dignity, and the pleasant friendships greater,
 That grow with growing sense, and leadership and play,
 But amidst the gracious galling hours, there comes a sullen traitor,
 With a poisonous reminder, "There will be a final day."
 And when it's for you that the others all are singing
 "Auld Lang Syne" (and they make a cheerful row),
 Then it is, oh, then, that the tears and thoughts are stinging,
 As the hidden mocker whispers, "It's all over now."

Mr. Piper has again provided chalk allegories of good luck for second and fourth year in the examination room. A very designing man, Mr. Piper.

AN ODE TO COCHRANE—BATSMAN.

"Third Year, being obliged to contribute to this paper, do hereby commence an Ode to Cochrane—Batsman." Thus spake Bill, sitting down before a poetry book and a pile of paper. We clustered round him to offer our assistance. "Suggestions, please," said Bill. "Well, how about this?" replied Frank.

"Raymond John Cochrane (may his score increase),
 Stands firm with bat advanced upon the crease—"

"Now we have to get something to rhyme with room," said Bill. "Why?" we demanded. "Well, it does in old 'Abou,' and we had better follow suit." "How about 'Bloom'" suggested a voice from the back," but the Algernon objected, so we reluctantly chucked in the project and tried again.

"Try the ode on the death of a favourite cat drowned in a tub of gold fishes," suggested Amos, thusly:

"'Twas on the first eleven's side,
 Where Cass's bowling art had dyed
 The verdant pitch with gore—"

"Pretty rough on poor old Cass," we said. "Rougher on the poor cow that gored," murmured the cert. "No, she's too bloodthirsty; try again." So we did:

"Cochrane, thou should'st be batting at this hour:
 England hath need of thee: she is a fen
 Of rotten cricket, wicket, ball and bat—"

It was our third trial, but we couldn't rhyme bat with fen, however much we tried, and so a fourth attempt was necessary. "Here's something good," said Frank:

"It is an ancient cricketer,
 And he sloggeth one of three—"

"No bon," said Bill, "Cochrane isn't ancient, and, besides, he doesn't slog, only every third one; anyhow, that old mariner's ziff haunts me; drop it."

While we were searching for another inspiration a woeful face appeared round the door, and was followed by an equally woeful individual limping heavily. "Whyfore the dolefulness, old bird?" we asked, as the newcomer dodged an Encyclopaedia Britannica hurled by Algy. "Oh, you are all right; you didn't stop one of Cochrane's fourers last match." During the merriment that followed someone noticed that our Angel was gazing ceilingwards with rapt attention. "An inspiration," he breathed: "Owed to Cochrane, Batsman, one severe hiding in payment for injuries received. There, that's done!"

AN ARTFUL YOUNG LADY.

Mr. Piper has received a letter from Mary Tingle, whose success here in art and swimming will be well remembered. She intends to take up commercial art, and we thought her account of her course of training would be generally interesting, and more especially to those pupils who take art. Here are extracts from the letter:—

"I am at the Sydney Art School, and Julian Ashton is the head, with three other teachers. From Mondays to Fridays we work from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are also night drawing classes, which I do not attend. Mondays we have painting. You can imagine how very delighted I was to think that I still had to go to school, but instead of maths, etc., just painting and drawing all the week. We are allowed to fix up a study of vases or whatever ornament we like, and paint, or attempt to paint them, with a very severe criticism from Mr. Ashton at the end of our attempt. I generally feel like tearing up my attempt after what he says, but a few have survived, and I'll send them along to you. Tuesdays we go sketching to different places, and I like that part very much; but I can't send my book to you, so you will have to guess what I do that day. All the rest of the week is drawing. We draw standing at arm's length away from the easel, in charcoal. For months when you start you are in a room called the antique room, and draw casts, such as skulls, arms, legs, heads of old wogs—oh, all sorts of things. Then when they consider you have reached a certain standard, you are promoted to the Life Class, and draw real people—boys, girls, old women, young and old men, and even a little black boy is included in our models.

"In about six months I hope to finish school, or studio, as you like, and enter a firm known as Smith and Julius, who are commercial artists."

SOCIAL TO FOURTH YEAR.

On November 24th, 1920, a farewell social to Fourth Year was held at St. Andrew's Hall, which was decorated for the event with palms and flags.

A game of O'Grady's drill absolutely awoke the echoes, but that was a detail. Miss Ross was the lucky winner of the competition.

During supper mascots in the form of black cats furnished with school colours were handed to the Fourth Year students. Speeches by Third Year pupils, wishing Fourth Year cool weather and good luck, were suitably answered by Mary Hunt, Dora Toll, Joe Estell, and Fred Vizzard. Louie Bickerton and Frank Gray proposed the toast of the school. Mr. Saxby handed over his prize to the academic captains, Dora Toll and Fred Vizzard. The tables were decorated with red and blue flowers and ferocious-looking black cats with red whiskers. A feature of the evening was a large suspiciously-coloured tablespoon with which one was supposed to eat fruit salad!

Third Year much appreciated the beautiful flag which Dora presented to the succeeding Fourth Year of the school. They wish to express their gratitude to Mr. Saxby, who kindly consented to preside, despite ill-health, Miss Johnson, who capably managed everything, Miss Whiteoak, who provided the games programme, and all those who in any way helped to make the social a success.

THE REUNION OF REMOVE B SCHOLARS IN 1935.

(E. HALE, RB.)

(Extract from Belmont "Chronicle," 17th December, 1935.)

An enjoyable and entertaining function was held last night in the "Seaview" Hotel, Belmont.

Refreshments were provided by the ladies. Mr. A. Berrick, Chief Justice of New South Wales, was in the chair. Mrs. Pacey officiated at the pianola, and the Hon. Joseph Sowerby, M.A., history professor at the Sydney University, was vice-chairman.

A wire of apology was received from Mr. Pryor, who was unable to attend as there were no trains from Timbuctoo until the following Friday.

The following are the names of the important members of the gathering:—Sir George Reeder, High Commissioner for Australia; the Right Hon. Joseph Arthur, M.L.A., member for Adamstown; Mr. William Pacey, M.A., principal of Newcastle University. Admiral Rosenthal, of the Australian Navy, honoured the meeting with his presence, and Mr. E. J. Hale, M.A., classical master of Stockton High School, also attended.

Mr. McKay, conductor of the Conservatorium of Newcastle, arrived from a touring trip with Mr. Malcolmson, general manager of Nestle's Chocolate Factory, Carrington.

All the abovenamed men except one were accompanied by their wives, who, strange to say, were once old scholars of the same class, except one, Mr. Hale, remaining a bachelor.

On opening the meeting the chairman remarked on the fact that all present were in 1920 the renowned scholars of Remove B, at Newcastle High School. He also expressed deep regret at not having the company of Mr. G. Pulver, who at that time was busy with a law suit connected with another man's invention.

Mr. Pacey then rendered a pathetic song entitled "I am Weary of my Wife," Mrs. Pacey playing the accompaniment. After a recitation, "The Football Match," by Mr. Malcolmson, Mr. Reeder rendered a song of his own composition, and it was only the remembrance of old-time's sake that prevented the auditors from putting elderly eggs to an unintended use.

After the last song the guests had had enough, and dancing and cards were introduced. Great excitement was caused by three jokers turning up in one pack. The ladies served refreshments, and at 1.30 the pleasant little evening was brought to a close.

The editor of the above wishes to say that a mistake has been made in printing the name of the song, which should be "I am Tired of My Life," not "Wife."

EX-PUPILS.

Madge Stevenson has deserted us to become a tracer at Walsh Island. We asked her for an article on this work, which we thought would interest some of our girls, but she said she needed more experience.

We offer our sympathy to Stan Riley, who has just recovered from a bad bout of pleurisy.

In the University Rugby Union second team J. Kem Yee and T. Raysmith played last season, while C. Massey and Tom Henery were in the second League team.

Una Dawson has unfortunately been compelled by illness to abandon her University course. She is now recuperating in Fiji.

Rene Saxby has greatly distinguished herself in English I. at the University by getting first place in the essays.

Norman Rawling is now at the University. He left school about four or five years ago without finishing his course, went to the war, and sat for the Leaving a year ago successfully.

We are told that Dick Dodd is "the same cool, hard-headed customer as ever, and has put himself on the map at the Training College." We can well believe it.

John Dick and his friend, Solomon, paid us a visit the other day. It reminded us of the farce, "The Rival Editors," at one of our concerts, in which Solomon played a conspicuous part. We have quite a colony at the Steel Works now, and were promised an article about it, but we have not yet received it.

To all our friends at the University, "now facing fearful odds," we offer our best wishes, especially to H. Sweetapple, Mollie Lane, and J. Kem Yee, who are at the end of their course.

We offer our hearty congratulations to "Longfellow" on the very successful schools' column he has conducted in the "Newcastle Sun" for the last six months or so. We are afraid it would not be etiquette to reveal his identity, but it is an easy guess.

Phoebe Miller was in the University women's tennis team (B grade), and Ida Hingst was elected treasurer of the Sports' Association for 1920. Victoria Drinnan had a trip to Melbourne with a Training College athletic team, and came third in the 100 yards.

Basil Helmore and H. Morgan have finished their law course, and are now full-fledged solicitors. A flattering notice in a local paper mentioned Basil's brilliant career at school, his three years' service at the front, and the fact that after it all he is still only twenty-three.

Eileen Cotter has taken up nursing.

Jack Henery intends to take up law, and will be at the University next year, unless the examiners are very bad-tempered.

SOME ADVERTISEMENTS.

LOST, that tired feeling, since taking Beresford. No reward.

IF the person seen fagging between exams. and Xmas does not give it up proceedings will be taken.

LEFT, in the exam. room, most of my courage and confidence.

FOUND, that R.B. is the best all-round Remove. For particulars, apply to anyone.

WANTED, a new way to learn French verbs easier. (This is too beautiful a word to cut out.—Ed.)

POSITIONS VACANT.—Wanted, a person to predict correctly forthcoming exams. Steady job, good salary. Apply RB.

Fourth Year received two or three wires on the first day of the L.C., wishing them as much luck as possible under such circumstances. One was signed Rene and Esme, another Fom and Myra. Pom is perhaps a mistake of the operators. It takes some of the sting away to find one has friends.

"RB, RB, RB, my boys,
What are you growling for now?
The exams., one by one, were not very hot,"
"But still, altogether they seemed such a lot!
All the teachers,
Like so many preachers,
Tell us each day
We still must fag away,
RB, RB, RB, poor boys,
That's what we're growling for now!"

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F.H.—Idea not original. See "Nothing But The Truth," by F. Isham, in School of Arts. Also the dream solution is quite, quite done.

Third Year.—Various contributors have sent in matter unsigned—a horrible crime. One was a story, pleasantly and correctly told, but without originality or vim. One was descriptive, but rather conventional. It is very hard to be original in a description of landscape. Others were tragic, and the tragic has little place in a school magazine. Generally such themes are above the experience and ability of young people, but one of these last is done with some real power and comprehension of the treatment necessary. We are very grateful for your attempts, and if you do not mind some advice, here it is. Find a school subject, and treat it briefly, plainly, and sincerely. If it can be a story, all the better. And **don't** write on both sides of the paper.



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