

The Norcastrian

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL.

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Officers.

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Editor	...	J. W. HAYES, B.A.
Sub-Editor	...	H. L. HARRIS, B.A.
Sports' Editor	...	D. J. SHEARMAN.
Committee	THE PREFECTS OF THE SCHOOL.	

EDITORIAL.

WE wonder as we look back through the spectacles of history, over the ages that have passed, at the wrongs and crimes attributed to inordinate ambition. The "god like" Caesar sins and falls through this, and Shakespeare himself makes Wolsey say:—

"Bring away ambition;
By that sin fell the angels."

And inordinate and selfish ambition striving to satisfy some false ideal is hurtful to the individual and dangerous to mankind. Nevertheless we can imagine nothing more flabby and uninviting than a world of unambitious men. But of ambition there are at least two kinds, the one, right and desirable, which is beneficial to the individual and to the world—the other, wrong and undesirable, which must bring evil to both. And ambition is right or wrong as it operates to satisfy a true or a false ideal. Luckily the past provides us with a criterion for the testing of our ideals. The Spartan training produced a Leonidas but it could not make a cultured gentleman, and Sparta to its downfall was a crude, ill-built village beneath the frowning hills. Mediaeval Europe can provide us with the consummation of physical subordination and spiritual exaltation,

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A Vision.

(By Harry Green).

It happened that on a certain Friday afternoon before the Christmas holidays, I found myself precipitated into that dreadful room—Room 1—for two solid hours. I sat there musing, or rather, trying to pass away the time thinking why on earth the teacher had caused me to be placed there. "Why," thought I, "should I be condemned to this room just because I am occasionally the lover of a joke?" I was sitting in a back seat away from the other pupils, so it matters not whether I voiced my thoughts or not; if I did, I could not have been heard, for I was not in the least disturbed. So I sat there musing, and thinking over the question I had set myself, and in the end I was even more puzzled and worried than at first. Just then, or not many minutes later, I fell asleep; I dreamt I was at an assembly of teachers and the teacher who detained me was there also.

As I stood there, worsted and dumbfounded, there came to me a man, who said: "Lad, I know you, and why you have been caused to appear at this assembly. I have come as a help to you—to help you in such a way that you may be able to see the true character of the one who detained you."

"And who are you?" I asked.

"Alas!" said he, "I have no name, neither have I a home, or even a pillow on which to rest my head. I am just the helper of those who, like you, are detained by the teacher for a very slight offence."

"Ah!" cried I, "you are the man! your presence is needed at Newcastle High School: many souls have need of you every Friday afternoon: comfort them—be their helper!"

"I will," replied he.

And now he began to sing, and as in the case of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, he was followed by the vast multitude, not of rats, but of teachers. He marched half-way across the building, then stopped and changed the tune. As if by a miracle (they say miracles are not performed in these days) all the teachers disappeared, except that one teacher—my detainer.

"This man," commenced the helper, "is an excellent teacher, fond of politics, and an excellent joke lover: at regular intervals he heads a small circle of friends who come together at his house: each tells of his experiences since the time of their last meeting, and on the whole have a royal time."

"Stop!" cried I, "you are a wonderful man: can you possibly let me hear the humor which this man shall put forth at the next meeting of his friends?"

"I can," said he, "open thine ears and listen well!"

Suddenly I heard a fluent voice which was speaking to about a dozen people (so I guessed from the shuffling of feet), and the tale the voice was pouring forth so eloquently was the poor harmless joke for which I had been detained. I could hear the audience laughing.

"I protest!" I cried, and then I awoke.

"What's that?" queried the teacher, who had evidently heard my words of protestation.

"Is it time to go, sir?" I meekly asked.

"A bit early," says he, "but as you have given no trouble this afternoon, you may go."

I rose and left.

The very next Friday afternoon (again in Room 1) I asked myself the same question, and every Friday since that vision I have repeated it. But the answer comes not, nor my wonderful guide. He has gone to that great limbo of forgotten things and of things not forgotten but which cannot be recalled.



Who's Who at the High School.

AUGUSTUS.—First Emperor of Rome; could have been done without.

BALBUS.—Some poor man who is dead—so we learn in first year.

CHOCOLATE.—So well-known at School: likely to break world's records (if he had not to pay for them).

CICERO.—Unfortunately stricken with the uncommon disease of letter-writing. Specimens still remain.

FIRKIN.—Known to his intimates as Lightning. Plentifully applies mutton fat before entering the water, to keep from catching fire from friction.

GOVERNOR ...Greatly in favor: gets cadets out of whole-day parades.

KEM YEE.—Learning history quickly.

MAC.—There are many animals of this species among our boys. One of them has threatened to bring bag-pipes to school.

NEW KIDS.—There has been a great influx of these lately, but have now just about settled down.

PETTINGER.—A budding sawbones.

Q.—Has to do with mechanics. One of the many things to be lived down.

QUATRE BRAS.—The scene of the utter rout of Napoleon.

RAYSMITH.—Another of our school swimmers.

(...The elusive unknown of Algebra; the worry of the schoolboy.

"NUFF Z."

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CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

A Visit to a Hunter Valley Vineyard.

(By Charles F. Pettinger).

The whole of the valley seemed weighed down the weight of the hot, shimmering atmosphere, while out towards the west the hazy, indistinct ranges almost melted into a sky of the most brilliant lapis-lazuli. We had crossed the river bridge at Luskintyre, and at a turn of the road the cool green of the vines suddenly came as a grateful surprise to our sun-dazzled eyes. All along the white, dusty road an intense silence had hovered over the land, but now the happy shoutings of the grape-pickers made a glad break in the almost uncanny stillness. As we approached the gate of the vineyard the dogs rush out at our sulky, and barking, follow us until we reach our destination.

The vineyard occupies a space of about thirty acres, and as it is autumn, it presents, in contrast to the surrounding country, a very busy scene indeed. The pickers, of whom boys compose the majority, are moving up and down the green and purple rows, quickly picking the grapes that are thoroughly blackened, and brushing the purple bloom from the fruit, which is then packed in barrows and wheeled to the press. Before the grapes are crushed, however, they are tipped out and allowed to lie in the shade until they are thoroughly cool, for grapes which are still warm from the kiss of the sun cannot be used for crushing. The buildings are very primitive, being built, for the most part, of slabs of rough wood, and roofed with corrugated iron, supplemented with thick lengths of bark. They have an old-fashioned air, and to my mind seemed associated with all that is fresh and rural.

The cellar, where the wine is made, is very simple indeed, being merely dug out of the earth and roofed over with slabs of wood and pieces of iron. At one end is the press, a by no means involved piece of mechanism, which is worked by hand. Underneath this is a large cask to receive the must which pours down like a stream of blood. When the vessel is full it is carried into another cellar, where its contents are immediately emptied into so many large bottles. These are passed down to a man at the other end of the cellar, who corks them and then puts a label on them. The juice is not allowed to ferment, as the wine that is made here is for medicinal and sacramental purposes. After being corked, the bottles are carried into a neighbouring cellar and stacked in rows upon wide shelves. This cellar is almost icy cool, in order to prevent the juice from fermenting, and thus bursting the bottles.

We concluded that the making of wine of this sort is a very simple operation. Early that morning the grapes were on their

vines, at night there they were, made into wine, which, after a few weeks, would be ready for use. Of course this raw, unmatuereed grape-juice has not the flavor that is supposed to belong to the matured vintage; it has a natural roughness, which endows it with an indescribably ancient air. One feels that it is this dark red wine, pure and wholesome, totally unlike the highly intoxicating and doctored wines of to-day, that is mentioned in the Bible, that it is this pure, natural essence of the grade, on which the heroes of the Iliad and of the Odyssey were nourished. By the time that we had seen all this, the sun was beginning to court the western hills, and the bells of the cows, being driven up to the milking yard, sounded lazily and softly from some distant paddock. The last lot of juice had been bottled, and the grape-pickers were leaving the vineyard, which was fast becoming dusky and indistinct, just as if Bacchus had taken charge of it, and was going to hide it in the folds of his purple cloak until morning should come—so we, too, left the silent vineyard.

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Sports.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL.

Although the former Carnivals were by no means failures, the recent one outshone them in every way. Last year gate money was responsible for about 9/-, this time 25/-, and there was a substantial increase in the number of competitors from the same total number of scholars! Much enthusiasm and interest was displayed, and even "dead heads" were looking forward to the Carnival. Still many of the students are not swimmers in spite of the many and good opportunities afforded everybody at this School for participating in this most healthy sport.

It is quite evident that at least one former non-swimmer will figure as a star competitor in 1915. "The wish is father to the thought," and perhaps "Bunny" Preston, feeling he would do strokes, and envying the prize-winners a bit, thought he was racing in the next carnival. At any rate, no sooner was everything over and the spectator's gone—they had their money's worth in swims between events—than in he goes, clothes and all. We do not know for sure, but the general opinion is that he is training for either the Neatest Header or the Clothes Race.

The "draw" for this Carnival was the Challenge Relay Race with Maitland, but, owing to their having to drill on Wednesday, the M.H.S. Representatives could not come, except on the Tuesday preceeding the 25th. In the Quarter-Mile Championship much interest was manifested, and this race brought to light some really good distance swimmers, according to the time, 6 mins. 50 secs.

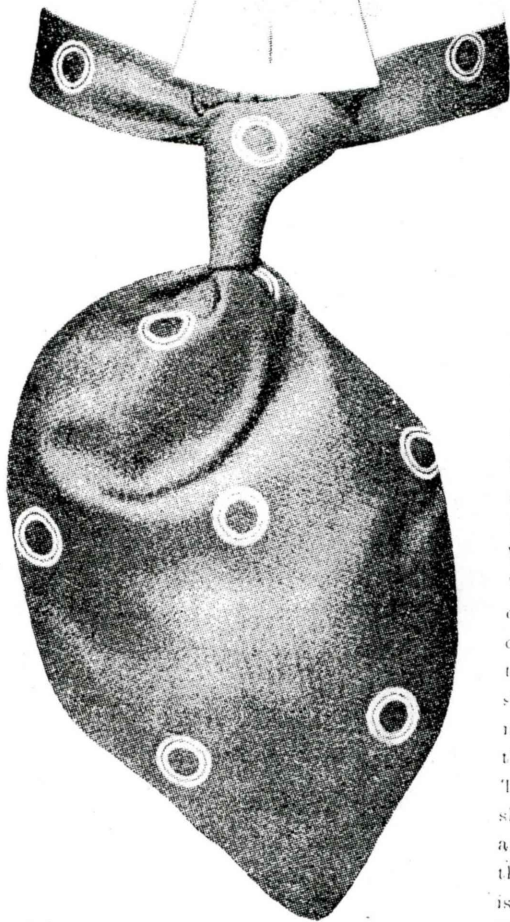
The following are the results:—

1. Challenge Relay Race Won by N.H.S. (P. Scobie, L. Williams, T. Cadell, D. Shearman)
2. Quarter-Mile Championship—D. Shearman, 1; P. Scobie, 2; L. Williams, 3.
3. Allcomers' 100 yards Handicap—D. Shearman, 1; — Carpenter, 2; L. Williams, 3.
4. Under 14 Years Handicap— — Carpenter, 1; A. McDermott, 2; J. McDermott, 3.
5. Neatest Header—D. Shearman and T. Cadell (tie).
6. 100 Yards Championship of School—D. Shearman, 1; L. Williams, 2; P. Scobie, 3.
7. Championship under 15 years— — Carpenter, 1; W. Lochrin, 2; H. Rouse, 3.
8. Three Stroke Race—T. Cadell, 1; R. Green, 2; F. Scobie, 3.
9. 14 and 15 Years Handicap—A. Lee, 1; H. Rouse, 2; W. Lochrin, 3.
10. Over 16 Years Handicap—D. Shearman, 1; L. Williams, 2.
11. School Relay Race—F. Raysmith's Team (F. Corrigan, — Carpenter, B. Williams, F. Raysmith).

We all appreciate the good work done by Mr. Hallett and other teachers in connection with the Carnival, and hope they will remain here and further encourage, not only swimming, but all other sport.

The P.S.A.A.A. has decided to hold a Combined Schools' Swimming Carnival at the Drummoyne Baths on 21st inst. If the N.H.S. contingent do as well as the runners in the Sports held under the auspices of the Association we will indeed have cause to be proud of them. There is a wide range of events, and many scholars will be surprised and disappointed if a few firsts do not come in this direction. Our reps. are practicing very seriously and are leaving nothing to chance. Let us wish them every success.

Later files show that P. Scobie of N.H.S. won 220 yds. Handicap; D. Shearman and K. Mitchell were 2nd and 3rd in 17 years and over Championship; A. McDermott, 3rd in 11-12 years Handicap.



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SEVENTH ANNUAL SPORTS.

Being favored with an almost ideal day, the Seventh Annual Sports promised to surpass all former attempts, both in point of number of spectators and excellence of sports. Among the visitors was Mr. T. H. Raysmith, our very worthy patron, who has never yet missed this annual function. We were all sorry that Mr. P. R. Dix could not be present, he being obliged to visit Sydney on business. The ground was in a splendid condition, a fact which very greatly added to the pleasure derived by the competitors from the races.

A very fair percentage of the scholars toed the mark as competitors, thus making the events interesting. Owing to rather strenuous training, some good results were obtained, both the short and long distance running being very creditable, while the jumping was all to be desired. The Maitland contingent was very strong, but N.H.S. again asserted its superiority over the Maitlanders. Probably the most attractive event of former years—the Challenge Bicycle Race—was cancelled, but substituted for it were the Challenge Races (100 yds. and 440 yds.).

Of the runners W. Sturt seemed the most popular, and next to him R. Howard (who was awarded the Honour Cap of last Sports). The former excels at short and middle distances, while in the mile the ex-School Captain would be hard to beat. We have other very good and hard triers in T. Cadell, L. Williams and C. Peterson. W. Sturt carried off the Championship of School, just defeating T. Cadell, who in turn was hard to separate from R. Howard. This was a very keenly contested struggle and showed that there was not much to choose between the three runners. Two out of the three places in the Challenge 440 were secured by N.H.S., R. Howard being first, N. McGregor (Maitland) second, and T. Cadell third. R. Howard also carried off first place in the 100 yards Challenge, with W. Sturt second, while T. Cadell divided third with McGregor. In the Challenge High Jump, Clarke (Maitland) cleared four feet eleven, which was too much for A. Hogan and Harbison (Maitland)

L. Williams proved he was too fast for J. Henery and A. Campbell in the Championship under Sixteen, winning rather comfortably. In a similar way L. Hackworthy treated H. Green in the Championship under Fourteen. The Bicycle Championship was by A. Brown, who was too good for R. Williams and A. Lee, although for half a mile the race was anybody's.

By gaining twenty-two points W. Sturt is entitled to the year's Honour Cap, getting five more than R. Howard and eight more than both T. Cadell and L. Williams.

Every year Sports Day is gaining in popularity, and each time more visitors are present, but still the Committee hope that pupils will display more interest in it and try to convince others of its importance. We desire to see more parents present, while every boy should look upon it as a very serious offence to miss this annual function. Altogether a very big majority of the boys—but not of the young ladies—are competitors. This is not sufficient, as everybody should enter for at least one event. All the races are not championships, and are so arranged that the slow of all ages, as well as the faster runners, have a chance of winning a handicap.

The Committee sincerely than Mr. Hallett and other teachers who labored for the success of the Sports, as well as those who kindly permitted the boys to carry out their part of the work in connection with the handicapping and the arranging of the ground.

CRICKET.

During this season we have not been too successful in this branch of sport, but next year will have a different tale to tell. This is no mere optimist's idea, but will be certainly carried out in the season 1914-15. The "A" Team that is finishing the season is almost totally different from the one that began it. Our team is very young, and consists chiefly of comparatively new High Schoolers and next year will form a very strong combination. As it is, the general form shown is good, and augurs well for the future, being solid in batting and bowling, although the general fielding could be improved. This also is applicable to the "B" team. Out of three matches, the "A" team was victorious in one, beaten in another, while the third is unfinished and victory may go to anybody. All these matches have been two-day, and consequently represent a fair amount of play.

"B" Team has been defeated twice, but can be partly excused on the grounds of their having no regular practice. They, too, will more than hold their own in next year's matches, and we are looking forward to some good play in this second team.

TENNIS.

After being sadly neglected for some time, this exciting old game has at last been revived. The Labor Government has fully awakened to Newcastle's needs and in consequence has levelled or graded the playground of N.H.S. (not before it was needed) and incidentally prepared a splendid piece of asphalt for a tennis court. A few of the "heads" of the school have been using a great quantity of paint during the last few days, and now we have two brand new tennis courts. Of course the girls require, and will be given, absolute and continual use of the "top" court. Perhaps some interesting inter-court games will eventuate in the near future. Let the girls beware, since Fourth Year think they have a Davis and a Wilding in the class.

The following officers have been selected: Captain, D. Short; Secretary, D. Shearman; Committee, M. Downie, A. Firkin, N. Goldsworthy.

GENERAL.

For some time past the calls upon the financial resources of the pupils have been rather many and somewhat heavy. As a result a note was given to our Treasurer, Mr. Hayes, by one of the senior scholars, complaining of the amount required to carry on the sports of the School. No doubt this merely aired the opinion of many others in this respect, and in consequence it was decided to hold a General Meeting to determine how much and in exactly what way the money was to be paid in. Formerly a sum of about twelve shillings a head has been required to pay for all Sports, the Library, and the School Journal, but at a well-attended meeting held on 4th inst. we agreed to pay seven shillings and sixpence, in three instalments, and as convenient, to cover all above subscriptions. Although this is a big reduction, Mr. Hayes assured us that all can be carried on for that sum. Feeling that an assistant treasurer was required, Mr. Hayes placed the matter before the meeting, and accordingly D. Shearman was elected to check the books and to receive subscriptions.

At the same meeting the Secretary for the Football Club was elected in the person of T. Cadell. This year our Football teams will not be quite as powerful combinations as they were last year, but those in the know do not anticipate

many defeats! A meeting of the playing members of the Football Club was held on the 5th inst. to elect a captain and selection committee for the ensuing season. There was a very good attendance, and for the first-named position M. Downie was elected unopposed. T. Cadell and D. Shearman with M. Downie are to constitute the Selection Committee. On the whole the selection is a very gratifying one—specially since our playground has been rendered quite comfortable and suitable for a practice.

This Football Season we will begin the vanquishing of our opponents by the following war cry:—

Boom! boom! Saprista yah!
 High School! High School! Oooolah!
 Yah! Yah! Yah! Ooomobah!
 Here we are! Here we are!
 Boom! Bish! Bah!

THE INTER-HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS.

These Sports were held on December 12th at Sydney, and resulted in a decisive win for Newcastle. The Trophy, a Silver Challenge Cup, remains in the School for a year, and we hope will be won again at the next Sports. The School has to thank the team—R. Howard, W. Sturt, L. Chippendall, E. Peterson, M. Downie, A. Jones, T. Cadell and R. Cooke for the splendid record achieved.

The Junior Championship was also won by the School, and the trophy, a varnished Sports Record Board, is expected to arrive shortly. The team consisted of L. Williams, H. Green, H. Smith and J. Henry.

The events won by the School were:—

HURDLE RACE, 120 yds.—L. Chippendall, 1; E. Peterson, 2. Time, 21 secs.

JUNIOR LOW HURDLE.—L. Williams, 1. Time, 16 2-5 secs.

SENIOR BROAD JUMP.—L. Chippendall, 17ft., 1; W. Sturt, 16ft 9in, 2; E. Peterson, 3.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, 100 yds.—L. Williams, 1; J. Henry, 3. Time, 12 secs.

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, 220 yds.—T. Cadell, 1; A. Jones, 2; W. Sturt, 3. Time, 25 secs.

MILE CHAMPIONSHIP.—R. Howard, 1. Time, 5 min. 38 1-5 secs.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, 220 yds.—L. Williams, 1; J. Henry, 2. Time, 27 1-5 secs.

JUNIOR RELAY, 440 yds.—Newcastle, 1.

SENIOR RELAY, 440 yds.—Newcastle No. 1 Team, 1; Newcastle No. 2 Team, 2.

880 yds. CHAMPIONSHIP.—R. Howard, 1; T. Cadell, 3; W. Sturt, 4. Time, 2min. 7secs.

The School secured places in:—

HALF-MILE JUNIOR WALK.—H. Green, 2. Time, 4mins. 37secs.

SENIOR HIGH JUMP.—L. Chippendall, 3.

PUTTING THE 12lb. SHOT.—E. Peterson, 3.

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JUNIOR HIGH JUMP.—H. Smith, 3.

SENIOR 100 yds.—T. Cadell, 2; W. Sturt, 3; R. Howard, 4.

POINTS.—SENIOR.

Newcastle	...	...	32
Hurlstone	...	...	16

POINTS—JUNIOR.

Newcastle	...	...	16
Petersham	...	...	8
Hurlstone	...	...	6
Parramatta	...	...	3
Cleveland Street	...	...	3

GIRLS' SPORTS.

Sports Meeting.

On March 6th a Sports Meeting was held, which was conducted under the direction of Mr. Hayes, Miss Niau also being present.

The first matter that was dealt with was the sports subscription. Previously the subscription has been paid half-yearly, but it was agreed that it would be better to have only one subscription for the whole year, which would include those for the Library and "The Novocastrian," which amounted to 3/- and 1/- per year respectively. It was decided that the subscription for this year should be 5/-, which was to be paid either in one sum of 5/- or two of 2/6—the first instalment to be paid by 20th March.

The following officers were elected—Sports captain, F. Harris; assistant treasurer, R. Saunders; representative for 1st year, M. Harvey; representative for 2nd year, L. Hingst; representative for 3rd year, V. Knight; representative for 4th year, P. Nancarrow; Secretary, D. Lawson.

Our Friday afternoons at present are occupied with Tennis and Swimming, and about 30 girls may be seen wending their way towards the Bogey Hole every Friday afternoon, in order to have a taste of the "briney," as a refresher after an arduous week's toil.

From the French—Sully Prudhomme.

Maiden, I warn you while still you are fair
 Choose a young lover with bright flashing eye,
 Who'll kiss your lips smiling, and grieve when you sigh,
 And rejoice when he sees you relenting.

Maiden, encourage him, show him you care,
 Deceive him not, love him, and cleave to him too;
 But—yield not too freely when he comes to woo,
 Lest you spend all your days in repenting.

—SENIOR.

Sunset on the Hawkesbury.

(By Charles Pettinger)

Out upon a Headland stood we,
 High above the water's breast,
 While we watched the far-off sunset,
 Dying in the dark'ning west.

All the gold and glorious colours,
 Had to purple faded now,
 Save where one sharp dart of sunlight
 Pierced the clouds with golden glow.

And it lay upon the water
 Like a floating bar of gold ;
 'Twas the sceptre of the Sun-God,
 Which from out his grasp had roll'd.

But again he quickly grasped it,
 And withdrew it from our sight,
 While the purpling sky above us,
 Heralded approaching night.

Only on one distant hill-top,
 Lingers still the sunset glow,
 Only there doth still the Sun-God
 One last look of glory throw.

Now that glory too, has faded,
 Quickly, quickly from our sight,
 And the stars begin to glimmer
 With a faint and timid light.

FORM REPORTS.

FORM IV.

"England expects that every man this day will do his duty"—so does our editor; but of course the teachers—. With the advent of this our 4th and last year within these historic walls of Room 4, "skew" lines, etc., have so suddenly come into existence, that we wonder why they led such an obscure existence in Room 3. But then—well! our numbers are so formidable!

The proximity of our new abode to that holy of holies, the office, has proved too much for one of our numbers, who has sought refuge in more distant climes; that's how it chanced that we miss the constant buzz of "Skeeta," who, no doubt, felt that he hadn't the courage to face the music of another year's hard labor, but the remaining faithful few are fighting bravely for freedom.

Quite recently we formed a few new distinctly feminine associations, among them n! (i.e. n shriek)—the "hatpin" after the n may be to some sufficiently suggestive without any explanation—and these have cheered us up somewhat. When work is heavy, we unfortunates naturally enough experience the pangs of hunger; on one such occasion, during a trigonometry lesson, we were startled by the teacher exclaiming "Now we have this pie (?) to deal with." Whereupon all eyes were bent towards the table, but alas!—now that must be what they call the "aesthetic beauty of mathematics," which hitherto we have miserably failed to recognise. That fatal disease "faggingitis" has got a firm root in our midst and there seems little possibility of wiping the epidemic out until that fiendish and effective device for torture, in common parlance the examination, has completed its work.

The "hilarity" of our girls is regarded as extremely annoying by a certain teacher, who surely can't recognise good "music"—(isn't that slightly questionable?)—when he hears it.

Yet despite these acts, the teachers are very kind and considerate, one even being generous enough to give free advice for nothing, the latest received being "Go on, sir, go on," which perhaps discloses somewhat our attitude towards daily (not to mention nightly) toil.

The cause of Science is progressing favourably, "light" being thrown on many things, but in the view of the master of that subject, little on our intellects. Perhaps that is due to the fact that we haven't an X-ray outfit.

Although we score well in work, we're not backward in the sporting fields, as may be seen from the results of our last swimming carnival; and we're all patiently awaiting Easter as a good opportunity for a good—.

FORM IIIA.

A good many of those who have scraped through the eye of that needle, The Intermediate Examination, now form the class "par excellence" 3a. By the way, some anecdotes of the exam. have come to hand. One of the spiciest is the following: An inspector asked a young "Miss" if she had finished the science

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paper which was difficult and divided into two parts, A and B. She replied (quite innocently, of course): "No! I have not started the "B" paper yet." Nevertheless, her usual speech is unimpeachable.

The formulæ for volumes of spheres, cones, etc., are departing from their "uniform motion in a straight line" and are whirling away into the space of forgetfulness as a certain front seat has lost its "power of attraction."

The scholarship-holders this year received six shillings worth of matter labelled "Physic(s)—To be taken six times a week." May it benefit our mental digestion.

We are especially delighted with some of our English books. "As You Like It" is quite an orchard with at least four "pears" and several gooseberries.

Please note change of address and direct notes accordingly. From Room 2, one door to Room 3.

FORM IIIB.

And then the whining schoolboy with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail,
Unwillingly to school

NOTE:—This is a reference to the members of 3B who, it is said, were taken by Shakespeare as an example. The boys were getting so much homework that never a morning passed that they did not go to school grumbling because they knew more detention was in store for them for not doing their nightly toil.

The above was found in the notes on "As You Like It" and we are glad to see that someone recognises that we are worked too hard.

That nuisance, Mr. T. M. Cicero, has started corresponding with us. We kindly request that he will write his letters in English; on no other condition will we answer him, and also we would stigmatise him as an idiot for being so fond of that language, that is if we were not afraid of being attacked by a letter in the paper.

There are two sayings very common in our class, viz. "Oui, oui, mon oncle," which was the cause of one small boy getting an awful "jawing."

One of our numbers has taken it into his head to do a very remarkable thing, a thing hitherto unknown in the annals of 3B, and that is to "fag." Although he looked very pleased when he got 20 out of 20 for his English paper, he was "ragged" to such an extent when he was found in Room 6 studying the "interesting" Virgil that he was forced to give up the worthy project.

We are looking forward to the Easter holidays, although they are so far ahead, when we determine to have a well-earned rest.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

THE WORKED-TOO-HARDS.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

Hulloa! Hulloa! Here we are again, as happy as ever; all but the editor-in-chief, who is a bit annoyed because he fell in the watery wetness.

A certain teacher cracked a joke concerning a girl walking down the street (rude, wasn't he?) which made us hee-haw till——(suppressed by Editor).

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Our teachers are very, very good and kind to us. They give us "hours" before we even ask for them, and we only have to say the word and we get as many as we like. We can write shorthand so fast that we have our sentences written before we start to think about it.

A treacle merchant, in trying to display his muscular attainments by lifting the globe of the world with one hand, snapped off at the possicks, and we thought the end of the world had come.

A lump rises in our throats every time we look round Room 9 and find the mermaids absent, for they are our guiding lights, dear souls.

We are working along smoothly, when alas! (no, not a lass) a lad cracks a joke; he waits for the loud cackling but he hears the condemning words:—"Take an hour, funny boy," and his heart sinks.

We have a reputation for working diligently; that's right, yes, as true as a porcupine's parents are a prickly pear; and we intend to get through the Pub. Service exam. too.

Good-bye, sweet dreams, and *do* be careful you don't die of the nightmare.

FORM IIA.

We 2A now proceed to "report." Yes, we are 2A (emphasis on the 2) as the honourable Mr. D ——— one of our members, repeatedly reminds the teacher. Our class, as far as intellectual pursuits are concerned, is progressing famously (for which consult the teachers)! Indeed, one of the newcomers was reported to have come from a "desert island to a fertile and tropical land," which I doubt not. In Physics we learn of "bodies at rest." Don't we wish they were at rest, especially at 12.29 p.m.! One of our leading lights is considering the wisdom of going in for bellringing as a profession, and so, despite black looks from the male portion she practices on the school bell. Do not think us too wicked when we confess that we have wished Caesar had gone out and taken a constitutional instead of forming instruments of torture for poor overworked brains at N.H.S.

Why does "arbitratus" mean thinking? is much impressed on our minds but as the editor will not grant me more space I must leave the answer till next issue.

FORM IIB.

Although it is early in the year 2B has settled down to it (?) already in spite of the scarcity of Text Books. "Lemons" are dear and can't be had at any price and consequently the old proverb, "Neither a borrower or a lender be," is frequently broken. When Mr. ——— arrives in the room you will hear five or six sweet voices exclaim harmoniously, "Borrow some books, Sir," and after parading the school for an hour or so, you find your class on returning awaiting your arrival with anxiety, hoping you and the books have not gone astray. We are all looking forward to the Intermediate as a means of having a wreath of glory bestowed upon our heads.

As regards sport, we are well up in the running. Our ranks include:—(1) "Choe," a fair lad who denounces sun basking; (2) "Sonny," who, by ardent practice is now the premier kick in the school (?); (3) M. R. D., well—Nuff said;

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FORM IA.

All IA are new to the N H.S. Our first difficulty was to learn the different rooms by their numbers. Then came the difficulty of learning our lessons without our text books. Both troubles are nearly remedied. C. W. seems a coming "Latinist," while Jonah seems to be anxious to earn the dangerous reputation of being a humorist. We are always glad when Mr. H comes in—there are four of him. Who fell asleep in the lab. last week and had to be revived with a water jet?

FORM IB.

We intended to insert some of the nicknames for our class mates, but fear that this might be considered slang by some of the letter-writers of the town. Therefore we may indicate H. L. by his initials as a "likely" addition to the cricket team this year despite his miniature size.

Better to be I B,
Than to be a busy bee in A;
Be a merry "B" in B,
Not a solemn old owl in A.

FORM IC.

We are trying to realise that when we enter the High School the period of "babyhood" is over and real work begun. A call is made on us to use our brains—if we have any. We all wish the Tennis would begin. The girls have already started in the basket-ball and the boys want their sport.

FORM CI.

The newcomers amongst us still find life at the High School rather strange. The continual changes of subjects and teachers make the days pass very quickly and on the whole, very pleasantly. We hope that this opinion will be confirmed as time goes on. Most of the boys have made the acquaintance of the tap, but as the weather was warm it did them no harm—at all events it was an early and forcible lesson in cleanliness. Success to the year's sport.

FORM CII.

Our report this term must be very brief. We are here again and seem likely to be here till we leave or "get married" as someone suggested. The rearrangement of classes and teachers has not improved our lot very much: an endless round of formal grammar and mathematics makes life even more than stale. We are not interested in the fourth dimension—we do not even love the definitions. We don't care if "Tom did kick the cat": anyhow, it was probably not a good cat and deserved the kick. The subject of that sentence deserves a good hiding.

Beside the blackboard near the door,
Stood dear old Miffy on the floor;
His face was red, yet he was "blue,"
He was "down" for an hour or two.

you all know him. As the space is limited, no others can be mentioned, but it would be hardly fair to leave out B. R. O. M., who is like a walking dictionary, knows everything that modern persons have forgotten.

Before closing mention must be made of the girls, if not, well—it wouldn't matter; but just to let you know they are awake, as one was heard to say the other day that she was so sleepy, but just at that time the bell went—and—well—nuff said.

Before another edition of this paper is printed the Easter vacation will have arrived and we are looking forward to having a royal time.

We are,
"Les Têtes."

FORM IIC.

This year we find ourselves on another rung of the ladder, and we are going to take all sorts of fine care that we do not "take a tumble."

We would like to know whether Mr.— thinks that a fortnight of detentions will render Miss —— dove-like. One gentleman must consider us fowls, for in the middle of a few "questions" he breaks off to sh-h--sb-h— us. A certain member of another form has been causing excitement among the female members of the class; every now and then one can hear a giggle and a whispered comment such as "Have you seen Bonnie?" or "Bonnie seems rather tired today." We have been learning lately that the English are very selfish calling La Manche the *English* Channel (with emphasis on the English). Anyway, we have decided to study hard, and hope we will be rewarded by attaining another rung of the ladder after the Intermediate.

FORM IIAC.

It is only natural that 2AC should progress, as we are all the heads of the heads of the old C1 & C2. Our new teachers think we are the specials of 2nd year, because we have the most brains. Two members of the class thought they were in a nightmare when they were promoted.

"The Prodigal Son" of the class has returned:

"A long time ago he got his pay,
And fully decided to go away;
But soon he got into such a mess,
He was glad to come back to the N.H.S."

The noble Miff is still in our midst, and distinguishes himself by giving startling answers in the science lesson. K. M. is always on the floor and ends up with a few hours, and goes about asking boys for "Comic Cuts," with which he passes away the time.

(Signed)—"TWACY" or 2AC.

P.S.—Hope you like our new name.

The French Angler and the English Vendor of Fishing Tackle.

During the last war a number of French Officers were in an inland town in England "on their parole." One of these gentlemen, being tired of the usual routine of eating, smoking, gambling, &c., resolved to go fishing. His host supplied him with a rod and lines, but he had to procure for himself some artificial flies. For this purpose he hid himself to a fishing tackle shop where the following conversation was heard:

"Ah! Monsieur Anglais, comment vous portez vous?"

"Eh!" replied the Englishman, "that's French. Well, I'm alright, if that's what you mean."

"Monsieur, it is necessary to me two fly."

"I daresay it is, but I am a true born Briton and cannot consent to assist an enemy to escape."

"Oh! Monsieur, you no comprend. I shall repeat. I want two fly on the top of the water."

"Oh, you want to fly on the top of the water. Well we are a hundred miles from any water, except the canal."

"Mon Dieu, Monsieur, you are one stuphead of a blockhead. I shall tell you once more seven times over again, "I want two fly on the top of the water to dingle dangle at the end of the long pole."

"Well, if you're caught you will dingle dangle at the end of the long pole."

"You are abandon Jack of the ass, Johnnie de Bull. Ba! Ba! in your face and it disgrace me to speak with you. Monsieur, I tell you I want two fly on the top of the water, to dingle dangle at the end of the long pole to trap the poisson."

"What's that you say, you French mountseer! You'll lay a trap to poison me and my family because I won't assist you to escape? Here, Bertie, go for a policeman."

The constable soon arrived and he was as ignorant as the shopman.

"What's all this," the officer begun, "Bertie tells me that this here outlandish Frenchman threatens to poison you and your family. Ay! ay! I should like to catch him at it. Come on, you rascal. Off to prison with you."

"No, monsieur, I shall not go to de prison. Take me before the—what for you call him, dat nibble de grass."

"Nibbles the grass. Oh! the cow?"

"No, sare! Not de cow, you stuphead Johnnie de Boeuf, I mean de—vat you call de horse's wife."

"What, the mare?"

"Oui, sare, tike me to de mayor."

The request was complied with, and the bewildered Frenchman allowed to explain. So he got his day's fishing after all.

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School Notes.

The following have been elected as Prefects of the Newcastle High School for the year 1914.

BOYS—D. Shearman (Captain), T. Cadell, D. Short, M. Downie, B. Moss, A. Firkin.

GIRLS—R. Saunders (Captain), F. Harris, F. Nancarrow, D. Lawson, T. Hutton, M. Lane.

Since last issue of the "Novocastrian" a large number of pupils of the High School have been successful at various examinations. Ten passed the Leaving Certificate Examination—3 being awarded University Exhibitions, and 7 Training College Certificates. We wish these every success in their new spheres. 42 passed the Intermediate Examination—three being awarded Scholarships.

These are our chief examinations. In addition, one—R. Howard—passed the Senior, while 7 passed the Public Service.

The Balances in hand, in the various funds, at the close of the year, were as follows:—

Journal Account, Balance in hand	...	4	1	6
Library Account, " " "	...	4	17	8
Boys' Sports, " " "	...	1	19	7
Girls' Sports, " " "	...	3	1	2

Total ... £13 19 11

The total amount received from Swimming Carnival was £2 16s 3d, made up as follows:—

Donation (Mr. Shearman) 5 -; Subscriptions £1 6s 3d; Entrance to baths £1 5s.

We wish to extend to the following new members of the High School staff, a most hearty welcome. Mr. P. L. Murphy, B.A. (Modern Languages), Mr. H. C. Delmer, B.A. (Modern Languages), Mr. B. J. M. Schleicher, M.A. (Classics), Mr. C. Hudson (Art and Geography).

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Letters to the Editor

Newcastle High School,

December, 1913.

Dear Sir,

I hereby protest against boys who have not paid their subscriptions using the sports material; it is not fair to the subscribers.

Yours, &c.,
X.

Newcastle High School,

January, 1914.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to suggest that a few shillings of the sports fund be used for the purpose of purchasing some wire-netting for the upper tennis court and also a few posts and wire netting for the western end of the lower.

Yours, etc,
"Sport."

(This matter will be attended to...."Editor.")

Newcastle High School,

March, 1914.

Dear Mr. Editor

What a change has come over the old school! No more fear of leg breaking while playing foot-ball in the yard, no longer any need to take one's mid-day rest in the cold, damp air of the playground. We have a shed.

Then, again, we have something else...yes indeed we have something else...right down in the playground where the football is kicked about. What have we? We have a tin fence. Did I hear you say, "does the fence worry us?" It does not...not at all. But behind that tin fence are girls, and our football has formed a nasty habit of going over this tin fence. Of course the girls are quite willing to throw it back immediately . . . ? Are they though? No! On the other hand they begin playing with it themselves and at the same time they play with the boys' tempers also.

Dear Mr. Editor, we think this should be put a stop to. The footballers have sometimes as much as ten minutes to wait while the girls are enjoying themselves on the other side.

I have spoken of changes in the school itself...but what about the school boys. For some time between 1913 and 1914, I have noticed a general rush for the gate at 3.30 p.m. Of course my curiosity was aroused and I decided to investigate. By keeping my eyes open the secret was at length penetrated. They were anxious to get at "marbles." Just think of it, High School boys playing marbles! Of course we would not mind if they would confine their operations to their own back yards, but when they play on public streets . . . Oh My! what's our school coming to? Yet some of the little dears actually stand on their "dig," and refuse to be called "idiots."

Now if this class of individual plays at marbles, of course he does not take up such a sensible past-time as football. Well, what does he do in the dinner hour? Does he fag? No he hasn't learnt that yet. Well, what does he do?

VISIT . . .

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Why, he throws stones, to the sorrow of several other persons who get in the way. I notice that the Prefects.. at least one Prefect...is doing his best to stamp out this awful practice. But it needs more than the work of one and in fact more than the combined energy of all the prefects. It needs a few Friday afternoons fugging something dry. Where is the good old "hour for a week" for stone throwing? This is a habit which needs stamping out at once. Where is the good old "ducking" gone? Is it that the rising generation has fear of water, or owing to the fact that water is scarce in the back blocks? Are they trying to save up as much of it as possible to send out there? I noticed that when the last Intermediate Results came out, then commenced the "ducking" of those who got through.

How many of those who instigated this "ducking" would have liked to have been "ducked themselves?"

Never mind, we cannot all be heroes, but let us hope there will be something of a change in another direction during the ensuing year.

Yours, etc.

"Footballer."

(Stone throwing is a dangerous habit. The head master again desires it to be clearly understood that severe punishment will be meted out to any offenders caught ..."Editor.")

Answers to Correspondence

SENIOR...Glad to receive attempt at translation of Sully Prudhomme. Try again.

R.D., I B ...Sorry we cannot find space for your short story, but you join a very distinguished set in being rejected this time. Try again.

H.G....Note that we use "A Vision." Your style is good and suited to subject. Let us have some more.

E.D...."A Divine Disobedience" is not original and so cannot be inserted under your name. Try something of your own and we promise every consideration.

I.V...."Moonlight" too slight.

T.C....Am holding over your "Averages" for next issue.

FOOTBALLER...We print yours with pleasure. We heartily agree.

A.G...."Sign Board at an Old Curiosity Shop at Palmouth" rather amusing, but would prefer you to try your hand at something original.



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