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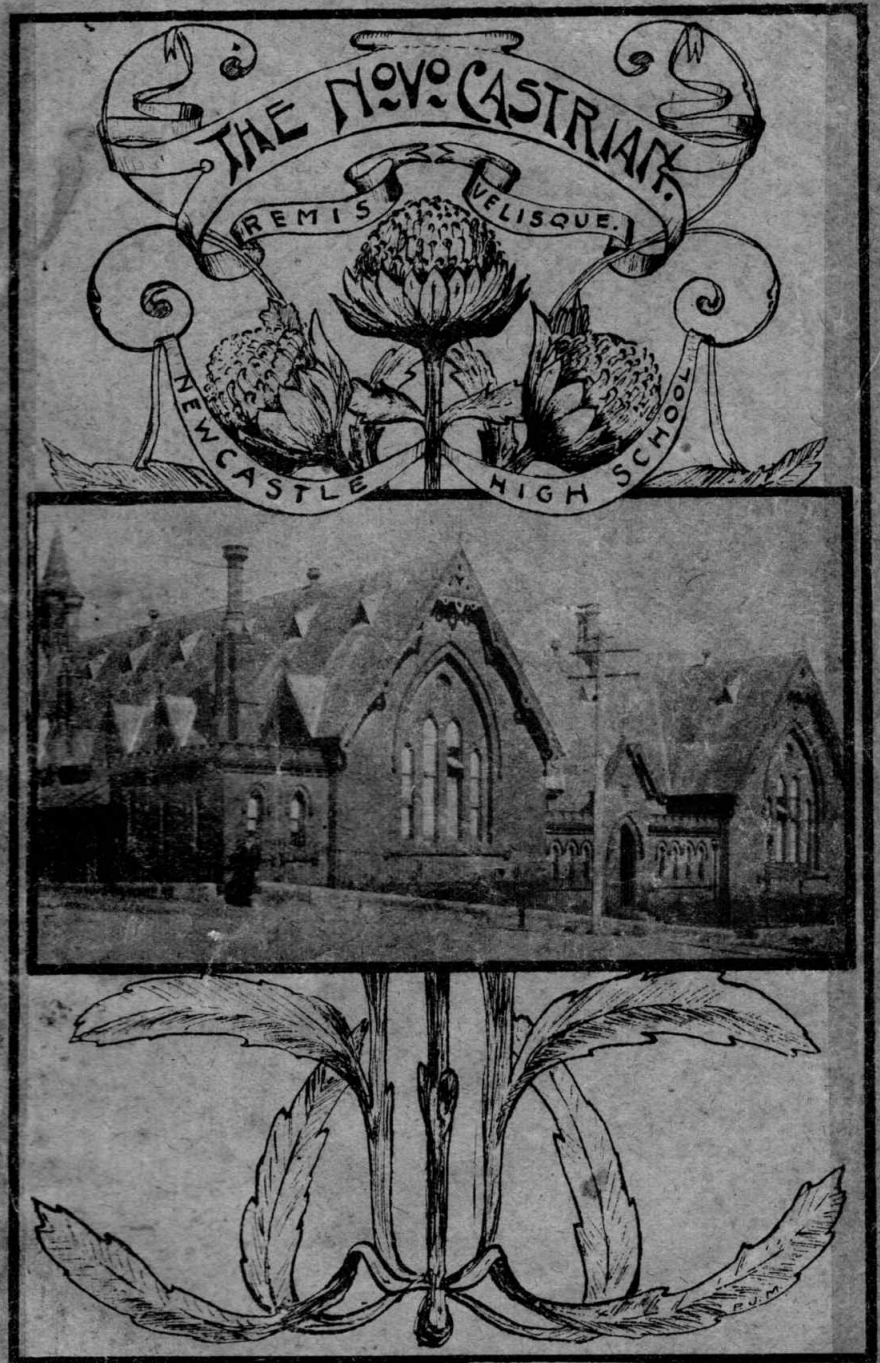
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The school was opened on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1906.  
(See page 30) M.K.

# The Novocastrian

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL.

VOL. I.

OCTOBER, 1912.

No. 1.

### Officers.

Patron	...	...	C. R. SMITH, M.A.
Editor	...	...	J. W. HAYES, B.A.
Sub-Editor	...	...	H. L. HARRIS, B.A.
Sports' Editor	...	...	H. JENKINS.

THIS is the first issue of "The Novocastrian," the journal of the Newcastle High School. It is our earnest desire that this description should be true to the letter. The Magazine will be what the pupils make it, and the co-operation of every boy and girl in the School is sought. We wish to make it a true reflex of the school life and a means of keeping ex-pupils in touch with present pupils. It should also have an influence in the cultivation of a good literary style.

We appreciate the efforts of contributors in this our first issue, and would remind those whose attempts are not published on this occasion, that some of the stories, at any rate, will see the light of day in a future issue.

It would take a Journal of about three times this size to accommodate all that was put into the Editor's box.

To those who have not been successful we would say "try again."

Soon nearly a hundred of our pupils will be putting forth their best efforts in the examination room. Some are seeking distinction in the Senior and Matriculation Exams., others for a passport to the Sydney Training College; others, again, for the Intermediate Certificate. We wish them all the best of good luck, and trust they will bring as much credit to themselves and their School as the candidates at the last Junior University Examination.



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## "Tom Brown—Hero."

(By H. Jenkins.)

Everton College is a large boarding establishment near Newcastle. It is a high-class school, and in the words of the prospectus, a "Select Academy for Young Gentlemen." But, notwithstanding the strict reservation for gentlemen's sons only, this year a scholarship was offered for competition among poor men's sons. Thus it came about that Tom Brown, the hero of this story, entered Everton College.

It was a glorious day in October. Afternoon school was over, and a merry throng of boys came trooping from the classrooms. Forgotten now were the dreary lessons just over. Latin with the Head following Cæsar through his winter quarters or an especially intricate problem which occurred in Trig.—one so terrible that it required an unusual supply of immortal "bull's-eyes" to fortify the majority of the class.

Cricket and swimming claimed the merry throng for the rest of the day. Very few of them could resist the call of the green playing fields or the pretty winding river.

Tom Brown had come out of school with the rest. Only one or two deigned to cast even a glance at him, and it could be easily seen that he was practically an outcast in the school. And only that morning his unpopularity had increased enormously, for a valuable silver cup which had been won by the school at a district sports meeting had been stolen. Why suspicion had fallen on Tom Brown no one could say. Nevertheless the fact remained that Tom—in the eyes of many of his school fellows—was the thief.

Tom walked down to the playing fields a little behind the rest. He was passionately fond of cricket but was given little opportunity to show his prowess, for most of the boys gave him to understand that he was not wanted. Too proud to force himself upon them, it was rarely Tom played.

He was just entering the pavilion when he heard Crane—one of the most snobbish boys and the worst bully in the school, say "Look out boys, you'd better keep an eye on your money now."

His insinuation was lightly veiled, and Tom flushing angrily, demanded what he meant.

"What I say," the bully blustered. "We know that you stole the school cup, so don't deny it! We don't want you in this school—you a pauper's brat.

Boiling with indignation at the insinuation against his mother, a poor hard-working, honest woman, and the dearest soul in the world in his eyes—his father had been dead now many years—Tom advanced angrily on the bully. Crane's parasites, however, held him back, and he felt himself struggling with a score of hands. Realising the futility of forcing the bully to put up his hands, Tom, his head proudly in the air, marched out of the pavilion.

A lump rose in his throat as he walked away from the playing fields. How unjustly he was being treated, and oh! how he longed for his humble little home and his dear widowed mother! It would nearly break her heart if she knew how her boy was being treated—her own darling boy who told her that he liked the school very well just because he wished to spare her the pain she would feel. His heart burned with indignation against his school fellows and he felt that cad such as they were deserved to lose the cup.

Unconsciously he walked out of the school-grounds and in the direction of the bush which was very near. It was the middle of Spring. The sunlight playing on the green foliage, a gentle breeze waving his curly brown hair, the twittering of the birds,—all these soon made Tom forget his worries. By and by he sat down under a green eucalyptus tree idly musing. He was awakened from his reverie by the sound of voices. Quietly he listened, but the first words he heard made him instantly start up with excitement. "The cup's safe now," a rough voice said, "the police here are no better than fools."

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Tom shrank back, his heart in his mouth. Yes, of course it was the school cup, and these men had stolen it! Fearful lest he should be discovered, he remained perfectly motionless till the men had passed on. What should he do? The best plan seemed to him to follow the men, and this he did. Keeping a safe distance behind them, he followed them for some time, till at last one of the two men struck off in the direction of Hexham—several miles distant.

Tom stuck to the other man, who stopped suddenly, and taking a bulky package from his pocket proceeded to hide it in a small hole cleverly concealed by a group of ferns. Tom dropped to the ground as the man looked cautiously around to see that no one was in sight. Then, hearing the footsteps growing fainter, the boy stood up and ran towards the hole. "The cup was there, he would get it" was his only thought. And sure enough, when he opened the package, the silver cup was revealed to his gaze.

Fearful that the man would return, Tom started for the school with the precious burden under his arm. He had not gone far, when he heard a crashing in the undergrowth behind him. Looking round he saw the man himself in hot pursuit. Increasing his pace he kept steadily on towards the school, feeling sure that he could easily outdistance his pursuer. But just as he was feeling comparatively safe, and with the man out of sight, blundering along in the dense undergrowth, his foot caught in a hole and he fell headlong.

He tried to rise, but sank back with a groan of pain. His ankle was sprained! He kept his head, however, and looking round saw a hollow tree within reach. Eagerly he thrust the cup into the trunk and heard it fall to the earth. Somewhat reassured, for the cup at least was safe, he crawled ahead. The intense pain of his injured foot almost made him cry out but setting his teeth he kept on, hearing his pursuer's footsteps approaching nearer and nearer.

When Tom had crawled about twenty yards from the hollow tree, the man suddenly appeared. Realising the boy's predicament at a glance he dashed forward with a guttural cry of relief. But not finding the cup, his face darkened angrily. It was an evil face the boy decided and one whose owner would not stop at murder.

"Where is the cup?" the man demanded savagely. "I won't tell you," Tom said quietly, almost fainting with the pain of his foot.

"You won't tell me eh? Well, I'll tell you what I'll do with you if you don't. I'll kill you!" The man bent over the half fainting boy and raised his hand as if to strike him.

The boy was sick at heart but still he met the other's eyes unflinchingly.

"I won't tell you, and that's final."

The man, with an oath, struck the boy heavily on the face.

"Now will you tell me?" But still the boy remained motionless. "I'll kill you, I tell you. I'll kill you!" the ruffian ground out with another oath. But Tom's courage never deserted him—he would save the cup at all costs.

Losing his patience, the man picked up a heavy stick and struck the defenceless boy's arm several times. Tom's face went whiter still with the agony, and an awful pain ran through his body. Dumbly he raised his eyes appealingly to the man's face. But he found no mercy there.

"Why shouldn't he tell the man?" he asked himself. The cup was nothing to him, he did not belong to the school so the boys had told him. But he put the thought out of his head in an instant. He belonged to the school, he was a member of it although they treated him so caddishly.

The man continued his savage onslaught, and very soon the boy, under the horrible pain lost consciousness.

Needless to say the cup was recovered, although Tom to this day does not know how he got back to the school, suffering as he was with an injured foot and an arm which was found to be broken. No longer would he be an outcast in the school; the boys, recognising a true hero, voted him one of the best. And the crowning point of all was when Crane with a shamed face came up and humbly held out his hand to Tom. Now they are the best of friends, and Tom is captain of the school proving his prowess on the cricket field.

## The School Library.

Every High School needs a good Library, both for lending purposes and for reference. The pupils should have access to good dictionaries and encyclopaedias, to standard biographies and histories, and to all the great classics of our language. There should be books which the pupils may borrow, plenty of them, and of the best—chosen by the teachers, but with every consideration for the tastes of the pupil. These should include first and foremost those books in which all healthy boys delight; the works of Ballantyne, Kingston, Henty, Captain Marryat, E. S. Ellis, Fennimore Cooper and Talbot Barnes Reed. Then there should be a collection of Historical novels; no period can be realized without them. And let us not neglect the book of humor. How many boys never learn that literature, as Cicero tell us, should be a delight to all men, in all moods, at all times and in all places. He should read Mark Twain, Jerome K. Jerome, Max O'Rell, Ellis Parker Butler, W. W. Jacobs, in addition to the great humorous works of Dickens.

Now our School has a library, though it does not contain all we ask here; but what it does contain is not sufficiently used. One can open the presses any day in the week and find them far too full. Most of the best boys' books are there, have you read them? The girls do not need urging, and seem to do more reading, both light and serious, than the boys. Also, there is a fair Reference Library in the Senior Room, which the whole of the Upper School should know about. If you want to read for any Historical essay, English, Roman or Greek, there is much there to help you. A set of biographies should help English students throughout the School, and the two splendid encyclopaedias and the dictionaries should be of interest and value to everyone.

One more point—the Library is not increasing at the rate it should. Will not the pupils come forward and undertake its management? A small fee might be charged to increase the stock of books and to replace worn-out volumes. You can do this better than your teachers. A move from the boys to improve the Library, to increase its efficiency, will be welcomed by Principal and Staff.

## School Sports.

### FOOTBALL.

The Football season which is just concluding, has been a most successful one. The standard of play maintained has been excellent, and the team on the whole is quite as good as any which has ever represented the School.

The "A" team proved much too good for Maitland High School, winning four out of five matches by rather large margins. In the Senior Cadet Competition the team has also been singularly successful, and so far has not suffered a defeat; they have therefore qualified for the Final.

To wind up the season a visit was made to Sydney, where games were played against Fort Street and Hurlstone. Defeat, however, had to be acknowledged on both occasions. Nevertheless, the visit proved very enjoyable, and it is safe to say was instrumental in teaching the team many of the finer points of the game.

The team is as follows:—Full-back, M. Downie; Three-quarters, K. Garrett, J. Herbert, L. Chippendall, A. Hogan; Halves, J. Kempster (Captain), H. Jenkins; Forwards, J. Daniels, A. J. Smith, W. Rushton, J. C. Watt, R. Howard, C. Bate, E. Jones, H. Chippendall. Reserves, A. Dougiass, A. Richards, L. Jones.

The teams record is:—Played 12 matches—won 9, lost 3. Points for, 247; against, 93.

Defeated M.H.S., at Newcastle, 29-3; Defeated M.H.S., at Maitland, 27-3; Defeated M.H.S., at Newcastle, 33-3; Beaten by M.H.S., at Newcastle, 14-3; Defeated M.H.S., at Maitland, 44-3; Beaten by Hurlstone, at Sydney, 27-11; Beaten by Fort Street, at Sydney, 34-0.

CADET COMPETITION.—Defeated Carrington A, 27-3; Defeated Mayfield, 39-3; Defeated Wickham, 11-3; Defeated Naval A, 14-0; Defeated Naval A (semi-final) 9-0.

The "B" team also played good football throughout the season. They played 3 matches, winning 2 and drawing 1, and scoring 49 points against 3.

### FOOTBALL CHARACTERS.

DOWNIE (Full-back)—Good kick with both feet, sound in defence, very consistent.

GARRETT (Three-quarter)—Very strong runner, best scoring man in the team, excellent also in defence.

HERBERT (Three-quarter)—A good centre or wing three-quarter, good in defence and attack; a very heady player.

L. CHIPPENDALL (Three-quarter)—Good at centre; excellent in defence, but rather inclined to hang on.

HOGAN (Three-Quarter)—A very good winger; has scored well throughout the season; also good at full-back.

KEMPSTER (Five-eighth)—All that could be desired as Captain; a very clever player; handles ball well; great kick with both feet.

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**JENKINS (Half)**—Opens up the game well; good in attack and defence; understands the game thoroughly.

**RUSHTON (Forward)**—Good in the loose and line out; should do well next season.

**SMITH (Forward)**—Good in the ruck; a good strong runner; with more experience should do well.

**DANIELS (Forward)**—A dashing player; always on the ball; combines well with the backs; on form best forward in the team.

**HOWARD (Forward)**—A gritty player; good in the loose and line-out; should be heard of next season.

**WATT (Forward)**—An excellent player; excellent in the line out; a good worker; has great possibilities next season.

**H. CHIPPENDALL (Forward)**—Good in the ruck and scrum; will do well if he takes more interest in the game.

**E. JONES (Forward)**—A good hooker, also shines out in the loose; a very promising player.

**L. JONES (Forward)**—Good in the pack and in the open; rather slow, but altogether a player of good promise like his brother.

**L. WILLIAMS (Forward)**—Very young player, who should be heard of next season; kicks well.

**DOUGLASS (Half)**—A gritty half; good in attack and defence; did not have many opportunities.

**RICHARDS (Three-quarter)**—A very promising winger; fast and tricky; good in both defence and attack.

**PERRAU (—Three-quarter)**—Very clever player; rather inclined to hang on; has shown excellent form throughout the season.

**STEELE (Five-Eighth)**—Good in attack and defence; very tricky; also a very good half.

## CRICKET.

The approaching cricket season promises to be a very strenuous one from many points of view. The Newcastle Cricket Ground has been secured, and one may perhaps be justified in predicting that before the end of the season many of the players will have exhibited their prowess as "wielders of the willow." The Committee intend to arrange a competition for different teams in the School, and these, combined with the usual matches against Maitland High School, and perhaps several Sydney schools, will make the season very attractive.

The School team will consist practically of "colts," but under the leadership of J. Herbert (who has been elected captain) they should give an excellent account of themselves. One point which the Committee would like to impress upon players generally is the necessity for good fielding. Last year's team, although strong in both batting and bowling, were deplorably weak in this department of the game, and it was on this account that several important matches were lost.

## Visit of Taree Boys.

During the Michaelmas vacation, a contingent of school boys from Taree visited us. From their arrival on Saturday night till their departure on Thursday a most enjoyable time was spent. On Monday the programme consisted of a trip round the harbour in the morning and football in the afternoon. The weather was extremely hot, and a disagreeable wind, which greatly militated against good football, blew throughout the afternoon. Nevertheless a good exposition of Rugby was given. The visitors were much the heavier side, our



team being considerably weakened by the absence of Watt, Rushton, Smith and Chippendall in the forwards. Just after the commencement of play, Meldrum scored a good try for Taree, which was not converted. Attacking hotly, with the wind in our favor, L. Jones picked up near the line, fell over, and scored, thus equalising the scores. Before half-time Garrett, with a strong run, also crossed over for us. In the concluding half Garrett again scored an excellent try, and when the full time whistle sounded we left the field victors by 9 to 3.

Downie as usual was excellent as full-back; he made very few mistakes and his kicking was very sound. Garrett was in good scoring vein and proved a great thorn in the visitors' side. As centres, Herbert and Chippendall worked hard and played well throughout the game. Kempster and Jenkins, as halves, combined well together and opened up the game. Of the forwards, Cooke showed up finely and played one of the best games on the ground. The others all worked hard and too much praise cannot be bestowed on them for the way in which they held their heavier opponents.

On Tuesday morning the visitors were shown over the Lighthouse, and in the afternoon a Tennis Match was played. Taree, playing consistently, proved much too good for us, and ran out winners by 56 games to 23 games.

A Cricket Match was played on the Wednesday Afternoon on the Newcastle Cricket Ground. Taree, batting first, only compiled 56, Jenkins and Kempster being in fine form with the ball for us. We scored 148, thus winning by 92 runs.

On Thursday morning a trip was made over the A.A. Coy.'s Sea Pit, which proved very instructive and enjoyable. The Taree boys expressed themselves as well satisfied with all they saw and were delighted with Newcastle. They assure us that when we visit them we will not go away disappointed with their town.

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## Clippings.

"The Spartans," says Plutarch "were taught in boyhood to use a sarcastic, yet grateful style in speaking, and to compress much thought in few words; for Lycurgus made their iron money have little value for its great size, but on the other hand, he made their speech short and compact, but full of meaning." In this page we propose to copy the Spartans.

"Language is a solemn thing," I said. "It grows out of life—out of its agonies and ecstasies, its wants and its weariness. Every language is a temple in which the soul of those who speak it is enshrined."

—*Professor at the Breakfast Table.*

"One of the benefits of a college education is to show the boy its little avail."—*Emerson.*

"Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example."—*Mark Twain.*

"At every single moment of one's life one is what one is going to be, no less than what one has been."—*Oscar Wilde, "De Profundis."*

"The brightest stars are not the best to follow on the way to rest."

—*W. S. Landor.*

"Books are good enough in their own way, but they are a mighty bloodless substitute for life."—*R. L. Stevenson, "Virginibus Puerisque."*

"Ha! I can no longer cockroach upon your time, Madame."

"Encroach, Monsieur, Encroach!"

"Pardon! Your English genders are si'difficiles."

# Form Reports.

## THE SENIOR ROOM.

The Senior Class is so well known that praise from us would be useless. Like a certain brand of tea "it speaks for itself." It is, of course, the target at which all aspiring students aim, and admittance into this Class is the consummation of a brilliant career. Besides, our room contains the only collection of red heads in the School. The ex-juniors are fagging very hard, as their exam. is drawing near. Bock Bates recently left us and joined the ranks of the Lucky Beasts. We miss his cheerful face and Lily Brayton laugh, and are depressed by his departure. This, combined with the fact that the Senior approacheth, makes our room a mournful one indeed. Sometimes we smile, but at the thought of all that time wasted, we bury our faces in our books. Four girls recently joined the Leaving Certificate Class, and feel the benefit of the change already. In sport the Senior Room still holds its own, the majority of the members of the Sports' Committee being from our room. Jackie Herbert (or Jack E. Herbert, we forget which) was lately appointed Cricket Captain at an enormous salary. Many of the boys are undergoing severe training for the forthcoming Sports; K.C.M.G. runs over to the Bogey, has a swim, and runs back every playtime of late; he expects to annex the Champ. The girls are quite well, thank you, and just as beautiful as ever. Wishing ourselves all sorts of luck in our forthcoming exam, we rush off to enquire whether Julius Cæsar won the battle of Waterloo, or what is the word for "a good old loaf" in French.

## FORM III.

Our exclusive little Class has during the quarter received the addition of three young ladies from the Probationary Class, which brings its "population" up to 7, such a large number in fact that our editor nearly forgot it. A movement is on foot to suppress the joking (?) on the part of one of our members, Mr. R—H—, who is a budding Mayor or Chancellor of the Exchequer or some thing such; (He is some big-gun in connection with our forthcoming Sports). We have also a budding admiral, or perhaps cabin boy, who it is rumoured has lately shown his readiness to imitate sailors who have a girl in each port. The teachers all seem to be interested in the Class (especially in the female portion). We are just beginning the study of Chemistry, and our heads are being crammed with such mysterious words as "hydroxide," "sulphuretted hydrogen," "H.2 S.O.4," and "oxidation." Why did a certain man named Virgil ever live? What sins has our poor Class committed that it should be tortured by such punishments as Cicero and the Aeneid. Two of our male members are sports, and it is expected that one of them at least will carry off a prize at the Annual Sports (16th instant).

N.B.—All our members are against the separation of the girls into another school after Christmas, and the majority of us are fond of Beach Teas and never miss any when possible.

## PROBATIONERS' CLASS.

The "Probs. Room" nowadays presents rather a prosperous appearance, and a new desk has been added to meet our further requirements; though, sad to relate, the stress of an Algebra exam. caused one desk to give way in the midst of it a few weeks ago. Recently, too, we have been adorning our walls with artistic brown-paper maps, and, glittering with its golden letters, the Honor

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Board beams down on us. By now, the last echoes of "Sweet Ann Page"—the result of our visit to "The Merry Wives of Windsor" one memorable Wednesday—have died away, but it will be a long time before we forget the happy day we spent. In a few weeks our examination will be over, and we'll all be able to enjoy the lovely time we've been promising ourselves for so long.

### FORM IIA.

Since last June we have really been working, or, as some teachers think, pretending to work. Nevertheless, most of our highly conceited Class—which we have been termed by one worthy master—agree that we have had a particularly strenuous term. Our popular principal is still keeping his "school-famed" reputation for working in accordance with the school motto "Remis Velisque," at least with our Latin author. We have only one Light in the Class, which fact, no doubt, in some teachers' views, accounts for the deep shadow surrounding our intellectual powers at times. Our girls are the champion Tennis players of their school, and several of the boys would be second Wildings if suitable material and courts were available more often. We still have some good cricketers and footballers amongst us, although three or four of our best have left the School. A few weeks ago a large number of the Class visited Sydney to see a reproduction of Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor," and they enjoyed themselves extremely well. It is with deepest regret that we have to announce the death of one of our Class-mates, the late A. C. C. Smith, and our sincerest sympathy is extended towards his bereaved relatives.

### IIB.

"Usual IIB conduct" is a very common phrase used by the teachers. It is always heard whenever the other Classes (especially IIA) are creating disturbances. We always scorn such childishness and behave ourselves; hence the preceding phrase. During the last year we have been exceedingly successful, both in-door and out. The football stars, Mick Hogan and the twin Chips have been the three dashers of the "A" team. Mick was given a game with the "A" Cricket team against Maitland, but he appeared without his boots, hence Maitlanders had to catch an early train. The majority of our seats are broken, and when Mr. Carmichael comes along we are going to send a deputation to wait on him. The broken seats are all on the girls' side. "Professor" Read has been singularly successful in the lab. (nuff said). Many jokes have been cracked by Mick and Peter, but they are generally that poor they break to pieces before you can digest them. They ought to take lessons from the teachers (we believe they do).

### IA.

During the quarter we have to report substantial progress. We may congratulate ourselves on the marked attention and zeal shown by our members, that has enabled us to reach the position of "IA," which we now hold. Whilst attention has been given to mental attainments, our physical attainments have not been neglected, as it is contemplated to hold Athletic Sports in the near future, in which we hope to keep up our reputation. The conductress of our choir is more than pleased with our progress in French songs. At present, in English, we are studying ballads, and some of us will surprise the Editor later on. We are gradually "passing out" in Algebra, as we will soon have completed our year's course. Our trip to Sydney to witness one of Shakespeare's works: "The Merry Wives of Windsor," was most beneficial. The Class seems to be figuring well in science, and are determined to be working together next term for the Intermediate Certificate.



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### **I B.**

We have played our part as a worthy section in the school life, and our efforts have not been unnoticed, and may yet be rewarded. The Quarterly Exams. "left" some of us rather badly this term, but we blame the new staff for that. Despite this, two of our Class are now among the blessed ones in "A." We wish them all success there, while we regret their loss.

The Beach Tea was a success, though "B" did not shine as it might have done—evidently pretty girls and dainty cakes do not attract the sober ones of "B." Awake and show your mettle when the Annual Picnic comes off. Then too there are the Annual Sports, specially provided by a thoughtful staff and seniors to enable "IB" to illustrate their prowess in all that may "become a man." We hope to see a number of "firsts" and "seconds" fall to the deserving ones amongst us.

### **I C.**

"C" Division is unlike other divisions in that it is good—if not in work then in play. In the former we occasionally fall short, but in the latter, never. We like our jokes—who does not? The boys are as fond of chewing and the girls of talking that such tedious details as Latin and Algebra fall as far into the background as our teachers will allow them. But even these lessons are brightened by the efforts of our class artist and comedian, who occasionally, it is said, breaks into song. The week begins well with the happy smile of Mr.—, though that grows a little forced when a certain young lady repeatedly drops her text book, filled with manifold important pieces of paper, at his feet. Why does the Professeur deign to remain with us and receive instructions at the hands of a mere High School Staff?

### **I D.**

Although "D" Division is not one of the highest classes in the School, the majority of the teachers think it a pleasure to come and teach us, though our Geometry teacher is continually worrying us with the pronunciation of "hypothesis." We are getting plenty of Latin now, nearly more than we can learn. We have just completed our Quarterly Examination, and we all hope to be promoted to "C" Division. We have French Singing every Tuesday, and I am certain if the teachers heard us they would be sure to say "What sweet voices those children have."

### **I E.**

Modesty prevents me from saying all that one might say of "E." Indeed, one hears so many different opinions that perhaps silence is best. The weeks pass away filled and almost over—filled with work. Latin succeeds French and Mathematics with wearsome regularity. "A" tell us that they work, and "B" say they do—it is a wonder and a pity that there is any left for "E." Let them work and let us take perpetual Friday afternoon and matters will be adjusted.

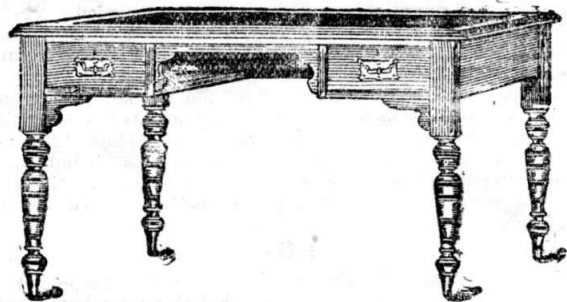
We congratulate our Prefects on their appointment and the lucky member of our Class on his promotion.

"E" shine at the Sports! Let "E" show herself indeed "elect," for that is what E stands for in the N.H.S.

### **I F.**

"F" was created because the other sections were over-crowded. The nicest people in the first year were chosen to make "us." Anyhow, one of the teachers says we work harder than "A" or "B." I am sure that they would work very hard indeed to get in more in a week than we do. French is moving ahead—and Maths. also, enlivened by many a little joke from the teacher, who proves 1 equal to 2, but who will not take one shilling for a florin.

Cricket, Tennis, the Beach Tea and other amusements have shed some joy in the past; we look forward to the Sports and the Picnic to do the same in the future. May "F" lead all the others home in the footraces is the wish with which we close our first Class Notes.



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## JUNIOR EXAMINATION, 1912.

Medals—Basil Helmore, University Medal for General Proficiency.  
Basil Helmore " " " Geometry.  
Allan Richards, Prox Acc in Arithmetic.

		Hist.	Eng.	Fren.	Lat.	Arith.	Alg.	Geom.
Cecil Bate	...	M	C	C	C	C	B	B
James Chalmers	...	M	A	A	B	B	A	A
Harold Davis	...	M	B	A	C	C	B	A
Clive Fairley	...	M	C	B	B	B	A	B
Douglas Fraser	...	M	B	A	C	C	A	B
Florence Harris	...	M	B	B	C	B	B	A
Basil Helmore	...	M	A	A	A	A	A	A
Thomas Hughes	...	M	B	B	C	C	A	B
Harry Krempin	...	M	B	C	C	B	A	B
Harold Morgan	...	M	B	C	B	C	A	A
Evelyn Nicholls	...	M	B	B	A	C	C	C
Louis Polak	...	M	B	B	B	C	B	A
Allan Richards	...	M	B	B	B	B	A	A
George Scott	...	M	A	B	B	B	B	B
Barbara Shaw	...	M	B	B	C	C	B	C
Leila Thomas	...	M	A	A	C	C	C	B
John Watt	...	M	B	C	B	C	A	B
Leslie Cook	...		B	C	C	C	—	A
Hilda Fleming	...		A	C	C	—	C	A
Norman Humphris	...		C	—	—	—	A	A
Edward Keating	...		C	C	C	—	C	C
Nellie Shaw	...		B	B	C	—	B	B
James Steele	...		B	C	C	—	B	A
William Sturt	...		B	C	C	—	A	B

### SUMMARY OF JUNIOR EXAMINATION, 1912.

Subject	A	B	C	Total
History	5	15	4	24
English	5	9	9	23
French	2	7	14	23
Latin	1	6	11	18
Arithmetic	11	7	5	23
Algebra	12	9	3	24
Geometry	11	8	5	24
	47	61	51	159

Number of Passes = 24 = 100%

Number Qualified for Matriculation (Divn. A) = 17.

Average Pass = 6.6 Subjects.

### MATRICULATION EXAMINATION, 1912.

Hessel Howell.—Qualified for all faculties except Engineering.

### PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION (FEDERAL) 1912.

Robert Perrau.—Sixth of N.S.W. Candidates.

### PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION (STATE) 1912.

Robert Perrau.—Clerical Division.

John Daniels.—Professional.

Ernest Jones.—Professional.

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## Ex-Pupils' Column.

All ex-pupils of the N.H.S. combine to congratulate the pupils on publishing a Magazine in which can be recorded the doings of the Alma Mater, and which we hope may form a long-felt need of union to maintain a connection between pupils and ex-pupils.

Knowing that this publication will fall into the hands of ex-pupils, those fortunate enough to know Rene Oldham will be delighted to hear that she is no longer the famous Rene Oldham, but has changed her surname to Hughes. I can vouch that she is the same lively Rene as of yore. Ex-pupils wish Mr. and Mr. Hughes all future happiness.

While still on the subject of matrimony it may be as well to offer our felicitations to Gladys Philips, Mary Oxley and Fred. Tyler, who, we hear, have completed the initiatory rites of the order of Benedicts.

Others of the ex-N.H.S.-ers are, it is rumoured, contemplating this step. They evidently believe in "look before you leap," and some require a very long look.

At the same time we offer our condolences to those ex-pupil's who are forced to join the "Bachelors' Club," and by doing so have obtained honorable (?) mention in a leading Society paper.

The Junior results are out, and all ex-pupils were delighted to see that the old School headed the list. Mr. Smith deserves our heartiest congratulations on the success of his passes. Above all, Basil Helmore merits the greatest praise.

Although "the" High School has been in existence only six years, we yet have representatives in almost every profession, and scattered throughout all parts of the State.

At the University we have students in Medicine, Law, Engineering, and at least one qualifying for the Church. The number taking the Arts course is much greater. We fully expect, and in the past have been gratified, to see ex-pupils at the top; may they ever shine there.

The ex-pupils who have entered the teaching profession have been signally successful. Among the 25 3rd year scholarships awarded last year a large percentage fell to Newcastle representatives. We have Bertha Bootle, Dorothy Henson, Edith Baker, Marjorie Porteous, Olive Williams, Victor Craig and John Swain all doing 3rd year work. Malcolm Smith is the ex-pupil of whom we are particularly proud, he having won a 3rd year scholarship, also first-class honours and University medal at graduation.

Congratulations to Tom Warren on his recent pass in the Law Exam., also to Caleb Firkin on his appointment to the Imperial Treasury Department.

We would like to wish all those sitting for the coming Senior and other examinations all possible success; may they repeat that of the recent Junior.

Ex-pupils Annual Dinner will take place as usual next December, when we hope to have a record attendance.

—C.P.



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# RICHARD BRYANT

Hunter Street.

## Our University Letter.

First of all, we unite in congratulating the present Staff and Scholars of the "old School," on their having at last, by their combined efforts, brought into existence that which has for a long time been wanting in the School—a School Journal. We wish the first issue of the "Novocastrian" every success, and hope that each succeeding issue will be even better than the last, and that the paper will be read by all ex-students of N.H.S. wherever they may be. There are quite a number down here at the 'Varsity; indeed, on hearing that a certain girl came down from Newcastle, one of the Sydney girls said "Another person from 'Newcastle High!' it's quite famous."

Our old School is well represented in all branches of study, Arts leading the way, while Medicine, Science, Law and Engineering know at least one old "Newcastle High Schooler."

One student of whom we are particularly proud is Malcolm Smith, who at beginning of this year gained his B.A. degree, carrying off the University medal and Professor Anderson's prize for Logic and Mental Philosophy, while in his 1st year he succeeded in winning the Lithgow Scholarship for the same subject.

Another of our "old boys," Roy Mulvey, attained to his Arts degree at the same time, and is now taking the course in Science, being in the 2nd year.

One of our "oldest" girls, too, Bertha Bootle, is nearing graduation in Arts, and is in her 2nd year in science. May all success attend her at the end of the year!

In Arts there are Alice Beavis, Kathleen Bertram, Rosie Brown, Mattie Byrne and Madge Henson; Tom Beveridge and Victor Craig (Commerce and Economics as well); Bob Howie studying for the Church, and Cale. Firkin combining the courses in Arts and Law.

2nd year Medicine likewise contains its "Newcastle-ites," Nell Braye, Jerry Harris, Les. Howell and Jack Smith being workers amongst the "bones and muscles." 2nd year Science has two representatives, Roy Mulvey and Roy Payne, while in 2nd year Engineering is Jim Milner. The old School can also boast a number of "Freshers"—six in Arts, Elsie Hutchings, Zilda Lewis, Olive Williams, John Swan, Sid Tweeddale and myself; four in Science, Marjorie Porteous, Dot Henson, Edith Baker and Gilbert Jones, while Hessel Howell is following his brother's footsteps in the Medicine line. Altogether we are a decent sized crowd, and although working under a new motto, we do not forget our old "Remis Velisque," and any honors we attain we gladly put to the credit of our "Alma Mater"—Newcastle High School.

—D.R.

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Chambers' Twentieth Century English Dictionary	...	3/6
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	Cloth,	7/6
	Leather,	10/-
Ogilvie's Smaller Etymological Dictionary	...	1/3
Gasc's French-English Dictionary	...	3/6
James and Mole's French-English Dictionary	...	4/6
Cassell's French English Dictionary	...	3/6

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# The Duties of Prefects.

1. The Prefect's most important duty is to guard the honor and good name of his School as jealously as he does his own.
2. He will influence his fellow pupils in the right way, more by his personal example than by any action on his part. Let his own conduct always be correct, and he will not often have occasion to find fault with the conduct of others.
3. Where a Prefect sees a pupil doing anything, or hears him saying anything, whether at school or not, which, in his opinion, is detrimental to the reputation of the School, and likely to bring discredit on himself or his parents, he should exert himself to induce that pupil to give it up.
4. Except in very extreme or serious cases, a Prefect should not report any misconduct on the part of pupils to the Head. If the case is a serious one, however, and the reprehensible conduct is persisted in, after the pupil has been repeatedly checked, then the Prefects should consult together as to what they think best to do, and they may consider it advisable, if it be a case affecting the good name of the School, to consult the Head. Even this can be done in such a way as not to implicate any particular pupil, but simply to call the attention of the Head to the reprehensible practice. The Head is particularly anxious that Prefects should not be looked upon as spies or tale-bearers, which in fact they are not meant to be at all. He would like the boys to regard them as their best friends, whom they may consult in cases of difficulty or uncertainty. He would like the Prefects themselves to regard their appointment as a high honor paid to them by the Head on account of their sterling qualities. It stands to reason that no boy will ever be appointed a Prefect in whom the Head has not the most complete confidence.
5. Prefects should take cognisance of and do their best to check such practices as the following:—
  - (a) The use of bad or vulgar language, anywhere or under any circumstances.
  - (b) Unseemly or unmannerly conduct on the way to or from School, or at School.
  - (c) Scribbling on the walls or wood-work of any of the School buildings; cutting or defacing desks or other wooden articles belonging to the Department.
  - (d) Stone-throwing; a most dangerous practice.
  - (e) Throwing lunch papers, lunch refuse, fruit skins, &c., about the grounds, instead of into the proper receptacles. Let every boy take a pride in his school, and in keeping it as clean and tidy as possible.
  - (f) In a word, Prefects should try and put a stop to any practice on the part of any of their fellow-pupils, which they consider unbecoming in an Australian and a gentlemen. Put the honor and good name of your School before every other consideration.

The Prefects for the ensuing year are as follows:—Keith Garrett (Captain of the School), R. Lasker, E. Thomas, J. Herbert, W. Rushton, B. Moss.

## The Football Trip to Sydney.

At last the day arrived! For some time the Members of the N.H.S. Football Club had been looking forward to Thursday, 5th September, for on that day they were to leave for Sydney to enjoy themselves, and incidentally to play Football. An observing person might have noticed the worried looks on the faces of the selectors on Thursday morning; it was not because they were about to miss some work, but because the captain had received a letter from the famous half, to the effect that he feared he would only be present with the team in spirit, as he was ill. Besides this, four other players could not make the trip, so that it was a somewhat weakened team that set out from Newcastle Station at 3 p.m., under the charge of Mr. Hayes. Two compartments had been reserved for us, so that we had a comfortable journey—as regards seats that is, because the weather was not all that could be desired. After an uneventful journey we arrived in Sydney, and when we had received careful injunctions not to be late the next day for the match against Hurlstone College at Petersham Oval, we made our way to our lodging places. When we had had tea, a number of us perambulated the streets so that we would be quite fresh for the next day, and for the same reason we stayed up till about midnight.

Friday morning gave promise of a wretched day, for the dust was blown in clouds along the streets before a by no means gentle breeze. 2 p.m. saw us all on the station waiting for the train, which landed us at Petersham in a gale of wind.

At 3 p.m. the match started. We lost the toss and so had to play against a strong wind, which very kindly moderated into a light breeze in the second half! The chief strength of the Hurlstone team lay in the forwards, who were continually organizing rushes which kept our forwards going all the time. At half-time the score stood at 10-nil in favor of Hurlstone, and considering the strength of the wind, we felt quite pleased with ourselves. Shortly after the commencement of the second half we scored three tries in succession, one of which was converted, while Hurlstone scored one: 13-11. But now our strenuous efforts in the first half told on us, and most of our "condition" was gone, and this, combined with the reduced force of the wind, gave the advantage to our opponents, so that at full time the score was 27-11.

At night a number of the team visited the theatres, and some took the opportunity of seeing Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton playing "The Merry Wives of Windsor." As it was the last night, at the conclusion of the play, the manager came forward and addressed the audience. He spoke very nicely of the treatment he and his company had received in Sydney, and assured the people that they would take away very happy memories. In about seven months time the Company would be coming back, for the last time however, and so he hoped to stage as many plays as possible. As it was, he promised three for certain; "Antony and Cleopatra," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and "The Taming of the Shrew."

Thus a very enjoyable evening was spent, though perhaps it was not conducive to good football, for midnight had chimed before we laid our weary heads down to rest.

Our next match was to take place at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning against Fort Street School, and so at 9.30 we were all on the Station. Then, as if we had not had enough exercise, we were forced to run for the tram, and this brought under our notice in a very painful manner all the abrasions, etc., we had received the day before. After a walk which seemed about five miles—from the tram—we came to the Sports' Ground, where the match was to be played. From the manner in which our team hurried into their football "togs," one could see that they were quite fresh! and so it will be understood how generous each member was when, because there was one player too many—quite an unusual occurrence—nearly everybody was willing to stand out.

We won the toss and had the advantage of a slight wind. Several times the opposing side narrowly averted a score, but we failed to cross over, and at half-time the score was nil. Whatever "condition" we had over from Friday had now left us and we did not play up to anything like our usual form in the second half, as the final scores, 33-nil, indicated. The match was played under much better conditions than the previous one, for the wind, though occasionally strong, was nothing like Friday's gale. The referee, too, was all that could be desired, his decisions always being most satisfactory. The Fort Street team played well together and it came as a surprise when we read that they had been beaten by Hurlstone in the final of the Schools' Competition. When the match was over Fort Street entertained us at luncheon at the Burlington Café, after which we went out to see the Union Final, for which the officials had kindly provided us with free passes. The match was a good fast game, but the superior combination of the Glebe Team, who played throughout a most unselfish game, triumphed over that of Western Suburbs, and the final scores of 6-5 in favor of Glebe undoubtedly gave the premiership to the best team.

At night some of us paid a farewell visit to the theatre, after which we went to sleep with the knowledge that our brief but enjoyable holiday was rapidly drawing to a close, for we were to leave for Newcastle at 3 o'clock the next day.

Sunday morning quickly passed, and it seemed no time before we were seated in the train, in which two carriages had been reserved. The train arrived about 7 p.m., just in time for us to catch the last trams before the usual break in the service. All were sorry that the holiday was over, and it was agreed that if the trip was made an annual affair it would be a great success.

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## "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

Among many students of this school, September 4th, 1912, will be long remembered as the Day of Early Rising. Usually at 5 or 6 in the morning, the world is given up to snore and slumber, so far as our students are concerned. but on September 4th alarm clocks rent the air with their frightful row, rousing those to vile imprecations who but a moment before had smiled so innocently in their sleep.

The occasion for all this early rising was the visit to Sydney for the purpose of seeing Oscar Asche's production of "The Merry Wives of Windsor." The train left in the middle of the night—6.35 a.m. to be exact. To ensure success in "grabbing the rattler" (which is an Americanism for "to catch the train") divers peculiar means were resorted to, besides the orthodox alarm-clocks mentioned above. It is rumoured that one boy tied a string from his toes to the leg of his pet rooster, knowing full well that that intelligent bird would be up in time to wake the sun with his crowing. We also have it on good authority that one of the girls stayed up all night so as to be sure of being in time for the train, but was so tired that she fell asleep during the performance of the play.

But the early bird catches the train, and whether by means of the gentle alarm clock, or the more forcible parent, ever one did catch the train. The girls were under the charge of Miss Niau and Miss Herlihy; the boys were overawed by the presence of Mr. Hayes and Mr. Harris. In passing, let me utter a word of thanks to these two gentlemen. The whole idea was due to the latter, but arrangement were made by Mr. Hayes in such a way that no hitch occurred.

Two carriages were reserved for the party. Need it be added that one was set apart for the girls, and the other for the boys? This prevented the trip being made, as Mr. Hayes said, a "honeymoon excursion."

Arrived at Sydney, the tourists (that sounds well) were herded into two special cars, sexes being again kept rigidly apart. From the station our travellers journeyed in high state to the Art Gallery, where an enjoyable hour was spent gazing at the great works there displayed. The probs., however, did not quite enjoy themselves, as the memory of their masterpieces precluded any enjoyment. One girl has already determined upon the removal of "The Visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon." and the substitution of her own chef d'oeuvre—a picture of a straw hat resting on Webster's Dictionary.

The sight-seers however, voting the Art Gallery inedible, adjourned to the A.B.C., and thronging into the specially reserved basement, proceeded to attack the nourishment. Having eaten the maximum, the party walked to the Theatre Royal, where the performance was to take place. Here it was found that the management had been most liberal, reserving five rows of front stalls for the modest sum of 2/6 per seat. With what flutterings of hearts, what excitement was this performance awaited, the consummation of the day's joys.

It would be futile for us to attempt a criticism of the play, since our province is that of the historian, not that of the dramatic critic. A few words will suffice to say who was the best of a good cast.

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Oscar Asche was excellent as Sir John Falstaff; Lily Brayton, as Mistress Ford, was inimitable, and she and Miss Wetherall made it indeed "The Merry Wives of Windsor." Miss Brayton has the most beautiful laugh we have ever heard, and, a picture herself, she quite captured the hearts of everybody. Miss Wetherall's voice, though musical, was indistinct and rendered many lines quite incomprehensible to those with whom they were unfamiliar. Herbert Grimwood was a splendid Ford, his jealous rages being excellently done, while the Mistress Quickly of Bessie Major was a masterpiece. The dear babbling, gossiping woman will never be forgotten by those who saw her, so true to life was she. A word of praise must be given to Shallow, who was truly excellent, his "Sweet Ann Page!" invariably amusing the house. The play was beautifully mounted, though it was noticed that Mr. Asche departs from tradition by clothing the play in a Winter garb. This provides for an extravagant use of salt (as snow), some very fine stage pictures (the meadow scene was perhaps the best) and much fun in the efforts of Simple and Rugby to get warm.

At the close of the performance, tea was partaken of at the A.B.C., after which the meeting adjourned to Hyde Park. Here one of the number, enthralled by the eloquence of some unknown Cicero or Demosthenes, was lost, and only recovered after considerable searching.

After this came the train and the journey back to home and mother. This journey passed in a very enjoyable way for the boys, owing to the efforts of our palmist and ghost story-teller. As for the girls, I cannot say whether they were happy or not, for I was not there (unfortunately).

So Newcastle was reached, after a most pleasant day in Sydney and the Windsor of long ago.

Throughout the whole day the behaviour of all students was all that could be desired, no one even getting run over. Next year the Company is producing "Antony and Cleopatra," and it is earnestly to be hoped that, on account of the great educational benefits accruing from these trips, an effort will be made to arrange another excursion, which we are sure, will be as successful as that just passed. However that may be, the delightful Mistress Ford of Lily Brayton, and the fat, complacent, duped Falstaff of Oscar Asche will be photographed for ever on the camera of our memory.

ROBERT LASKER.



## Newcastle High School.

Since the school has been in operation for little more than six years, its history up to the present date must necessarily be a brief one though it is unique in some respects. Tuesday, 5th, June, 1906, witnessed the birth of the school, and since the very first day its growth and progress have been phenomenal. To the writer, looking back, it seems to have happened but yesterday, and it is hard to realise that in the short space of six years, the school should have made such marvellous strides. The school was opened with an enrolment of 28 three weeks before the Midwinter Vacation. In those three weeks 71 pupils were enrolled, and by the end of the year the enrolment was 95. At the beginning of 1907 it was 104.

The staff at first consisted of three teachers—the present Headmaster; Mr. T. Roberts B.A., L.C.P., now Lecturer in French in the Teachers' Training College, Blackfriars; and Miss L. Cole, B.A. On the first day of school, we used what is now called Room 2, but had you looked round, you would have seen neither chairs, blackboards, maps, nor school supplies of any kind; nothing in fact but the desks for the pupils. Everything else we borrowed from the Primary School, which occupied what we now call rooms 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, only 3 rooms being set apart for the High School.

The official opening took place when the school was re-opened after the Midwinter Vacation. All the pupils were assembled in rooms 1 and 2, which were amply sufficient to accommodate them all. The chair was occupied by Mr. Senior Inspector Beavis, and among other prominent public men present were the Right Revd. Dr. Stretch, Bishop of Newcastle; Alfred Edden Esq., M.L.A.; P. Board, Esq., Director of Education; Mr. W. Cann, Mr. Dick, and others, and a very interesting meeting was held.

At first we had great difficulty in deciding on a motto for the school, and several meetings of the pupils were held and all sorts of suggestions made, till at last Bishop Stretch came to our aid and suggested that splendid motto which you see on the wall of the Science Room—Remis Velisque—a most suitable motto for a seaport school, containing besides, the secret of all success in life.

One of the first things we did was to form a Junior Class of pupils studying for the junior examination of 1907. We had many doubts and fears as to their chance of success, not knowing very well yet what Newcastle boys and girls were capable of doing. The number we sent up was 13, and we were well satisfied when 10 were successful—4 being Matriculation passes. Before this however, I should mention that Mr. Roberts had been removed to his present position, his place being taken by Mr. C. Christmas, B.A. The first Science Master was Mr. Theo. Flynn B.Sc., now of the University of Hobart. As the science laboratory was not yet equipped, the science classes went to the Technical College to receive lectures. This was not a convenient arrangement, and we were glad when our own laboratory and science room were equipped. The Science Master's time was at first divided between Newcastle and Maitland High Schools, and only probationary students were taught science.

In this year (1907) we held our first Annual Sports' Meeting, which was an unqualified success. The different events were keenly contested and the proceedings were watched with great interest by a large and appreciative body of spectators. The first Speech Day was held on December 18th. Mr. Beavis being in the chair, and the science room being comfortably filled by the pupils and their friends.

This brings us to the year 1908. The staff of teachers was increased to 4 by the addition of Miss Niau, and on her removal to Sydney later on, her place was taken by Miss Mitchell. The enrolment remained about the same as in the previous year. This year our "Junior" result was 14 passes out of 16 candidates sent up—5 being Matriculation passes. We had 4 passes in the Senior, several of these obtaining Matriculation honours in French and Mathematics. We also had 5 successful candidates for Scholarships at the Teachers' Training College. In fact the school may be said to have entered by this time on that wonderfully successful career, which has culminated in the brilliant "Junior" result of 1912. Meanwhile Sport and Athletics were not being neglected. Football and Cricket Teams were in operation among the boys and Tennis among the girls. The 2nd Annual Sports' Meeting was held on November 4, and proved as successful as its predecessor. In this year a school library was formed, consisting of over 300 volumes, the necessary funds being provided by subscriptions from the pupils, along with some assistance from a few of the leading citizens. In those days that genial veteran, Major Mulholland, used to visit the school once a month, to give drill to the pupils, and all looked forward to those visits, for the Major was deservedly popular, as well as an excellent drill master. The Manual Training Room was erected but no teacher was appointed for some time.

In 1909 the enrolment rose to 131. This year witnessed the first appearance in our midst of the present English Master, Mr. J. W. Hayes, B.A. Previous to his arrival Mr. MacMiles was with us for a few months. Mr. E. McKinnon, B.Sc., replaced Mr. Flynn as science master. During a temporary illness of Mr. McKinnon, his duties were performed by Mr. Giddy of the Technical College staff. Our Junior pass was 18 passes out of 19 candidates; 12 being Matriculants. The Senior result was 5 passes, 4 being full Matriculation passes, 2 gaining honours in Mathematics. 11 scholarships at the Training College were gained by our probationary students.

The usual sporting arrangements were made through the year and the 3rd Sports Meeting was held on November 3rd, everything passing off successfully. A team of footballers in charge of Mr. Hayes visited Sydney, and played two matches—one with Fort St. which we lost, and another with a combined team, when fortune smiled on us. A class for manual training was formed, principally from the probationary students, under the charge of Mr. Jones. The work of the school was represented at the Public Schools' Exhibition in Newcastle, by a number of models made in the school by the pupils giving practical illustrations of modern methods of teaching the properties of solid bodies, wire models illustrating the conic sections and various propositions in solid Geometry and Trigonometry.

This year also witnessed the formation of an ex-pupils' union, whose objects were to keep up the connection of the pupils with the school after leaving it, to maintain the friendships they had formed while at school, as well as to promote the mutual improvement of the members. During the Christmas Holidays every year a dinner is held, at which as many as 100 ex-pupils have sat down, with the Head Master as President in the chair, supported by one of the local school inspectors, and some members of the staff. A pleasant evening is spent with songs, toasts, recitations and general conversation.

A number of prizes were presented on Speech Day to the most deserving pupils. The medal for Dux of school (presented by Mr. Raysmith) was won by Leslie Howell. The prize for most popular boy, decided by vote among the boys, fell to Terry Harris; a similar prize among the girls was awarded to Miss Ruby Billett. The prize for the best Junior pass, Gilbert Jones, &c., &c.

In 1910 the number of pupils was 160. Miss Cole was removed to Sydney, and her place was taken by Miss Niau who returned to us after a visit to the Continent of Europe. Mr. MacKinnon was appointed to a position in the



Department of Agriculture as working Botanist. Mr. Hallett joined the staff, his time being divided between the High School and the Day Continuation School. The Junior result was 22 passes out of 23 candidates—9 being matriculants and 3 being Commercial Junior passes. Charles Harrison carried off the medal for geometry. For the Training College, 18 out of the 25 candidates gained scholarships, and Miss Rosie Brown came third in the list of female candidates for the State. For the Senior, 12 candidates sat and all passed—7 obtaining full matriculation passes. Honours at matriculation were gained by Miss Doris Raysmith in French and Mathematics, and by Miss K. Bertram in French. Altogether during this year, 74 pupils passed different public examinations.

In sport our boys distinguished themselves by winning the football competition against Maitland High School, and in honour of the victory a supper was held by the winning team, at which in addition to Mr Senior Inspector Walker, the Headmaster and Mr Hayes, a representative from Maitland High School was present.

The Fourth Sports Meeting was held as usual. At the prize distribution, Mr Walker's prize for the pupil who had brought most credit to the school was won by Charles Harrison. Mr. Finney's prize to the pupil showing in the highest degree the spirit of helpfulness to others, was awarded to Miss Elsie Richards. The dux medal was won by Miss Doris Raysmith.

In 1911 the enrolment had risen to 209 and several new teachers were appointed; Mr. Cowie replaced Mr. Christmas; Miss Spence and Messrs. A. M. Smith and R. Edwards (Science) joined the staff. The Junior Results were 25 passes out of 27 candidates—13 being matriculants. The Training College pass was 17 scholarships out of 22 sent up. In this examination Miss Doris Raysmith highly distinguished herself and brought great credit to the school by being bracketed with a candidate from Sydney as first among the female candidates for the whole State. Three sat for the Senior, all of whom passed, and likewise gained honours at matriculation. In the competition football matches both the A and B teams won the rubber, as was also the case in cricket. The girls were very successful in their tennis matches with other schools. In a tennis match between the boys and girls of the High School, the boys won, but the girls since then have turned the tables on them, so that at present "honours are even." The fifth Sports Meeting took place on 11th October. At the prize distribution the dux medal was awarded to Gilbert Jones; the Mayor's Prize for the best boy pupil was won by Eric Thomas, while his prize for best girl pupil was divided between Misses Nellie Saunders and Irene Bellamy. Mr. Walker's prize for pupil taking greatest interest in the welfare of the school—Miss Doris Raysmith; Mr. Finney's prizes for best translations from Latin and French into English, Misses Raysmith, Saunders, and Bellamy; Headmaster's prize for best Junior Pass, H. Jenkins; best Senior Pass, Gilbert Jones; also prizes were presented to the best pupils in every class.

I need not say much about 1912, except to call attention to the extraordinary increase in the number of pupils. The enrolment is now over 300, and we occupy the whole building, the last remnant of the once famous Newcastle Superior Public School, having disappeared at the end of 1911. Many new teachers have joined the staff, whose names are familiar to all present pupils. In examination we have distinguished ourselves very highly, thanks to Basil Helmore, who in the junior examination carried off the blue ribbon, by winning the University Prize for general proficiency among male candidates, as well as the medal for geometry, and obtained the somewhat rare distinction of 7A's. Allan Richards obtained a prox. acc. in Arithmetic. This being our last "Junior" these distinctions are very gratifying. The 24 candidates sent up were all successful. Other examinations this year have yet to follow, but judging by our marked and unflinching success in the past, I do not think we need entertain any doubts or fears as to the results.

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