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THE ERASMIAN.

DECEMBER, 1917.



Editorial.



WE have now come to the end of another year, and the festive season once more approaches. It is to be feared that the festivity with which the Christmas season is usually attended will have to be greatly modified this year. There is a general shortage of food all over the country—tea, sugar, butter and many other articles are well nigh impossible to obtain—and therefore we must try not to waste what little food there is coming into the country in Christmas-tide rejoicings. However, "What can't be cured must be endured," and we must try and make the best of it.



This year we renewed our custom of having a public prize distribution. For the last two years this has been a private event, but this year it was resolved to invite the parents to see the boys getting their prizes, and to hear the Headmaster's report. The array of books on the platform this year was hardly as imposing as in former years, as many of the boys gave the value of their prizes to the Red Cross funds. The Headmaster's report will be found on another page. In addition to the prizes given to the Red Cross, there was a collection in school on "Our Day," and several boys took collecting cards. See our School Notes.



Our Football team, notwithstanding one or two bad defeats, has had a very successful term. All its matches have been against teams very much heavier than themselves, but they have always managed to render a good account of themselves. The Junior Cup team this year is probably one of the best we have had for a long time, and has had a very successful season. We expect great things from it when the Cup-ties take place.

School Notes.

SCHOOL will re-open after the Christmas vacation on Tuesday, January 15th.

* * *

The collection in School on "Our Day" realised £3 0s. 9d. The following boys took collecting cards and collected in all £29 2s.

NAMES OF COLLECTORS

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		
J. E. Allen ..	..	1	3	0	J. E. Jones ..	..	2	6	0
E. N. Bardon ..	..	0	1	11	L. H. G. Macbeth ..	..	1	0	0
R. C. Buchanan ..	..	0	15	5	R. P. M'Garrigle ..	..	0	7	10
W. G. C. Buckley ..	..	0	5	6	G. A. Mackay ..	..	1	8	9
H. J. Byrne ..	..	0	3	6	W. J. L. Moore ..	..	0	8	0
R. C. H. Charles ..	..	0	8	6	C. Paton ..	..	0	2	0
E. R. Colwill ..	..	0	16	6	H. R. S. Pitman ..	..	0	18	0
R. H. Colwill ..	..	1	1	0	J. H. P. Rogers ..	..	1	3	6
A. G. Cowan ..	..	0	7	0	D. D. C. Swayne ..	..	1	4	0
D. Deakin ..	..	0	10	0	G. E. Taylor ..	..	1	0	0
C. E. G. Digges ..	..	2	8	6	B. D. Thom ..	..	0	10	0
D. S. Doig ..	..	0	2	4	H. C. Thompson ..	..	0	4	3
R. S. Doig ..	..	1	11	0	G. B. Thrift ..	..	1	5	0
J. R. W. Fleming ..	..	0	16	0	G. S. Wallen ..	..	1	2	9½
F. G. W. Fosbery ..	..	0	1	6	W. W. Watkins ..	..	1	6	7
J. Gill ..	..	2	2	0	S. Woods ..	..	0	7	6
W. R. M. Hewitt ..	..	0	14	0					
J. C. Hopkins ..	..	1	0	0					
					Total	£29	1	10½	

* * *

The High School Exhibition of £25 a year for four years was won this year by W. B. E. M'Crea.

* * *

He was very little ahead of W. H. Thrift, who won a Junior Exhibition of £20 a year for two years, and has also been awarded a First Class Statutory Exhibition by the Board of Governors.

* * *

M'Crea and Thrift both gained the distinction of winning Entrance prizes in Trinity, M'Crea for National Science (the only prize awarded), and Thrift for Experimental Science.

* * *

M'Crea has entered the Medical School; as also has Gordon Mack, who won the High School Exhibition last year.

* * *

Thrift has joined the O.T.C., and is hoping to get a Commission in the Engineers.

T. V. Harris and F. R. Swayne were up for the Entrance Examination for Sandhurst in November.

* * *

Mr. E. S. Ellwood is now a Captain in the Loyal North Lancashires.

* * *

Mr. Wyon is being appointed Staff Captain to a Brigade.

* * *

W. M. Levitt (1911-16) has been successful in winning a City of Dublin University Scholarship of £40 a year for three years, tenable at University College, Dublin.



Notes on Old Boys.



THE School has obtained another "Military Cross," the fortunate winner being O. V. Burrows (1900-02), Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Captain G. H. Weldon (1900-04), of the South Persia Rifles, has been mentioned in despatches for conspicuous services.

R. Worthington-Eyre (1905-12), now Corporal in the Australian Contingent, who was wounded in the arm at the taking of Thiepval last year, is doing good service at the base at Rouen.

Captain T. M. H. Stratford Tuite, M.C. (1906-10), Connaught Rangers, has again been wounded.

Lieutenant G. R. Thomson (1906-10), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has been wounded.

Lieutenant H. C. Dodds (1909-15), swimming in the Tigris, met Corporal Spence (1911-13), in the middle of the river for the first time since leaving School.

Second Lieutenant Ernest Robson (1908-09), eldest son of Major J. T. Robson, late of Dublin, has been promoted permanent Lieutenant. Lieutenant Robson left Dublin in 1912, and shortly after coming to England entered Durham 'Varsity, where he was a member of the O.T.C. At the beginning of the war he was gazetted to the Durham Light Infantry. He proceeded to France and was through the whole of the Somme battle. He is now doing coast defence work in England. His younger brother, J. C. (1909-12), is at present on the staff of the corps artillery in France, and was seriously wounded last July.

J. Mackay (1908-17) has now obtained his Commission in the Munster Fusiliers.

Gerald Bateman (1905-16), also Lieutenant in the Munsters, has been seriously wounded, but is better.

G. O'Grady (1894-96) is now Major in the South Irish Horse, and is as popular in France as he was at home.

G. S. Appleyard (1891-97), Second Lieutenant Leinster Regt., who was severely wounded in Gallipoli, and went out to France in September, has again been wounded.

J. Farrell (1910-13) has obtained a Commission in the 6th King's Royal Rifles.

H. Thrift, F.T.C.D. (1891-1901) has been appointed Junior Proctor in Trinity College.

I. Cornick has entered Trinity College, passed a Junior Freshman Examination, and entered the Medical School.



The Prize Distribution.



THE Prize Distribution was held in the School Room, on Friday, November 23rd, at 2.30 p.m. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. J. A. Maconchy, J.P., presided and gave away the Prizes and Certificates. The following Governors were also present: Most Rev. Lord Bishop of Meath, Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Clogher, Mr. J. Andrew, Mr. A. Purser, Very Rev. Dean of The Chapel Royal. Apologies were received from the Right Hon. The Lord Chancellor, Professor W. E. Thrift, F.T.C.D., Rev. Principal Kingsmill Moore, D.D., Sir Wm. J. Goulding, Bart, Rev. Professor H. Lawlor, D.D., Captain Carden, D.L., Sir Wm. Mahon, D.S.O., Mr. A. H. Lee-Norman, Mr. R. C. De Versan, J.P., and Mr. R. A. P. Rogers, F.T.C.D. Prize winners were given the choice of books or certificates, certificates being awarded to those who surrendered the value of their prizes to the Red Cross Funds, a privilege of which a large number took advantage. There was a large attendance of parents and friends.

The Headmaster's Report was as follows:—

IT is three years ago since we met in this room for a public distribution of Prizes. In 1915 and 1916 the prize distribution was held here privately, with the intention of resuming public functions after the War, but there are obvious disadvantages in private distributions, and it is desirable that we, the parents and governors, masters and pupils, should meet from time to time and talk over the school and its work. We have, therefore, resumed to-day in a modified form our annual public gathering. We wish you to see and to hear how the school is progressing. Every year we have made changes or improvements and these have continued to be made even during the War. A school, like a living organism,

must not stand still, and like a living organism it must be judged as a whole and by the work of all its parts together. If, therefore, a report is now presented to you of the different parts of its work it is only for the sake of convenience and in order to enable you better to understand its work as a whole. The report will deal in order with (1) Religious Instruction, (2) The Intermediate Examinations, (3) University Distinctions, (4) Physical Instruction and Games, (5) The School and the War, and lastly (6) The War and Education.

Let me first mention two other points in connection with the school. First there has been one change on the School Staff. Mr. Timms, who was our Drawing Master for over eight years and also took the greatest interest in our cricket, left us last term, and his place has been taken by Mr. W. R. Wilson who possesses the highest art qualifications open to a Teacher in this country. The other point is this, that the Governors have spent during the past summer nearly £100 in installing new heating apparatus in several of the Class Rooms.

1. Religious Instruction.

In Religious Instruction the work is carried on partly by the Form Masters and partly by the Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Catechists, and pupils from Form III C. upwards, whose parents do not object, are prepared and entered for the examinations, held on the second Friday in December, in syllabuses drawn up by the Church of Ireland Synod and the Presbyterian Assembly respectively. These syllabuses are identical except where the special formularies of the two churches are concerned. Last December when the standard of passing was raised from 30 to 35 per cent. and the standard of prizes from 60 to 65 per cent., the school passed 48 boys in the Church Examinations and obtained 15 Prizes, and 9 boys in the Presbyterian Examinations and obtained three Prizes. In Greek Testament we obtained the First Place both in the Church Examination and in the Presbyterian Examination, the successful candidates being W. B. E. McCrea and S. Smyth respectively; and this was the third year in succession in which the school gained this double distinction. I do not think there is anything that contributes more to a proper understanding of the New Testament than a knowledge of the original Greek. For our religious teaching we are much indebted to our Catechists, the Rev. C. C. W. Duggan, B.D., now Rector of Tallaght, who since our last meeting has taken the place of our old friend Dr. Carleton who was connected with us for so many years, and the Rev. A. W. Neill, M.A., of Greystones. The latter is this winter away in France doing Y.M.C.A. work in the war zone and in his absence the Presbyterian class is very kindly being taught by the Rev. J. Snowden, B.A., of Blackrock. I may add that last year the syllabus was in some respects an experimental one and differed in some particulars from those of previous years.

In the opinion of many schools it was not altogether satisfactory, but the courses for this year and next are a considerable improvement. In religious, as in secular knowledge, it is better to aim at quality than quantity, and to be thoroughly taught a short course rather than to be taken hurriedly over a long one. I am glad to say that the Church's education Committees are in this matter asking for the co-operation of the heads of schools.

2. The Intermediate Examinations.

In the Intermediate Examinations held last June our percentage of passes was much above that of Ireland as a whole, the number passing being 34, 9 with honours. The results were very satisfactory all round, especially in the Junior and Senior Grades. In the Senior Grade 8 boys passed, 2 with honours. In the Middle 6, and 2 with honours, and in the Junior 20, 5 with honours. In the Senior Grade W. E. Abbott won the medal for Chemistry and a £3 Prize in the Science Group, and E. W. Scales won the first £3 Prize in Classics. (As he was a year under the limit of age he will be able to enter again next year in the Senior Grade). In the Middle Grade L. Hayman obtained a £3 Prize in Classics, and N. Shaper a £2 Prize in the Modern Literary Group. In the Junior Grade P. Coleman obtained a First Class Exhibition in Classics, besides qualifying for a Second Class Exhibition in both the Modern Literary and Science Groups and for a £3 Prize in Mathematics; R. E. Maguire obtained a second Class Exhibition in Classics, and qualified for Prizes in all the other groups. W. C. G. Proctor and L. S. Simon obtained Prizes in Classics and Mathematics respectively. Three boys obtained full marks in Arithmetic, all the boys passed in Science in the Senior Grade and all but one in the Junior and Middle Grades respectively; and all the boys entered passed in Greek and all in the Senior and Junior Grades in Latin.

The Rules of the Intermediate Board are not altogether easy to understand or explain, especially as they change so much from year to year. Last year the Board introduced for the first time a Written Examination in Experimental Science and Drawing for Pass Candidates. This continues also for the present year, and in addition there is a further change with regards to Mathematics in which a pass will be essential in three Mathematical subjects instead of only two as this year. The other conditions of passing remain the same.

3. The University.

In Trinity College we have gathered a sheaf of excellent distinctions this year. They would be remarkable in any year and are especially so this year, when so many of our old boys have either left the University, or foregone a university career for service in a higher cause. In the next few years it must not be expected that the school will be able to record a long list of honours in Trinity. Last year at the examination for Entrance

Exhibitions we had only one candidate, Gordon S. B. Mack, who however won the first place and the High School Exhibition, which in consequence of his winning the first place, was increased in value by the Board of Governors from £25 to £35 a year for four years. This is the ninth time since 1900 that the school has won the first place at this examination. Mack also won a Classical Sizarship and four entrance prizes (three firsts and one second). Finally he obtained the high distinction of winning the second Classical Scholarship last June, while still a Junior Freshman before the end of his first year in college. Other old boys also won high distinctions. G. K. Carpenter in June won the First Science Scholarship and earlier in the year the Jellett Prize for Science; and two old boys distinguished themselves at the Moderatorship Examination. L. J. D. Richardson, at the end of a remarkably successful University career gained the highest possible honour by winning the University Studentship of £100 a year for five years in Classics, repeating the success of another High School boy Max Nurock, the previous year, and like him obtaining First Senior Moderatorship both in Classics and in Mental and Moral Philosophy. He has since been elected Auditor for the current year of both the Philosophical and Classical Societies in College. H. V. Thornton won Junior Moderatorships both in Classics and in Modern History. A. J. Beatty gained First Place and Prizes both in French and English Law and in Continental and Criminal Law. M. T. Craig and W. H. Stone both obtained First Classes in the Final Engineering Examination and are now at the front; and among others Maurice Nurock besides a First Class at Little-Go obtained First Place in Chemistry in the Medical School. We have also several old boys in the Medical School of the College of Surgeons where in June J. Steele and R. T. Stoney completed their courses with distinction and R. S. Wayland passed the second year examination with honours. Finally, at the Royal College of Science last June W. E. Abbott, whom I mentioned above as winning the Medal for Chemistry in the Senior Grade, won a Teachership in Training, *i.e.*, an Exhibition of £42 a year with free tuition for four years.

4. Games and Exercises.

On the side of Physical Training this year the most important development has been the introduction of systematic Swedish Drill and Gymnastics throughout the school. This is now part of the regular school course and classes are held twice every week, in the Swedish Gymnasium. In order to encourage the boys a medal was awarded at the end of the summer term to the best boy in each form. Out of school hours the regular clubs went on as usual, with two exceptions. Under the Defence of the Realm Act the military authorities refused to sanction the Rifle Club which was therefore obliged for the time being to suspend its existence, and owing to the military authorities being in possession of the

Sports Ground at Ball's Bridge, we were also again compelled to postpone our Athletic Sports. The Football Club under the Captaincy of H. Bell had a successful season and two members of the team, Bell himself and T. V. Harris were chosen to represent the Leinster Schools in the Interprovincial Games. Harris was by general admission the best school three-quarter in Ireland last season. The cricket season was most successful. The Junior eleven worked its way into the final for the Junior Schools' Cup when it was beaten, but the Senior eleven with S. Smyth as Captain was unbeaten in the Cup Matches and won the Senior Schools' Cup, defeating Masonic School in the final by seven wickets. The School was represented on the Leinster Schools' team by S. Smyth, E. W. Scales and B. W. A. Russell. In order to encourage the swimming of the School the Games' Committee in May promised to give a medal to the best swimmer in each form at the end of the season. The competitions were held at the Iveagh Baths on October 4th. There were also Junior and Senior handicaps for which prizes were giving, and also a Special Diving Handicap for which Dr. Sheill, an old boy, presented a gold medal which was won by N. J. Mather. The contests were so successful that we propose to repeat the event next year. I would also like to call the attention of parents to a special swimming class for beginners, which is held separately from the swimming club. It is a small class meeting twice a week after Easter in which each boy gets separate instruction and the swimming instructor charges a special fee of 10/- for the season.

5. The School and the War.

The School, like all Protestant Schools in Ireland, has taken its part in the war just as much as any English public school. Although there is no conscription here, it is for our boys hardly necessary. As they reach the age for service they are nearly all only too anxious to serve. We have now between four and five hundred Old Boys who have joined His Majesty's forces, and three of our Masters are at the front—Mr. Wyon, Captain in the S. Staffordshires, who is now on the Staff of a Brigade; Mr. Elwood, Lieut. in the North Lancashires; and Mr. Slade, Lieut. in the Essex Regiment. During the year seven boys have gone to Sandhurst, while the School has subscribed £50 to Red Cross work. Since my last Report the following distinctions have been awarded to Old Boys:—Four Military Crosses have been won by Capt. E. H. Alton, Fellow of Trinity College; Capt. H. V. Stanley, of the Royal Army Medical Corps; Capt. T. M. H. Stratford Tuite, of the Connaught Rangers; and Capt. O. V. Burrows, of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Two Military Medals have been won by H. T. Henley, of the Royal Irish Rifles, who was afterwards given a Commission and has since been killed, and C. C. Woods, of the Leinster Regiment. J. A. O. Fitzpatrick, of the Indian Civil Service, has been made a

Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire, and has been specially thanked by the Viceroy of India for distinguished services in the war on the Indian frontier; and Major H. S. M. Carter, D.S.O., of the Army Medical Corps, has been given the Order of St. Sava by the Serbian Government. A number of other Old Boys have been mentioned in despatches and been promoted. Many, I regret to say, have been wounded or taken prisoner, and the Roll of Honour of those who have been killed has grown in number from 29 a year ago to 45 at the present time. The names of the 16 who have fallen during the year are as follows:—

Capt. H. G. Alexander,	Third Australian Imperial Force.
2nd Lieut. P. F. T. Burns,	13th King's Liverpool Regiment who was mentioned in despatches after his death.
2nd Lieut. D. L. Fletcher,	Leinster Regiment, who had been mentioned in despatches for his services during the rebellion last year.
Corpl. W. J. Francis,	Army Cyclist's Corps.
2nd Lieut. A. F. Gibson,	Leinster Regiment and Royal Flying Corps.
G. J. Gibson,	Canadian Cavalry Brigade.
2nd Lieut. J. H. Hancock,	Royal Engineers.
2nd Lieut. H. T. Henley,	Royal Irish Rifles, who had previously won the Military Medal.
Capt. A. B. E. Hillas,	7th Gordon Highlanders.
Capt. E. W. P. V. Leach,	Royal Irish Rifles, who was also mentioned in despatches after his death.
2nd Lieut. C. S. Marchant,	Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
G. T. Sadleir,	Australian Contingent.
2nd Lieut. H. A. Sloan,	Royal Garrison Artillery.
Corpl. Jas. Smyth,	Royal Field Artillery.
G. E. Stephenson,	Canadian Infantry.
Lieut. L. G. Worthington-Eyre,	Royal Garrison Artillery, who had also previously been mentioned in despatches.

I trust when the war is over we shall have some permanent memorial in the School in memory of the Old Boys who have fallen and given their lives for the great and righteous cause for which we are contending.

6. The War and Education.

I should like, in conclusion, to say a few words about the present position of Secondary Education in Ireland. The war was bound to call increased attention to the importance of educa-

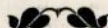
tion, to quicken interest in it, and to hasten reforms. This has been so to a striking degree in England, and Ireland has not remained outside the range of this movement. But even before the war the necessities of Irish education were receiving attention. Since our last public distribution the Teachers' Salaries Grant—sometimes called the Birrell Grant—has come into effective operation, and as far as this School is concerned the Board of Governors have devoted the whole of our share of the grant to the improvement of the salaries of the Assistant Masters. The Act embodying this grant also contained provisions for establishing a Register of Intermediate Teachers in Ireland; a registration council representative of different educational interests has been meeting now for nearly two years, and although it has met with several delays, I think as a member of the council I am justified in saying that the register will next year be in the course of effective operation. This is a matter of importance not only to teachers as securing to them the status of a proper professional body but especially to the public as a register which insists on a high standard of qualifications both academical and professional should lead to a great improvement in the personnel of the teachers engaged in our schools, and therefore to a higher standard of education. These two improvements—the Teachers' Salaries Grant and Registration—are valuable in themselves, but they are not by any means adequate. Secondary education in this country is in need of far greater financial support than it receives at present. Owing to the large increase in the number of boys and girls receiving Intermediate education, the grant per head received from the Intermediate Board is only about one-half of what it was ten years ago, and the Teachers' Salaries Grant of £40,000 by no means makes up even the whole of the deficiency. When, therefore, in the spring Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Education in England, introduced into Parliament his sweeping scheme of reform for English education with largely increased grants of money from the Treasury, the bodies interested in Irish secondary education pressed upon the Chief Secretary the importance of securing an equivalent grant for this country. The Intermediate Board supported this claim, and at the same time put forward a large scheme of reform. Unfortunately, owing to the disturbed state of the country, educational improvements cannot receive the attention which they deserve from public men or the Government, and although Mr. Duke told a deputation which had the honour to wait upon him that he had obtained a grant for Irish secondary education from the Treasury, the amount will not be more than one-half of what Ireland is entitled to claim. Ireland is entitled to an additional £100,000 a year. The new grant, it is expected, will be £48,000. This, although a considerable sum, is not sufficient to enable effective reform of Intermediate education to be made, and all thought of this must for the present be postponed. If the country realised, as is realised in England and Scotland,

how important and urgent it is that our education should be radically reformed not merely in Intermediate schools but generally in all its branches, Primary, Secondary, and Technical, it would insist on the task of improvement being taken in hand immediately. Reform is, however, proceeding, and I trust this report is a guarantee, that the High School has during the past year done good work and made good progress. For what has been done my thanks are due first to the support of the Board of Governors, secondly to the loyal co-operation of my staff who have supported me in every part of the school work, and lastly to the boys and their parents.

The Chairman, after distributing the prizes, said that he was very pleased to see the boys and parents again, and to have the opportunity of saying how pleased the Board of Governors were with the work and progress of the School. What struck him especially in the report was the wide range of the high distinctions which the pupils of the School had won—in Classics, Mathematics, Science, Law, Medicine, Engineering, Divinity—as showing that the School laid a broad and proper foundation of education. The athletic distinctions also appealed to him, especially the winning of the Leinster Schools' Cricket Cup. Besides it was from the spirit inculcated on the playing field as well as in the class room that there had been produced that un-failing supply of public schoolmen, of which the High School had contributed its share, which had proved the backbone of that glorious British army which was fighting our battles with such distinction in all parts of the globe in the great struggle for law, freedom, and righteousness. He wished also to say that it was only when they listened to such a report as they had just heard that they recognised how complicated a piece of mechanism the work of a school like theirs was, and how many sides of it must be attended to and controlled, and he, therefore, desired to pay a special tribute of praise to the Headmaster and to the able staff that supported him.

The Bishop of Clogher also spoke. He said he was the Senior Governor present, and had now been connected with the School for many years, although owing to his living away from Dublin he could not take such an active part in the work of the Board as formerly. What struck him in the report was the order in which the different parts of the School's work were taken. Religious instruction was put, and rightly so, in the first place, then came the intellectual part of the work, while the games came next. He wished to impress upon the boys that they should observe the same order in all that they did.

The benediction was pronounced by the Bishop of Meath, after which the meeting ended with the singing of the National Anthem.



Football.

GREAT interest has been shown in Rugby this term, especially amongst the juniors. The 1st XV. have improved immensely since the beginning of the season, and when the cup ties come round should give a good account of themselves. The forwards are on the light side when compared with other schools, but they should remember to break up from the scrums much more quickly, and get across the field to help the backs to tackle. This is where a light pack should always shine.

The backs must kick more in the twenty-five, and not pass so much on their own line, as this is fatal to any side. This year we have an "Under 13" team which has done well so far, in that it has not yet suffered a defeat. If this team can be kept together for three years it should prove a useful side.

HIGH SCHOOL v. WESLEY COLLEGE (League).

This league match was played at Lansdowne Road on October 20th. As the teams had played a scoreless draw the previous Saturday, great interest was taken in the game. The School attacked for the greater portion of the first half, and Milligan was almost through on two occasions. From a forward rush outside the Wesley twenty-five, McCrea picked up and eluding all opposition scored far out. Milligan hit the upright with the kick. From this to the end of the first half the School attacked, but the fine defence of Christy kept them out. After the interval the School attacked, but Wesley replied with a forward rush which brought them inside the School twenty-five. After several bouts of passing Lawson scored far out, but the kick at goal failed. From this to full time neither side gained any advantage, and the result was another draw of three points each. Bell, McCrea and Isaacson were the best of the forwards, while Milligan and Scales showed best among the backs.

HIGH SCHOOL v. MOUNT ST. BENEDICTS.

This match was played at Belgrave Square on October 31st. The School kicked off, and were immediately in Benedict's twenty-five. There was some good passing among the School backs, but they could not score. Scales obtained the ball from a scrum, and dropped a neat goal. Half-time arrived with the School leading by 4 points to nil. In the second half the School forwards rushed to the visitors' line, and Hempenstall picked up, and although tackled fell over for a good score. Milligan converted with a fine kick. Benedict's now began to play with more determination, and had several bouts of passing. Murphy scored twice in the last five minutes, but neither kick was converted. Full time left the score:—

High School 1 goal and 1 dropped goal (9 points).

Mount St. Benedict's 2 tries (6 points).

HIGH SCHOOL v. ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE.

This match was played at Belgrave Square on November 17th. The School kicked off, and St. Columba immediately attacked. For the greater portion of this half they hemmed the School inside their own twenty-five, but their passing always broke down, and they missed several opportunities of scoring. Half-time arrived with no score. At the beginning of the second half the School rushed play to the visitors' end, and remained there for a long time. By the aid of a free St. Columba got inside the School twenty-five, and Lyon feinting to pass scored a good try under the posts. Hopkins converted with a good kick. The School immediately attacked, and from a forward rush Bell scored far out, but the kick was too difficult to convert.

From this to full time the School kept the visitors in their own half, and Milligan and Isaacson almost scored. Full time arrived, leaving St. Columba winners by 5 points to 3.

HIGH SCHOOL v. BLACKROCK COLLEGE (League).

This league match was played at Lansdowne Road on November 21st. Blackrock had the advantage of the wind in the first half, and kept the School in their own half for a long time. Before half-time Blackrock obtained three tries, two of which were converted.

After the interval the School pressed for a long time, and should have scored. Bell and M'Crea were almost through, but dead ball robbed them of a score. Blackrock scored three more unconverted tries before full time. Although Blackrock won by 22 points, the score was not a fair indication of the play, as the School were worth at least one score. Bell, M'Crea, Milligan, and Scales showed up best for the School.

HIGH SCHOOL v. TRINITY ENGINEERING SCHOOL.

This match was played at Belgrave Square on December 8th. The ground was very heavy, which rendered back play difficult. In this match we tried a new arrangement among the backs, playing M'Crea and Isaacson in the three-quarter line. The result was a success, as we had the best combination this season. Trinity pressed for the greater part of the first half, but were unable to score owing to the fine defence of the School back line. Half-time arrived with no score. On resuming the School attacked immediately, and Trinity had to kick dead on more than one occasion to save a score. A grand passing bout between Scales, Milligan, and M'Crea nearly resulted in a score, the latter only being tackled on the line. The School had most of the play in this half but could not score, and the match ended in a scoreless draw. Bell, Bardon, and Simon played best among the forwards, while all the backs played so well that it would be impossible to single out any of them.

HIGH SCHOOL (J.C.T.) v. MOUNTJOY SCHOOL (J.C.T.)

This match was played at Belgrave Square on November 14th. Mountjoy pressed at the start, and for some time the School line was in danger. A free for off-side against Mountjoy found play at half-way. The School forwards led a rush up to the Mountjoy line, and Wright had hard lines in not scoring, only being brought down at the corner flag. Half-time arrived with no score. At the beginning of the second half Mountjoy crossed the School line, but off-side robbed them of a score. The School three-quarters got away, but a dropped pass spoiled the movement. From this to full time the School worked hard for a score, but the Mountjoy defence held out, and the match ended in a scoreless draw. Horan, P. Digges and Colwill were the best of the forwards, while Wright, May, Ballagh and Stephens showed best among the backs.

SENIOR CUP TEAM.

Full Back—MAGUIRE has found his place at full-back. He fields well, kicks neatly, with both feet and is a good tackler.

Three-Quarters—MILLIGAN is our best three-quarter. He is a sound tackler and has a powerful kick.

MCCREA has played forward for the greater part of the season, but has proved himself as capable in the three-quarter line. He is a strong runner and can adapt himself to any position.

MAY has a strong defence, but should learn to pass when tackled.

ISAACSON has a powerful turn of speed, and if given more opportunities would be our most dangerous three-quarter.

Halves—SCALES (outside half) is the most improved back in the team. His strong point is his kicking which has saved his side on many occasions. He is a sound tackler and knows when to open up the game.

MATTHEWS (scrum half) has improved very much from last season. His strong point is his defence. He should learn to get the ball away from the scrum in one motion.

Forwards—BELL (Captain) has proved himself a fine leader. He possesses all the essentials of a forward, but where he shines most is in the loose.

SIMON is a hard working forward, and with a little more weight would prove very useful.

CLARENDON works very hard, and is good at the line-out.

BARDON has played several good games this season and is very good in the loose.

MOORE should use his weight to greater advantage and help to bind the scrum tighter.

FARMER, although on the light side, justifies his selection on the team.

HEMPENSTALL is a forward of the bustling type and when near the line is dangerous.

CHILD will prove useful when he knows the game better.

PAISLEY has plenty of weight and with a little more training and knowledge of the game should develop into a fine forward.

JUNIOR CUP TEAM.

Full Back—BALLAGH, J. has played several good games. He fields and kicks well, but he must remember to tackle low.

Three-Quarters—WRIGHT is our best three-quarter. He has a great turn of speed and has scored a large number of tries.

STEPHENS is a sound back. His strong point is his defence. He should give his wing more opportunities.

FREEMAN is very safe, and can play in any position.

JOLLEY only commenced football this term and promises to be a fine three-quarter.

Halves—MAY (scrum half) is very sound both in defence and attack. His strong point lies in stopping forward rushes.

BALLAGH, V. (outside half) promises to be a fine half-back. He kicks well, and is a good tackler.

Forwards—HANAN, P. is a good leader of forwards, and is especially good in the loose.

COLWILL shows plenty of dash and dribbles well.

DIGGES is a forward who never spares himself, and shows best at the line-out.

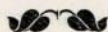
HANAN, J. is a hard working forward, and is a good hooker.

BECKETT has plenty of dash and promises well.

ANDREWS is very keen and when he knows the game will be good.

BELL although on the light side plays a hard game. He is especially good with his feet.

WILLIAMS is a useful player and can adapt himself to any position.



Experience of an Earthquake.



AT the end of July, 1917, Dr. Edgar Wilkins left Pongaroa (described in a former letter) and moved to a pleasant town 40 miles distant called Pahiataua, where he took up the practice of a

doctor, who was joining the New Zealand R.A.M.C. A few days after his arrival with his family at Pahiatua they had a terrifying experience, described by him in the following letter :—

“ Pahiatua, Nth. Island,
“ New Zealand,
“ August 17th, 1917.

“ The night before last will always be a memorable one to us, not with pleasure, but with horror and terror. At 3.20 a.m. we were waked out of our sleep by a fearful commotion, an indescribable shaking and tilting, rattling and clattering, moaning and wailing. It seemed like the end of the world. The house lifted up and travelled, as it seemed, two or three feet to the right, and then back again, to and fro, for about five minutes with an uneven jerking. Such an awful sensation ! I shall never forget it. Each side to side movement took about one second of time. You can imagine our feelings, suddenly awakened, to find the beds and the room and the whole house and the ground under it jumping and swaying and tilting, creaking and cracking like a packing case being broken open, and mortar rattling from the chimney on the corrugated iron roof. I cannot at all describe the feeling of helpless apprehension which we felt. We jumped out of bed and got Maurice (the baby) out on the veranda, and I was just going to get Ethne (the elder child) out too when it seemed to ease off somewhat, and gradually subsided.

“ One is in the habit of regarding the ground as something firm and stable, but when it begins to quake and sway and tilt so as nearly to upset one's balance, to rise in waves, to heave and rock like the ocean, it quite upsets one's ordinary calculations. E. (his wife) was quite in a panic for a good while and could not sleep any more. There were three or four smaller shakes during the rest of the night which served to keep up her terror. The next night I was out at a case, and to my horror there was another shake, not very severe, but I knew how it would terrify E. and I not there. There was another shake this afternoon.

“ All the chimneys in Pongaroa were knocked down, including the top part of mine (he had built a house there of wood). In the two-storey building of the Pongaroa Bank the oscillation must have been awful. The manager said he gave up all hope of the building standing, as each wave gave it an extra swinging movement. In some parts of the country the shaking was much more severe than at Pahiatua. In Tinui tanks were thrown down, and ranges shot out of their chimneys.

“ The brick five-storey houses in Dublin would not last long in a quake like that ! ”

[Early in August an earthquake in the south part of the North Island, New Zealand, was reported in English newspapers].



Our Contemporaries.

We beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following magazines:—Kilkenny College Magazine, St. Andrew's College Magazine, "Our School Times" (Magazine of Foyle College, Londonderry), Aberdeen Grammar School Magazine, Masonic Boys' School Magazine.



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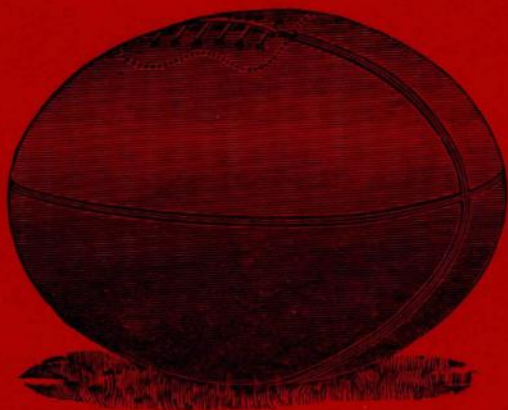
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