

THE ERASMIAN.

DECEMBER, 1911.



Editorial.



It has been said that there is only one season in the year, and that men spend the rest of the twelve months either looking backward or looking forward to that season. This is a remarkable statement, but there are the seeds of truth in it. Certainly there is no other portion of the year during which the world changes its appearance and manners to such a degree as at Christmas. We shall very soon be entering upon that joyous festival, and be plunged into the region of plum-pudding and turkey, with all their accompaniments, pleasant or otherwise. We would, therefore, in words that are old but by no means lacking in sincerity, wish all our friends, present pupils, parents and Old Boys a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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The passing of October and November has not wrought many changes in the school, but it has taken away from us several old friends, notably Max Nurock. He has entered Trinity College in a blaze of well-deserved success, obtaining first place at the Junior and Schools' Exhibitions Examination—thus repeating the performance of J. M. Barron last year—with full marks in both Latin and Greek *Viva Voce* and top marks in English Literature. He has also preserved the reputation of the High School for never failing to carry off Entrance Prizes by the remarkable achievement of winning Entrance Prizes in Latin Prose (1st), Latin Verse (1st), and in Greek Verse (2nd).

This is a very fitting termination to his brilliant career at the High School. Among other distinctions we recall that he obtained First-Class Classical Exhibitions in each of the three grades of the Intermediate, along with four Composition Prizes and two medals. Lastly, we may mention that he has guided the fortunes of the *Erasmian* ever since its revival, and that most successfully, partly in the capacity of Hon. Treasurer, and partly in that of Editor. We are, therefore, most happy to render this parting tribute to him on the page which he himself has so often adorned.

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We also miss Gwynn S. B. Mack, who took such a prominent part in all the school affairs. He had very hard lines in not obtaining a Junior Exhibition, since he showed himself of sufficient ability to obtain full marks in Greek *Viva Voce*. The

Governors have, however, awarded him a first-class Erasmus Smith Statutory Exhibition. To our late Captain, Joe Bell, we also hold out our hand in parting, though we still sometimes have the pleasure of seeing him in Belgrave Square.

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Our Annual Distribution was held on Friday, November 3rd, and proved a very great success. There was a large attendance both of parents and Old Boys, and the prizes were as usual distributed by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Provost of Trinity College. A fuller account is given elsewhere.

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It was with very mingled feelings that we sat down to write our first "Editorial," especially when we reviewed the work of our predecessors and again observed the excellence of their productions. An Editor's chair is not altogether the bed of roses that some imagine it to be, and we would impress upon all our readers that to produce a really successful number a plentiful supply of matter is essential. We now hopefully introduce ourselves to our readers with this admonition still fresh in their minds, so that they may benefit by it in the leisure of their Christmas Holidays.



School and other Notes.



THE Prizes and Medals awarded by the National Service League for the Essays on the British Empire and for the shooting victory at Ballsbridge were distributed in the School-room at mid-day on Thursday, October 5th, by Sir Gabriel Stokes, K.C.S.I.

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Max Nurock won the first place at the Junior Exhibition Examination in Trinity College this October, thus carrying off the High School Exhibition (augmented by £10 a year for winning the first place) of £35 a year for four years. He has also been awarded by Trinity College the first Board Exhibition of £20 a year for two years, and further won at Entrance the First Prize for Latin Prose, the First Prize for Latin Verse, and the Second Prize for Greek Verse.

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G. S. B. Mack has been awarded by the Governors a First Class Statutory Exhibition, and C. H. York a Second Class Statutory Exhibition.

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J. C. Duncan and A. J. Callaghan have been called to the Irish Bar. J. C. Duncan commences his legal career with the highest possible distinction by winning the John Brooke Exhibition of £50 a year for three years awarded by the Benchers of the Hon. Society of King's Inns.

F. V. Gordon has been appointed a Commissioner of Oaths.

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C. E. A. Ferguson has been appointed to a Clerkship in the Sun Insurance Office.

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W. J. Francis has passed by examination into the Valuation Office.

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E. M. Norton (Sch., Sen. Mod.) has won a Senior Moderatorship (Supplemental) in Ethics and Logics. He has also been awarded the Bishop Foster's Prize in the Divinity School.

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In the Medical School of Trinity College we note the following distinctions :—

O. V. Burrows has passed the Final Medical Exam. Part II. on high marks.

E. H. Wilkins and I. H. Powell have passed the Final Part I.

H. M. Daniel has passed the Final Freshman Arts Exam. for Medical Students.

N. Stratford Tuite has passed the Preliminary Scientific in Physics and Chemistry.

B. Sher has passed the Preliminary Exam. of the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians.

W. S. Worthington-Eyre has passed the Junior Class of the Engineering School in Mathematics and Mechanics.

J. M. Barron has been awarded a First Rank Prize in Modern History in the Junior Freshman Term.

G. W. Holmes, who is playing three-quarters for Trinity First XV., has passed the Senior Freshman Supplemental.

MARRIAGE.

BARNES AND ROBINSON—October 18th, 1911, at the Merriion Hall, Dublin, by Mr. W. J. Lloyd, Dr. Alfred J. Barnes, 1 Charlemont Street, Dublin, to Maude, third daughter of John Robinson, Druminally, Portadown.



“Thunderbolt,”



ON 11th September, 1863, two convicts, by name Ward and Britten, escaped from Cockatoo Island and took to the Bush. Nothing was heard of them for a while till they put in an appearance on the Hawkesbury River, when a price of £25 was put upon their heads. As soon as “Thunderbolt,” as Ward called

himself, heard of this, he disappeared from the district, and when next heard of was in another part of the state. "Thunderbolt" was a splendid horseman, and fearless to a degree; much of his success in evading capture was due to a half-caste woman who was devoted to him, and assisted his escape several times when he was pursued by the mounted troopers.

One day he "bailed up" the Tamworth mail coach and rifled the bags, abstracting the money, cheques and orders; he then crossed the Namoi River to a public house and bought some grog, and was engaged in drinking it when three troopers rode up. An exciting chase followed, which ended in "Thunderbolt's" escape, although he was compelled to abandon the pack horse he was leading, in the packs of which the sum of £427 was found, the proceeds of the mail robbery.

Shortly after this a lad named Mason joined "Thunderbolt," and soon made a name for himself, as being as daring as the bushranger himself. The Royal Mail seemed to have an especial attraction for "Thunderbolt," as he continued to "stick up" mail coaches for some considerable time. When the pair were in need of provisions they made a descent upon some store, loaded their pack horses, and leisurely decamped.

A reward of £200 was offered after "Thunderbolt's" audacious robbery of the Tamworth Singleton Mail, but he still defied capture, till suddenly the news arrived that two troopers had captured him—nearly. They had come upon him in a clearing pulling on his boots preparatory to catching his horse, but on seeing the uniforms he dropped boots and bridle and made off.

After a chase of about a mile the outlaw escaped, but within an hour he was seen on the Borah Ranges in company with Mason. In the hot chase that followed the two outlaws became separated, and Mason's horse becoming exhausted, he was captured, "Thunderbolt," however, escaping.

Late in '67 he called at a house near Muswellbrook and implored shelter for the woman who had served him so faithfully and was now dying. This was granted, and the woman passed away, just before the police arrived.

For the next three years he led a lawless existence, being frequently pursued by the police, but in 1870 his varied career came to an end. He had "stuck up" an inn near Uralla, and one of his victims had managed to get away to the town and warn the police. Two troopers, Mulhall and Walker, set out, and Mulhall coming up to the inn, fired on the bushranger, who immediately took to the scrub, Walker in pursuit. Coming to a large waterhole, "Thunderbolt" dismounted and plunged in, hoping to give his horse a rest, and entice the trooper round the hole, so as to get him away from the horse. Walker, however, saw this and, first shooting the animal, he rode at the bushranger; his horse, being urged on, stumbled and fell into the water, "Thunderbolt" at the same time springing on him and endeavour-

ing to drag him from the saddle. After a struggle in the water, Walker managed to draw his revolver and shoot the outlaw through the body, he then clubbed the weapon and beat the bush-ranger over the head with it. Seeing "Thunderbolt" weaken, Walker sprung from his horse and dragged him to the bank, where he expired in a few minutes.

The money "Thunderbolt" accumulated has never been found, though a lad, bird's nesting on the Goulbourn River, found an oil bottle full of £5 notes. What became of the rest of the spoils is unknown.

"CAPTAIN STARLIGHT."



The Prize Distribution.



OUR annual distribution took place on the afternoon of Friday, November 3rd, and was attended by a very large gathering. After the Head Master had read his report, which is given below, the Provost distributed the prizes, and then delivered his presidential address. He first complimented the Head Master on his excellent report, and then went on to deal with the evils of the present day education.

After the distribution the visitors were entertained by the Governors to tea in the board-room.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT.

I HAVE the pleasure this afternoon to present to you for the third time my annual report as Headmaster of this school. I am thankful to be able to say that never has the High School during my tenure of office been more flourishing and in a sounder condition both in tone and in work than it is at this present moment. That this is the case you will I hope see for yourselves from the statement I am about to make. The spirit of a school is a most elusive thing to describe, and it is only possible to form some conception of it by calling attention to some of its external features, and this I shall proceed to do. These external features are an outward index of the work going on within, and you must take them in that sense. The influence a school is having in moulding boys' characters, whether by contact between master and boy, or between boy and boy, it is not possible to describe, and yet this is the most important factor in a school; it affects all boys whether dull or clever, and a good atmosphere in a school has the greatest bearing in making all boys, whether bright or the reverse, straightforward in character and successful in after life. Now I say without hesitation that the tone and character of this school is at present higher and better than at any time I have known it to be, and I will add that, as good character implies

honest work and industry, it is under such conditions, and such conditions alone, that a school does its best work and secures its best intellectual results.

To take the external features of the past year, I shall begin by saying that the numbers on our school roll last quarter were 224, the highest total for many years. In the next place I have to record improvements in our school premises, of which the two chief ones are these: First, the main school buildings have been fitted with electric light, which has among other things proved of great assistance in the use of the lantern for class purposes, especially in the teaching of geography. The second is that the Governors have kindly granted the use of the Board Room as a classroom, thereby adding to the accommodation for teaching purposes.

I will now give some account of the results achieved by the school in external examinations. The work of the school is affected by three outside bodies, the Board of Intermediate Education dealing with secular instruction, the Synod of the Church of Ireland together with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church which deal with religious instruction, and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction which deals with the teaching of Experimental Science and Drawing. The first two of these three bodies hold external examinations at which our pupils compete. To take the Intermediate first. Last year the school passed 32 candidates, this year it passed 43. This, viz., the number of candidates passing the examination as a whole, is the best test of the work done for the Intermediate, the standard of passing being a very high one, and it shows this year a marked increase. The number was well spread over all the Grades; in the Senior Grade 6 candidates passed, 1 with honours; in the Middle Grade 9 passes, two with honours; in the Junior Grade 10 passed, 4 with honours; and in the Preparatory Grade, in which there are no honour papers, 18 passed. Two of our boys won very high distinctions, and two others won prizes. In the Senior Grade L. J. Richardson attained the very highest possible distinctions in Classics. He won the First Classical Exhibition of £40; the medals for first place in both Greek and Latin; and the first prizes of £4 each both in Greek and Latin Composition. I may add by way of parenthesis that this is the second year in succession that we have won the first place in Latin, and in Latin Composition in the Senior Grade. In the Middle Grade W. H. B. Mack also did remarkably well. He was second in Greek, and won a first class Classical Exhibition of £25, and the first prize of £3 for Greek Composition. In the Junior Grade G. K. Carpenter obtained a £3 prize in the Experimental Science Course, and D. G. Lawson a £1 prize in the same course, while in the Preparatory Grade, F. S. Marchant obtained full marks in Geometry. In the Church of Ireland Scripture Examinations held last December, the following is a

summary of the results gained by the school. In Greek Testament 9 boys passed, 4 winning first class prizes and 2 second class prizes ; in the Senior Grade 8 boys passed, 1 winning a prize ; in the Middle Grade 18 boys passed, 5 winning prizes ; and in the Junior Grade 37 boys passed, 1 winning a first class prize, 2 second class, and 9 third class prizes. In the Presbyterian examinations 4 boys passed, 3 winning prizes, viz., a second class prize in Greek Testament, a first class prize in the Middle Grade, and a second class prize in the Junior Grade. Summing up in Religious Knowledge, 76 boys passed, winning 27 prizes, 6 first class, 7 second class, and 14 third class.

The third external body I mentioned was the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. This body does not examine but only inspects. There are two new features of its work affecting the school which I may mention. In the first place, in addition to its courses in Experimental Science and Drawing, it has this year introduced a new course in Physical and Commercial Geography for students who have passed through the first two years' work in the preliminary course of Science and Drawing. I wish to call the attention of parents to this new course. It is well adapted for boys intended for commerce, or business, or the Civil Service. Mr. Cousins has been recognised by the Department as qualified to teach this course, and a class has been formed for it in the school this term. In the second place, its inspectors used to pay a formal, I may almost say a state, visit towards the end of the school year, and held what was called a special inspection, which was, in fact, a practical examination. This year no such special inspection was held except for candidates for honours, and it is understood that such general special inspections will, as a rule, be held in future only once in three years. The Department has thus ceased to rely upon any kind of external examination as the test of the work done in the school in its subjects of Science and Drawing, and as its point of view is entirely opposed to that of these people who rely upon examination as the important test of progress, it is well to note that its work is quite as efficiently done as the work in other subjects, and this in consequence of four things. These are, first and foremost, properly qualified teachers, *i.e.*, teachers possessing certain attainments of a high standard both practical and theoretical which are laid down as essential by the Department ; secondly, the classes must be small ; in Science the limit is fixed at 20, which may not be exceeded without special permission ; thirdly, the sound courses of instruction based upon past experience, coupled with a proper distribution of hours ; and, fourthly, periodical visits of the Department's inspectors. As a result the programme of the Department is carried out quietly, effectively, and without friction ; and, what is further important for the school management, its grants to the schools are made on a definite basis, known beforehand, easily understood and calculated upon the attendance of the boys coming under instruction. The

programme of the Intermediate Board, on the other hand, is accompanied by constant change, constant friction, and constant agitation. For the changes made this year, for example, parents should read a short article in the last number of the *Erasmian*, the school magazine. This condition is not altogether the fault of the Board. It would, no doubt, gladly adopt to a large extent the methods of the Department, but this is at present impossible. The Intermediate Board and the Department differ in two important respects. The Intermediate Board was established in 1879 when people believed in payment by results. If a boy passed an examination the institution to which he belonged was paid something for him, and if he did not it received nothing. So far as the Intermediate Board was concerned we are still under the system, the only civilised country that is. The Department was started in 1900 when people had given up that belief, and therefore based its system of payment upon a capitation grant; the institution does so much work, teaches so many boys and gets a proportionate payment. The second point of difference is: there is no limit to the grants at the disposal of the Department; the payment is at a fixed rate, and if the number of pupils taught increases the grant increases. With the Intermediate Board, however, this is not the case. The money at its disposal is partly a fixed sum derived from the interest on £1,000,000 of the funds of the Disestablished Irish Church, and partly a constantly decreasing sum derived from what are known as the whiskey duties, so that the schools are actually receiving from the Intermediate Board only about one-half of what they received a few years ago for the same work. The Intermediate Board has, during the past three years, appointed Inspectors, and would certainly like to make further sweeping changes, but it is tied to the examination system and the system of payment by results by the Act of Parliament, and until the Act of Parliament is changed no radical alteration is possible. There are, however, signs of coming change. In my report two years ago on this platform I asserted that "the decrease of funds available for Intermediate Education in Ireland is a matter of national concern, when we find that other countries and in other parts of the kingdom the sums devoted to secondary education are constantly being augmented." At length during the past year the Government has admitted the claim of Ireland for more funds, and it has agreed to give a certain amount to begin with, and to increase it as time goes on, devoting the money in the first instance to two objects. The first is the linking up of primary and secondary schools by a scheme of scholarships, and the second is to improve the position of assistant teachers in Intermediate schools. The latter is the only one of the two objects which will effect an improvement in our schools, and in my opinion it can only be effected by a system of registration of teachers with proper qualifications such as the Department insists upon. At the present moment it is only through the love of their work and the

devotion to it on the part of the teachers that the public get the excellent education which they do in some Intermediate schools; and in our school in particular I cannot speak too highly of the help which is given me by my own staff whether it be in or out of the school. I desire to insist that you, the parents and the public, have the same interest as ourselves in demanding that the Government shall treat Irish Secondary Schools with the same generosity as similar schools in England, Scotland and Wales. I have been led into this digression by mention of the educational bodies which affect the school. I will return now to the successes achieved in other directions, and especially Trinity College. At the Junior Exhibition Examinations—held in Trinity College, in October, 1910—on the result of which the High School Exhibition is awarded, J. M. Barron repeated the success often previously obtained by pupils of this school of winning first place, and in consequence the Governors in his case increased the value of the Exhibition by £10 a year, from £25 a year to £35 a year for four years (Nurock also this year). Barron also won an entrance prize for History and Geography. Of the former pupils in Trinity I will mention E. M. Norton, who won a Senior Moderatorship in Classics and a prize of £20; P. Campling, who won the Mullins Classical Exhibition, the First Prize in Ecclesiastical History, and the First Archbishop King's Divinity Premium, and the First Bishop Forster's Divinity Premium; N. B. White, who won a prize for Classics in the Fellowship Examination; J. H. Barbor, who qualified in the Army School for a Commission in the Army; A. C. Richardson, who took his degree in Engineering with special distinction for practical work; and C. C. W. Duggan, who took the degree of B.D. As a larger number of boys is now entering College from the school, we are looking forward to the number of distinctions being maintained and increased. Of distinctions won elsewhere I may mention R. R. Wilson, who passed the examination for Woolwich last December; G. S. Harriss, who won, last July, a Royal Scholarship of £50 a year in the Royal College of Science; R. L. Valentine, who has passed the London Matriculation with first-class honours; W. A. Cochrane, who won a Boy Clerkship direct from school; while several boys were successful in obtaining clerkships in banks and commercial houses in the city. As you have the list of distinctions gained by former pupils in your hands, I need not go into further details. You will see that they cover Commerce, Divinity, Medicine, Law, the Army, Engineering, Experimental Science and Art. But it would not be right on this occasion to pass by one or two other honours relating to Old Boys not gained by examination. First, that of the Right Rev. C. P. D'Arcy, who has been transferred from the Bishopric of Ossory to the Bishopric of Down, Connor and Dromore; then that of Gerald Small, who has been appointed Inspector in the Indian Educational Service; and J. F. H. Leland

and A. C. Ellis, who were called to the Irish Bar last spring. And finally, among the names of Old Boys that must be mentioned this afternoon are those of two, who within a few days of one another died in India as martyrs to duty. I refer to Robert Ashe and John Cunningham. Robert Ashe is the last of a long line of Irishmen and Englishmen who have, in India, fearlessly risked and honourably sacrificed their lives in the cause of their country. In the summer of last year, as the district magistrate, he had passed sentence on the Tuticorin rioters, and there is little doubt that he was murdered as an act of revenge. It was on June 17th, as he was returning to his district from Madras with his wife, that he was shot dead by a Brahmin at Maniyachim Junction. Robert Ashe, who was only 38 years of age, was at the school from 1885 to 1891. He gained Exhibitions in all grades of the Intermediate, and entered Trinity with a Junior Exhibition and First Prize for English Literature. He won a Sizarship and also the Vice-Chancellor's prize for English verse with a poem on the Tercentenary of Trinity College. He passed into the Indian Civil Service in 1894, and went out to India in the autumn of 1895. In order to commemorate him a small committee of Old Boys who were his contemporaries are raising a fund with which they propose to put up a tablet in the school to his memory.

John Cunningham died suddenly of fever on July 3rd at Chota Nagpur, brought on by overwork. He was only 34 years of age, and was at the school from 1893 to 1895. He won Exhibitions in all grades of the Intermediate, and on leaving school entered the Royal College of Science and the Royal University, where he graduated with honours in science and with an Exhibition in 1899. In the Royal College of Science he won first a National Scholarship in 1897, and in 1900 a National Research Scholarship of £150 a year for three years, which enabled him to enter St. John's College, Cambridge, as a post-graduate student. He was then appointed in 1903 Professor of Physical Chemistry in Calcutta University. The school and the country may well be proud of such men as these, and the school that has produced them cannot be said to have laboured in vain.

A report would not be complete which did not mention the various clubs and societies connected with the school, which have all been carried on by the energetic aid of the masters with much success during the year. The Athletic Sports were held at Ball's Bridge on June 29th, when the School Championship was won by P. C. Bell. The Cricket and Football Clubs were both captained by Joe Bell with great success, and the Swimming Club during the summer, and the Rifle Club during the winter, were both well supported. The latter distinguished itself by winning the first place in the shooting competition held last June by the National Service League, open to all Leinster Schools. The Magazine, which has been better supported than ever, has now

lost its Editor, Max Nurock, who edited it for two years, and now hands over the duties to L. J. Richardson.

The facts which I have laid before you justify the claim I made at the beginning of this report—that in its many-sided activities the school is showing sound, healthy life. If parents wish their boys to get full value out of the school they should see that they take part, not merely in its work during school-hours, but also in its games and other interests. I insist on this, as our aim is to build up character as well as intellect, and to turn out boys who shall do us credit. I have much pleasure in presenting this report.



Football Notes.



THE record of the 1st XV. this term has been very satisfactory, as the following results of matches show:—

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Pts. for.	Pts. agst.
12	7	5	161	129

The chief contributors to the score have been—Marchant, Brennan, and G. Eyre. There has been a steady improvement in the team all through the term, and in some of the recent matches the form all round has been quite good.

The most difficult problem for the Selection Committee was the best arrangement of the backs, particularly the three-quarter line, but after much experimenting a settled order seems at length to have been arrived at. Our successes were due mainly to the forwards, whose footwork in the open and tackling is much above the average; but they have still much to learn in the art of close scrummaging, especially as regards clean and quick heeling. Their present game of keeping the ball to themselves will never succeed against an even slightly heavier pack who are well together in the scrummage, a fact which was very evident in the matches with Wesley College and Blackrock. Owing to the "splendid isolation" policy pursued by the forwards the backs have had little opportunity of developing combination, and it is towards improvement in this respect that the greatest efforts of the team should be directed. The backs are individually much above the average of recent years, and if they could combine better the effectiveness of the team would be greatly increased.

Lack of space does not allow of much individual criticism, but we must congratulate Brennan on his successful captaincy and his excellent all-round work as a forward. Of the backs, Mack has always been the most reliable, and he is the most improved player on the side. G. Eyre has been in remarkable form at goal kicking, and he is deserving of praise for his willingness in resigning his place as three-quarter and playing forward in view of the Cup matches. His inclusion has undoubtedly appreciably

strengthened the pack. Beatty, Craig, Gilligan, Marchant, Stone, and Warner have all enhanced their reputation. Hannon has been rather under a cloud, but he has suffered more than the other backs from the methods of the forwards, and lately he has shown signs of a return to his best form. Dunlop promises to be the best full-back we have had for some seasons. His fielding is neat when the ball comes to hand, but he is too slow in going for the ball when it is out of reach, and a similar remark applies to his tackling. He is also inclined to sacrifice safe touch finding for length in his kicking. Colquhoun has been very successful in his new rôle as forward, but he would be more effective with more shoving and less skirmishing. Duggan has been one of the hardest workers on the side, and it is a pity he is so light. R. Eyre has justified his selection on the right wing. He is fast and "nippy," but some of his methods are highly unorthodox.

MATCHES PLAYED.

October 7th.—Our fixture list opened with Wanderers' 3rd at Belgrave Square. We pressed strongly, and after ten minutes' play Joe Bell ran through for a try, which Eyre easily converted. A penalty goal, also by Eyre, quickly followed, and we had 8 points to our credit at half-time. Play continued in the Wanderers' half, and they were frequently forced to touch down. Before full time Eyre further increased our score with a dropped goal, and towards the end our opponents made great efforts, but no scoring resulted. Won by 12 points to nil.

October 11th.—St. Andrew's College at Donnybrook. Winning the toss we elected to play uphill, and for nearly thirty minutes the game looked like a scoreless draw. Just before half time, however, Stone had his kick charged down, which gave the College an easy try. We rallied at once, and until half-time the ball was constantly on the Andrews' line. On resuming we were confident of winning. But the unexpected happened, for our back division totally collapsed, and 2 goals and 1 try were registered against us. Brennañ and Craig, who were playing forward, assisted the "threes" time after time, while S. T. Gibson played an excellent game at full. Lost by 16 points to nil.

October 14th.—St. Columba's College at Rathfarnham. Rather than disappoint our friends by postponing this fixture, we sent them a second-rate team in charge of M. T. Craig. Six of our regular team had declared off on account of indisposition and injuries, so little need be said about the game, except that Craig made a fine leading forward, and Dunlop a first rate full back. After the match we were entertained to tea by the Warden. Lost by 42 points to nil.

October 18th.—Wesley College at Belgrave Square. The College pressed at once, but Mack relieved, and play settled mid-field. Through some mistake between Eyre and Dunlop a kick was not fielded, and Wesley following up scored a soft try. A

difficult penalty goal was safely landed by Eyre, but a second reverse later on was the turning point of the game, and three extra tries were scored against us, which were due to indecision and selfishness in our back division. Lost by 21 points to 3.

October 21st.—Palmerston 3rd at Belgrave Square. From kick-off the game scarcely ever left the Palmerston ground, and we obtained scores at frequent intervals. Our half-backs made full use of their opportunity, and the ball travelling along the entire three-quarter line wound up with a score. Goal-kicking was difficult as the match was played in heavy rain. It would be easier to name those who did not score, for even our "full" got his try. Won by 47 points to 3.

October 28th.—Old Wesley 3rd A at Belgrave Square. With the assistance of Messrs. Wyon and Jennings we were able to control a heavy pack. Hannon got the ball away cleanly, and Eyre, by drawing the opposition, sent Marchant over the line four times. Mr. Wyon, Brennan, and Craig each scored. Won by 1 goal and 6 tries to nil.

November 1st.—St. Stephen's Green School at Sandford. Remarkable for the fine display of our forwards, who gave the opposing backs no chance of setting up an attack. Gaining possession, nine times out of ten we wheeled the scrums and swept through the opposition, and only for a strong defence we would have scored more often. Brennan (2) and Craig scored tries, and Marchant converted twice. Brennan and Colquhoun were the outstanding forwards, with Beatty, Craig, and Gilligan coming next. Marchant was the most effective three-quarter, while Dunlop played a really good game at full, his fielding and touch-finding being first-rate. Won by 13 points to 8.

November 8th.—Blackrock College at Belgrave Square. In the first stages we were kept on our line, but soon the play fluctuated from one end of the field to the other. A forward rush, led by Brennan and Craig, crossed the 'Rock line, but a touch down spoiled. Half time arrived without any score. In the second period we collapsed badly—in the three-quarters, where Stone was the only defence worth mentioning. Our line was crossed no less than five times, while some unnecessary rough play by both sides spoiled the finish. Lost by 17 points to nil.

November 11th.—Masonic School at Clonskeagh. Soon after the start we were forced to our line, and had to touch down several times. Gradually worrying along, however, and keeping the ball with the forwards, Brennan scored from a scrum on the line, for Eyre to convert. A penalty goal followed, also by Eyre. Towards the end John Bell scored twice, one being converted by Eyre. The game was uninteresting from start to finish, being a struggle between the forwards, where we held a slight advantage. Our score would have been larger had our forwards not being so busy reproaching one another. Won by three goals (1 penalty) and one try—16 points to nil.

November 22nd.—King's Hospital at Belgrave Square. Starting vehemently, our first scrum was on their 25, when heeling out the ball travelled to Marchant, who scored a try far out, which remained unconverted. Encouraged by this success we began to slack off and let in the Hospital for an easy try. At half-time score was three points all. King's Hospital scored next by an unmarked half-back, whose score was not improved on. The game now became very bad, and several of our forwards commenced to give the captain unnecessary advice—a trick which should be stopped immediately. With a few minutes to go there seemed no chance of holding out our opponents, when Brennan, dribbling the ball the entire length of the field, picked up and kicked across to young Eyre, who scored under the bar. This was increased to 5 points by George Eyre. Full time was then whistled, leaving us lucky winners. Brennan and Craig were the only forwards who played the game, while the rest were accusing each other of the bad play. Behind the pack Mack played a fine game of defence, while John Bell was the best three-quarter. Won by 8 to 6 points.

November 25th.—Monkstown 3rd at Belgrave Square. Just after the start a penalty in front of the goal was converted by Eyre. The Monkstown forwards followed the kick-off, and regaining the ball from Marchant, scored their opening try, which was not converted. From this point the School forwards played a fine game, Mr. Wyon, Brennan, and Craig being conspicuous. From a scrum on the line Gilligan scored, and before the interval George Eyre added another penalty, and converted his own try. We now led by 14 to 3 points. On changing ends Monkstown gained several tries, and with a minute to go they kicked the winning goal. In the failing light the game might have ended any way at all, but earlier it was seen that the three-quarters could neither tackle nor pass, while both of the halves were uncertain. A bad referee further complicated matters. Lost by 3 goals (1 penalty) and 1 try to 3 goals (2 penalty) and 1 try.

November 29th.—Stephen's Green School at Belgrave Square. Though more open, this return match, being rather one-sided, was not so interesting as the previous game at Merton. Our backs got more of the ball than usual, and though they did not make the most of their chances, their display showed that they merit better treatment than they usually get from the forwards. Dunlop's fielding and touch-finding were poor, but he got very little to do. Stone was the best of the three-quarters, none of whom played badly. Bell did a lot of useful defence work, but his old fault of charging blindly with head down was much in evidence. Mack was in his best form, and Hannon got the ball out fairly smartly. The open footwork and tackling of the forwards was, as usual, very good, but their kicking was terribly slow and slovenly. Brennan and Eyre were about the best, and Warner was much in evidence. We won by 25 points to nil, our

rather complicated score being made up as follows:—1 goal (G. Eyre off his own try), 2 dropped goals (Stone and R. Eyre), 1 penalty goal (G. Eyre), 1 marked goal (G. Eyre), and 2 tries (Brennan and Mack). At least four other tries were confidently claimed, but the referee decided in favour of the visitors.



Junior Football.



THE following are the results of 2nd XV. and J. C. T. matches:

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Pts. for.	Pts. agst.
10	5	5	168	72

At full strength the 2nd XV. has been a good side, and would probably have won all its matches had it not on several occasions been weakened by the need of the 1st XV. The chief strength has been in the backs, but the forwards, if not very scientific, have played a hard game. It is to be regretted that owing to frequent scratchings by our opponents, and in spite of the most strenuous importunity on the part of our Secretary, there has been a scarcity of matches in the latter part of the term. We must hope for better treatment next term.

The "under 15" team is shaping well, and has won several matches. The backs promise to be well up to the average, but the pack is not strong enough. Much more dash and energy is needed, and unless two or three strong vigorous forwards can be found, we cannot hope for much success in the cup matches. There are several boys of the right age who have not played this term, and we hope they will see their way to help us after Christmas.



Football in the Lower School. .



IT is a healthy sign for the future of the club that it has almost fifty members in the Lower School. The practices on the upper field have been well attended all through the term. There has been many a hard and keenly contested game, but the best spirit has prevailed, and all taking part have greatly enjoyed themselves, including the referee, who has found sometimes to his surprise that the youngsters know the rules as well as their elders, and like Sarah Battle, love the "rigour of the game." Young boys should learn to play as much as possible in different positions, and it is satisfactory to record that there has been no difficulty this year in getting players to take the positions assigned to them.

whether back or forward. Another pleasing feature of the game is that the majority of those who play hardest are also good workers in school, and are thus early laying the foundation of that *mens sana in corpore sano* which is the chief aim of education. The following boys are deserving of special mention for their good play, keenness and regularity at practices:—Hillyard, Henchie, Hopking, Fletcher, S. Heard, Parker, Wright, Glover, and L. Miller, who have all played in twelve or more practices; and for improved play during the term we must congratulate Scott, D. Head, Carpenter, Pollett, Pedlow, Tate, A. Heard, Swayne, G. Tickell, Johnson, Saville, E. Miller, B. Tickell, and Nunns. We hope that more boys will join the club next term and get into form for the competitions at the end of the season.



“At a Spanish Bull-Fight.”



ONE goes to a Spanish bull-fight with something of the curious mixture of moods experienced by one of Mr. Lear's heroes—a mixture of fear, joy, remorse, pleasure and disgust. The excitement of others is infectious. One catches on the way snatches of conversation. “Morado is very brave. He will certainly kill his bull if he does not get killed himself.” “The matadors are not good. One or two of them are sure to be badly hurt.” “I have seen Verricio thrown eighteen times.” One begins to feel sorry for the matadors. They are going to have a bad time. They will probably be killed. It is a terrible thing to think of all these people going to see a matador killed. It is worse than terrible, it is disgraceful. I shall go on to see that the thing is done properly. The ring is, to use a charming Victorian phrase, in a fifteen flutter of excitement. White mantillas lend distinction to the dusky crowd. Fans are flashed; a polyglot babel arises to the heavens, amid which the “agua” sellers relentlessly continue to vend their “limpid ware.”

All take their seats in expectation. The barrier opens. A hush falls on the assembly. Two dejected horsemen in black make their appearance. They ride forward slowly, sadly. It is ominous. They have come to say that the matadors have escaped? No, it is all right. They cannot get away. They have merely sent to ask leave to have their suspense cut short. Leave is granted. At least they will die like brave men. The mournful horsemen disappear. The band strikes up a lively air of encouragement. The barrier is thrown open, and a glittering cavalcade, gilded and spangled, emerges. In front walk the three matadors, pale and calm. Behind them, in “serried rows of three deep,” walk their banderilleros, and behind them ride the picadors. It is a pathetic spectacle, and one is reminded of the splendid gladiatorial spectacles of ancient Rome, when as the schoolboy so

magnificently says, the gladiators stepped in with their thumbs up to show that they did not want to die. A hush falls on the assembly. The horsemen ride slowly to their appointed places; the nimble attendants in blue leave the ring. A barrier opens. Aha! the bull, the generous, magnificent, furious, simple-minded bull! He comes in at a trot, pauses in the centre, looks round for the enemy who has dealt him a blow in the passing, and advances on the nearest picador with an easy swinging trot.

The moment has arrived when it is considered time that his thoughts should be turned to more serious things. The persiflage ceases, and a picador on horseback is brought forward close to the bull. The horse is blinded and turned sideways to the bull. The picador points his spear. "Aha"! says the bull. "I'm afraid I can't miss you. You're too big. I'm sorry for you, but here goes." The bull goes, the horse goes, and the picador goes, and several English and American ladies also go. Those who remain witness two more goes at two more picadors; then the remains are swept up, and the surviving horses pass out. Aha! the banderilleros are ready. They have thrown aside their cloaks and stand vigorous, alert, and with well poised dart in hand, one fronting the bull and two waiting their turn. The banderillero facing the bull springs in the air, and poises his trim weapons. He is gathering himself up. They both run very swiftly. They pass each other. In the swiftness of their passing something has happened. The banderillero has turned in his flight, and now fronts the back of the retreating bull, and on the bull, decorating his noble neck, hang two long coloured darts, an adornment to his person which he recognises with a deprecating toss of his head. Thrice he is decorated, and thrice does he disdainfully shake his head as though to protest that he is worthy of better things, and then—ah! see now the great thing—the climax. The vast audience crane forward. The dartless banderilleros retire, and a little man advances carrying in his hand a scarlet cloak, veiling his deadly sword. It is the matador, the stealthy, sinuous, overbold, courageous matador. He is brave, is not afraid. Neither is the bull. Both are sure. Both regard each other steadfastly.

The moment has arrived, the supreme test. They close, a few passes with the red cloak—ah! the matador has turned, he has retreated; only two steps, but the crowd howl with indignation. That is not etiquette, that is not the game. He should have remained, he should have been killed. The bull has scored a point. Cloaks are waved, a diversion is created. The matador resumes his position. Paler, more resolute than ever, he faces the bull. This time he grips his sword firmly. There is to be no mistake this time. The combatants face each other at a few paces. Neither moves. Slowly the matador raises his sword. The bull lowers his head. Both charges simultaneously. The bull passes on. The matador turns, but the sword is no longer in his hand. The crowd remain silent. They do not yet know

if the *estracada* has been a good one. Only foreigners applaud a stroke that is too high or too low. But the matador knows. He moves with leisurely unconcern. The nimble gentry with their cloaks also know. They gather round the already staggering bull and wave their cloaks before his glazing eyes while he sinks cumbrously upon the ground. Now the applause breaks guardedly forth. It is not the appreciation of a masterly stroke. The hilt is a little too high. It is low enough for the bull. "No" says an old man, "the meat is worth little. It is tired." That at least is a fine touch. I think he must have come from the Argentine.

A. H. C.



Rifle Club Notes.



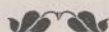
THE Rifle Club held its opening ³practice the first week of October with a slightly decreased membership of 19. We have lost G. S. B. Mack, our former Secretary, and R. M. Reid is now ably filling his position. We also miss the services of Mr. Telfer and A. Briscoe; Mr. Nichols very kindly presides over our meetings in the former's stead. Owing to the smaller number in the club we decided to amalgamate the Senior and Junior Divisions, so that all the members fire on the same afternoon. As regards individual scores, L. J. D. Richardson is as yet unsurpassed with a score of 43 out of a possible 50; R. M. Reid has scored 40 on three different occasions, being followed closely by J. R. Duggan and J. Kelly with 39 and 38 respectively. Kelly is a very consistent shot, and we look to him to perform great things in the future. D. E. Allen, W. H. Thrift, and H. G. Goodwillie, all shoot well.

The Club has been affiliated to the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs, which, among other advantages, exempts individual members from payment of a gun licence, and procures three handsome medals annually for competition among members. We will hold a competition for one of these before Christmas. It is hoped that the boys will continue to practice hard, especially if they wish to maintain the credit won at Ballsbridge last June, and hold their place as first in Leinster. In order to do this, the scores must be greatly improved, and that can only be done by constant practice to keep the hand and eye in training.

These notes would not be complete without an expression of our warmest thanks to the Sergeant for the excellent condition in which he keeps the rifles, and for the lively interest he shews in all matters concerning the welfare of the Club.

The scores and averages to date are as follows:--

Name.		Number of Practices.	Total Number of Points Scored.	Highest Individual Score.	Averages.
L. J. D. Richardson	..	8	442	43	36.8
R. M. Reid	..	7	366	40	36.6
J. R. Duggan	..	7	219	39	24.3
J. Kelly	..	6	144	38	24.0
W. H. Thrift	..	6	107	26	17.8
H. G. Goodwillie	..	7	124	22	17.7
D. E. Allen	..	7	134	32	16.8
J. D. McCarthy	..	8	127	34	15.9
V. A. Linnell	..	5	79	25	15.8
Mr. Nichols	..	6	141	35	15.7
H. H. Molloy	..	8	112	33	14.0
J. Farrell	..	6	108	28	13.5
R. S. Wayland	..	3	40	18	13.3
J. Mackay	..	4	52	22	13.0
W. B. Powell	..	6	67	24	11.2
D. L. Fletcher	..	5	55	24	7.9
D. J. Steele	..	4	20	11	5.0



Our Contemporaries.



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