

THE ERASMIAN

NEW SERIES.

VOL. XX. No. 15.

DECEMBER,
1929.

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Editorial	727	Annual Prize Distribu-	734
Pluck Makes the Poet	728	tion	734
School Notes	729	Headmaster's Report	734
Correspondence ..	730	Provost's Address ..	741
Results of Examina-		Sports and Games ..	741
tions	731	Obituary	745
Old Boys' Union ..	732	Marriages	746
Functions held during		Our Contemporaries ..	747
Past Year	733	Notices	747



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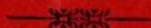
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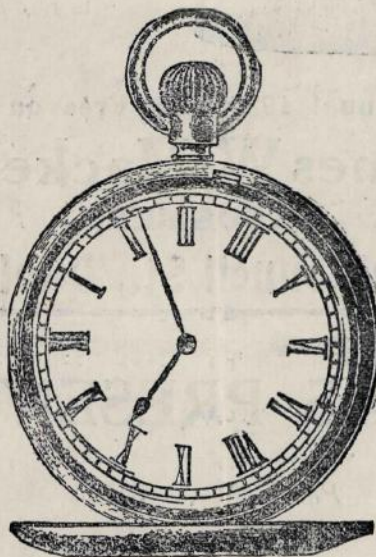
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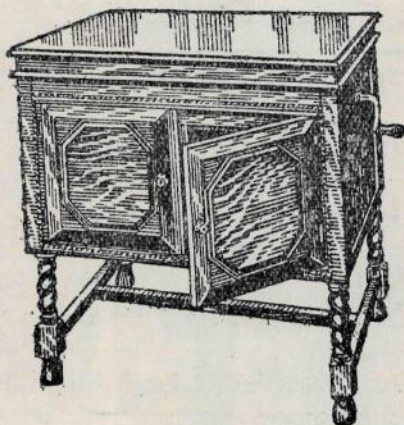
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- 1st Place: Port and Docks, November, 1927.
- 1st Place: Writing Assistants, April, 1928.
- 1st Place: Government Typists, November, 1928.
- 2nd, 3rd, 4th Places: Pharmaceutical Prelim., Jan., 1928.
- 4th Place: Army Cadets, June, 1928.
- 4th Place: Customs and Excise, July, 1928.
- 7th Place: Hibernian Bank, September, 1926.
- 8th Place: Customs and Excise, July, 1928.
- 10th Place: Customs and Excise, July, 1928.
- 11th Place: Royal Bank, June, 1927.

**Easter Scholarship, 1926, 1927, 1928: 24
Successes.**

University Successes. 1928.

- 10 Successes, Summer, 1928, Matriculation.
- 22 Successes, Autumn, 1928, Matriculation.
- 4 Successes, First Arts, Summer, 1928.
- 1 Success, B.A., Summer, 1928.

University Successes, 1926-27.

- 16 Successes, Matriculation.
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- 3 Successes, B.A.
- 4 Successes, Trinity Entrance.
- 3 Successes, College of Surgeons.

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(Hon. Sec.). (Captain). (Vice-Captain).

THE ERASMIAN

DECEMBER, 1929.

Editorial.

Floreat Semper H.S.D.! Now, although we are aware that a whole page has been devoted to them further on, we think it meet and fitting that the members of our Water Polo team should here be heartily congratulated for bringing back again to the School the Leinster Schools Water Polo Cup. As a result of defeating their old rivals, Belvedere, in the final, the Cup, ensconced on a shelf of the library, honours Alma Mater, and at the same time offers a challenge to the other branches of School sport. We hope that the challenge will be answered so well that the Water Polo Cup will soon have another specimen of the silversmith's art as a companion. Some people may regard this as irony—dramatic or otherwise—but we would prefer it to be taken as written in all sincerity.

And having given vent to these exuberant sentiments, we must now assume our most official frown and compose ourselves to the task of writing an editorial. But, on examining ourselves, we find that this frown is caused by something more than the dignity of our office; on further consideration we actually think that it is due to our having doubts as to the wisdom of writing an editorial at all. We would gladly make an innovation by having on the front page merely some dedicatory gem, such as: "To the scholars of High School—this Pearl." But should the veiled jibe in this be seen, Nemesis might overtake editorial pens, paper, and everything connected with that dignitary.

So with brazen effrontery we fall back on the time-honoured plan of writing an editorial which contains nothing but a Latin quotation, and grumbles about the scarcity of contributions. For we can state definitely that contributions are scarce—very scarce. We venture to suggest that the reason for this—to quote a proverb—is that "everybody's job is nobody's job." No direct appeal being made to their better feelings, the juniors leave the production of an ERASMIAN to the seniors and the latter leave it to the Editor, and so the official organ of the school is not what it might be.

If only boys could be made to realise that the ERASMIAN is not—or rather ought not to be—the child of the combined brains of some members of Sixth form, a great step forward in the solution of the contribution problem would be taken. However, the man that can do this is a better man than we are, Gunga Din!

Pluck Makes the Poet.

They say that when the snowdrops come, the happy Spring is
here again.

'Tis then the much-jeered artist sallies forth in "Rudolph" hat,

'Tis then the upper-story seems to go most awfully queer with
men,—

And the poet lets his hair grow long and wears a big cravat.

On April mornings early when there really isn't any sun,

The poet writes, the artist paints the glory of the skies.

The followers of Orpen and the worshippers of Tennyson,

If you pointed out their folly, would regard you with surprise.

They'd simply shake their heads and blink, and say "We really
pity you,"

And point up to the heavens as though everything were plain,—

And talk about "the great blue dome," and maybe sing a ditty,
too,

Although the sky were banked with clouds and the world were
drenched with rain!

To say that poets see most things as other people never could
Indeed is very justified and also very true.

—But though the others had the gift, there isn't one that ever
would

Make use of it, because he wouldn't have the courage to.

W.G.K.

School Notes.

The School re-opened on Tuesday, 3rd of September, at 9.30 a.m.

On Wednesday, 4th, and afterwards, at 9.25 a.m.! By so doing, half an hour is gained every week for class work.

Gymnastic lessons now take place in the Gymnasium, which is completely finished except for the installation of apparatus. We here wish it to be made known to all and sundry that the new Gymnasium is a very handsome building, and that it adds greatly to the appearance of the playground when seen from Harcourt Street.

During the summer holidays the experiment of making Belgrave Square available for use by the pupils was tried. A fair number of boys availed themselves of this privilege during July, but for the greater part of August the sheep had the Square entirely to themselves.

Owing to the division of the School into houses for purposes of sport, an additional rule has been made, namely: that boys of the various houses are forbidden to throw epithets at one another, either in the Playground or in Belgrave Square.

We congratulate F. G. Bestall on gaining First Place in the examination for the Royal Ulster Constabulary and 8th place in the Indian Police. He has accepted the latter and sailed for Burmah. We wish him every success.

In addition to a report and a copy of the ERASMIAN, there was sent last July to all boys' parents an artistically arranged Prospectus setting forth in detail all the activities of the School and everything connected with it.

We congratulate Mr. Shannon on being selected to play for Old Wesley 1st XV. This is the first time in seven years that one of the staff has played in senior Rugby.

The Library is being very well patronised by all, and Mr. Chillingworth, the librarian, is kept very busy by the onerous duties connected with it. He would be very pleased if anyone who has works of fiction or historical novels, which they no longer want, would give them to the library.

On Monday, November 11th, the School assembled in the clock-room at a quarter to eleven. The Headmaster gave a short address to the boys, in which he explained the purpose for which they were gathered there, and then read out the names of the old boys of the School who had made the supreme sacrifice. The two minutes' silence was then observed by all in the school.

This year we are producing part of the Acharnians of Aristophanes in Greek. We are very grateful to Miss Olive Purser, M.A., who is giving us invaluable help in preparing costumes. The production will be followed by a concert. Mrs. Begley is very kindly training the school choir, and we owe her a deep debt of gratitude for the time and labour which she is

giving to it. We look forward again to having Mr. Sealy Jeffares, who has kindly promised to help. We are very grateful also to Madame Heller for her valuable assistance. Our Old Beys, Messrs. Begley, Felton, Coomber, and May, are kindly helping to make the concert a success.

MR. G. A. Mackey (1914-1921) is training a School band. We hope to have it at the School concert and elsewhere, and are very grateful for his kindness in giving his time and skill.

* * *

Correspondence.

Dear Sir,—

I have, as a general rule, a great respect and admiration for the Department of Education and for their methods of conducting examinations. I am deeply touched by the precautions they take that their examination papers should reach us intact, and I particularly admire the dignified, yet picturesque, opening ceremony. I have no objection to their describing me as a "sgolaire," and I like their originality in printing the titles of the log tables at the bottom of the pages.

But I have one grievance. The Department of Education (I beg their pardon—An Roinn Oldeachas), realising that there are still some benighted creatures who are not thought-readers or Irish scholars, have, in most cases, in their official announcements put the English underneath in small type. Thus we learn that Fisic (P. & O.) means Physics (P. & H.), and that Précis means Précis. But—this is my grievance—on the large envelope which is supplied to put your Answer Books (if any) in, there is, in large type, the word RABHADH. AND THIS IS NOT TRANSLATED!

Perhaps we are meant to guess the meaning. It looks rather like rabbit; but what kind of rabbit? Boiled, roasted, stewed, or Welsh? Then, again, it may not be any kind of rabbit at all. It may be an April Fool, for all I know. But this is unlikely. The Department's humour is usually more subtle than this, and, besides, the examinations are not held in April.

The affair is of more importance than it may seem. The word RABHADH may indicate some important instruction, the neglect of which may spoil one's chances in the whole examination. I await with some trepidation an explanation from the Department which (presumably) it will be able to give.

Yours, etc.,

SGOLAIRE.

Results of Examinations.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 1929.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

G. F. Dalton—Passed with Honours.

A. G. Breakey—Second Place in Greek (examination not finished).

INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS.

E. A. Thompson—Passed with Honours.

J. H. Hawkins—Passed.

H. A. Penney—Passed.

The following candidates did not receive a Certificate, because they did not take Irish. Their marks in other subjects would have entitled them to a Pass or Pass with Honours:—
C. A. Boyle, J. D. Clarke, E. Croxon, F. W. J. Dungan, J. D. Durie, W. J. Kirkpatrick, J. H. Matthews, D. W. Rice, R. J. Walker, F. A. G. Willis (Honours).

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.

EXAMINATIONS FOR JUNIOR AND SCHOOL EXHIBITIONS.

A. G. Breakey—High School Exhibition (£100, with privileges as to rooms).

G. F. Dalton—Junior Exhibition and Erasmus Smith Statutory Exhibition.

W. Warnock—Junior Exhibition and Erasmus Smith Statutory Exhibition.

L. R. Rogers—Erasmus Smith Statutory Exhibition.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS.

G. W. Patterson—Entrance, Junior Freshman Term, Pre-Registration Examination for Medical School (First Place in Chemistry).

H. W. W. Good—Entrance, Junior Freshman Term, Pre-Registration Examination for Medical School (Fourth Place in Chemistry).

E. G. Curry—Entrance Examination.

H. W. Stephenson—Entrance Examination.

DEGREE EXAMINATION.

H. D. Anderson—Moderatorship in History and Political Science.

W. S. Glover—Moderatorship in Oriental Languages.

OTHER EXAMINATIONS.

R. W. Reynolds—Senior Exhibition.

T. N. Richardson—First of First Rank Honours in Experimental Science (Junior Freshman).

The Old Boys' Union.

President—The Most Rev. C. F. D'Arcy, D.D., Primate of all Ireland.

Secretaries—M. Bell and W. H. Thrift.

Treasurer—Rev. W. C. G. Proctor, B.D.

All Old Boys are invited to join the Union. Life subscription is one guinea, which may be paid in two annual instalments.

The ERASMIAN is sent free to all members. Contributions for publication will be welcomed by the Editor.

LIST OF MEMBERS AT DATE OF GOING TO PRESS.

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C. H. Anderson
Rev. H. J. L. Armstrong
A. J. Beatty
H. Bell, M.R.C.V.S.
Jno. Bell, M.R.C.V.S.
M. Bell
T. Bell
J. Bennett
A. Berman
D. W. Blackley
G. H. Blackley
S. Boothman
A. W. Breakley
R. L. Bryson
S. F. Bryson
F. Burgo
W. F. Burgess
E. H. Burne
G. B. Butler
R. Carson
W. H. Carson, K.C.
Rev. R. J. Charters
Rev. A. W. R. Cheales
H. D. Cobbe
R. K. Craig
T. S. C. Dagg
The Most Rev. C. F. D'Arcy, D.D.
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G. E. Draper
G. G. Duggan
E. S. Duggan
Rev. G. C. W. Duggan
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W. H. Thrift, B.A.
Capt. T. S. Tomlinson
W. C. Tomlinson
J. Thompson, M.A.
R. A. C. Waddell
W. A. H. Walker
J. Warren
F. Warren, M.D.
G. A. Watson, A.R.C.S.I.
Sir Wm. de C. Wheeler, F.R.C.S.I.
H. White
M. Wilkins, M.A.
B. L. Winslow
H. S. Wisdom
H. C. Woodcock
Stanley Woods
R. H. Wright
E. J. Wynburne

Functions Held during the Past Year.

A dinner on 20th March, which has been already reported.

A cricket match of Old Boys v. The School, which was won by the latter. The match was played at a Social Re-union at Belgrave Square on Saturday, 29th June.

A golf competition at the Grange Club. The Cup, which has been presented by the School, was won by Mr. J. Bennett, 72 (96-24); second, Mr. G. B. Butler, 74 (82-8).

The members are very grateful to the Grange Golf Club for allowing them to use the links; and also to Mrs. Watson, the ladies' secretary, for her help in organising the competition.

A dance on the 22nd November.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting was held on Monday, 28th October. The following is the description of the representative of the "Irish Times":—"An Old Boys' Re-union is an important event in the lives of most men. Its prospect gives hours of pleasant thought, and its actual occurrence moments of real joy. The mind reflects on the happy (and sometimes unhappy) days spent beneath the eagle eye of a master, but there is consolation to be found in the fact that those were spacious days when time meant nothing, except that the clock in the class-room suffered from a dangerous form of rheumatism which prevented it from functioning at a speed visioned by the school boy. A re-union is all the more pleasurable when the meeting is held in the actual room where the clock hangs high and domineeringly in the rafters.

"Such was that of the meeting of the Old Boys of the High School. They slipped into the forms as they did long ago, and while there was not the same agility displayed, there was a distinct air of hilarity about the proceedings. Little groups stood round the room discussing their school days. Impromptu excursions round the forms were made to re-discover names deeply cut in the wood, and rapid calculations made as to the amount by which the Sports Fund would have benefited had the shilling fine for all such engravings been extracted. A noise at the entrance door was the signal that the wit of former days had arrived, and while he advanced to take his place in "class," he "obliged" with a few words, the meaning of which was enough to encourage more laughter.

"Presided over by the Head Master, the meeting was occasionally pleasantly interrupted by what seemed to be political or such like arguments between groups of members. When it finished, the exit from the room closely resembled the dispersion of a class."

Next year's programme will begin with a dinner on the 17th January. All Old Boys are asked to join the Union and support its activities.

The Annual Prize Distribution.

Our annual Prize Distribution was held in the Clock-room on Friday, 23rd November, at 3.30 p.m. The Provost of Trinity College distributed the prizes, in the absence of the Chairman of the Board of Governors owing to illness, and delivered an address. The Right Rev. the Bishop of Meath also addressed the assembly. The following Governors were present:—The Rev. Canon Kingsmill Moore, D.D.; Mr. Alfred Miller, O.B.E.; the Rev. A. A. Luce, D.D., F.T.C.D., and Mr. A. L. B. Moore (Registrar). After the meeting the visitors and boys were entertained to tea.

* * *

The Headmaster's Report.

I am presenting to you to-day the report of the High School for 1928-9.

The School has now entered on the 60th year of its existence. During more than half a century it has played a distinguished part in the history of Irish education. A roll of the names of past pupils which is now being made in connection with the Old Boys' Union shows in a visible form how widespread its influence has been. It is estimated that at least 1,600 old High School pupils are to be found, many in prominent positions, not only in the British Isles, but all over the world. It still, I trust, retains its vitality undiminished.

Those of us whose duty it is to present yearly reports of Schools feel that it is by no means an easy task. Some of the most important things—the tone and spirit of the School, the influence in moulding the character of the pupils, other aspects of equal importance cannot be shown by figures and statistics at all. I am quite satisfied, after a year's experience, that the whole spirit of the School is excellent, and this is only what we should expect to be the result of Mr. Thompson's long influence upon it. There are, however, two aspects of the work of the School which can be put before you by facts and figures; first, numbers of pupils, and, secondly, examination results.

NUMBERS.

Most of the new pupils enter in the Autumn Term, and this year we have had the largest entrance since 1925. This is the most satisfactory, since, as you know, the number of available pupils is falling every year.

EXAMINATIONS.

Our examination record, too, is equally sound. For example, the successes at the entrance examination to Trinity College this year have only been equalled twice by the School during the past twenty years.

The system of conducting a thorough internal examination every half-year has been continued, and the prizes given by the

Governors are being distributed to-day. Valuable prizes have been presented by Monsieur Blanche on behalf of the French Government, to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude. The winners are G. F. Dalton (Leaving Certificate) and E. A. Thompson (Intermediate Certificate). The Carpenter Memorial Prize was won by T. J. D. Atkinson, and that presented by Dr. Fearon was awarded to D. T. Bardon.

In dealing with external examinations we shall first take those in Religious Knowledge, conducted by the Church of Ireland and the Presbyterian Assembly. One hundred and fourteen pupils passed, of whom twenty-six gained prizes, including First Place and a Special Prize in Greek Testament in the Presbyterian Division for the sixth year in succession. This was won by E. A. Thompson. Second Place was obtained in Greek Testament by G. F. Dalton in the Church of Ireland, and by G. F. Mitchell in the Presbyterian examination.

Most people now have only vague ideas about the meaning and value of the results of the Certificate Examinations which have taken the place of the old familiar Intermediate. Before they had become accustomed to the new system, compulsory Irish was introduced last year and caused complete confusion. The number of passes secured now is only a general indication of the number taking Irish.

In the last examinations the High School was credited with four passes. If Irish were not compulsory the number would have been fourteen, which would have placed it second amongst the Protestant schools.

A. G. Breakey gained second place in Greek in the Leaving Certificate, and the only boy in the Free State who passed in German, C. A. Boyle, came from this school.

UNIVERSITY RESULTS.

The Entrance Examinations to Trinity College during the past year had been most satisfactory. T. N. Richardson won the High School Exhibition (£100) in 1928, and F. G. Bestall an Erasmus Smith Exhibition. A. G. Breakey gained a Classical Sizarship in 1929, and has since been awarded the High School Exhibition. In the recent Junior Exhibition examination the School obtained three exhibitions, won by A. G. Breakey, G. F. Dalton and W. Warnoch, while L. R. Rogers was awarded an Erasmus Smith Exhibition. Only one other school gained more than a single Exhibition. All the High School's successful candidates were a year under the maximum age.

In the Royal Dublin Society's Irish National Art Competitions the first prizes were won by D. L. McKee and T. N. Penney. Many names of our former pupils will be found in the records of successes in the University and elsewhere. In Trinity College, L. J. D. Richardson was awarded a Fellowship Prize; A. W. H. Breakey gained the William Roberts Prize, and H. A. E. Egan the Edge Exhibition, while W. J. N.

Mackey won prizes in Biblical Greek, Chaldee and Syriac, Hebrew, Ecclesiastical History, Pastoral Theology, the Ryan Prize, and a Moderatorship in Mental and Moral Science. R. F. E. Dobbin gained three certificates in Engineering, together with the Alexander Prize and a prize in Geology. D. M. Mitchell won a Medical Scholarship, and was also awarded the Philosophical Society's Gold Medal for composition. D. B. W. Geon won the Silver Medal for Oratory, holding already the Gold Medal for composition.

In the Royal College of Surgeons E. A. Joyce won first prize and medal in Practical Anatomy, first prize and medal in Topographical Anatomy, the Story Memorial Gold Medal, and first prize and medal in Forensic Medicine. F. G. Bestall gained first place in the examination for the Royal Ulster Constabulary and eighth place for the Indian Police. At the Dublin Feis, R. J. Ross won the Fitzgerald Cup for Advanced Organ Playing, and D. W. Rice, still a pupil at the School, the medal for Senior Violin.

You will find in the pamphlet which has been distributed a record of many other distinctions, including a number of First of First-class Honours in the University and successes in Bank Examinations. I have only mentioned the most outstanding, but there are a few Honours conferred on former pupils which I cannot omit:—

The Most Rev. C. F. Darcy, the Primate, has been appointed Hulsean Lecturer at Cambridge for 1929-30.

Sir William de Courcy Wheeler was one of three surgeons chosen out of two thousand medical delegates to Egypt by King Fuad for the honour of a special degree.

Sir Bernard D'Olier Darley has had the honour of Knighthood conferred on him by the King: "In recognition of his outstanding services as Chief Engineer in charge of the Ganda Canal Irrigation Works, United Provinces."

Mr. Edward H. Burne has been selected President of Incorporated Law Society of Ireland for the present year.

I regret to have to record the deaths of the following Past Pupils:—

Sir Hildebrand Harmsworth, brother of the late Lord Northcliff.

The Rev. James Mitchell.

Dr. F. W. O'Connell, a distinguished linguist and a well-known public figure in Ireland.

Thomas Henry Frederick Read.

Stawell Llewellyn Heard.

Lastly, a schoolboy, John William Cecil Wilkinson, who left us last Easter on his election to the Commercial Travellers' School in England after his father's death. His death at the age of thirteen was deeply regretted by all who knew him here, and we extend our most sincere sympathy to his mother, who has lost her only boy.

NEW ACTIVITIES.

During this year we started several new activities. First of all, the Old Boys' Union, of which the Primate very kindly consented to become President. The Hon. Secs. are Messrs. Mervyn Bell and W. H. Thrift, and the Hon. Treasurer is the Rev. C. G. Proctor. The Union has held a dinner, a social reunion, with a cricket match against the School, a golf competition, and a dance. The Committee are grateful to the ladies who helped to carry out these functions, particularly Mrs. Watson.

Last December the boys produced a French play (part of Molières L'Avare), followed by a concert. I think that all who were present—and this room was crowded to the door—will agree that it was a great success, owing to the generous help received from Old Boys and others. I should like to thank particularly Madame Alicia Keogh, Madame Coslett Heller, Miss Burchill, Messrs. Sealy Jeffares, Coomber, May, Ross, Stafford and Begley. The French play was produced by Mr. Chillingworth, and the concert was organised by Mr. Dillon. The whole stage and scenery, a really artistic structure, was made by Mr. Wilson with ungrudging expenditure of time and trouble.

This year we are, perhaps, ambitiously preparing to stage part of the Acharnians of Aristophanes in Greek. We are most grateful to Miss Olive Purser, who is giving invaluable help with the costumes. We hope that the concert will not be inferior to that of last year. An orchestra has been formed, and is being trained by Mr. Mackey. There is no doubt that such plays as we are undertaking are a great help to make their work real and alive for boys, and I trust that all of you who can do so will support them. The profits will be devoted to the Games' Fund.

LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY.

The boys also established a Literary and Debating Society, which held a number of debates and began to arrange lantern lectures, including one by Dr. Fearon. We hope this winter to develop it further, and some of our distinguished Old Boys have promised to give us lantern lectures.

LIBRARY.

The School Library has been greatly increased during the year, thanks to the generosity of parents, Old Boys and friends, who have presented books. Mr. Chillingworth, the Librarian, finds a keen interest taken in it by the boys. Perhaps this may remind those present to examine their books and send us those suitable for boys which they themselves no longer want.

THE ERASMIAN.

The ERASMIAN was issued three times, once each term, and edited by G. F. Dalton.

GAMES.

As you all know, a new gymnasium has been built by the Governors, and we are very grateful to them for their generosity. Regular physical training is given, and boxing classes for senior boys are held twice a week.

Our chief success in sport during the season was the winning of the Leinster Schools' Water Polo Cup, after a hard struggle. The team was captained by R. S. Savage. We have won it for the second year in succession, our opponents in the final on each occasion being Belvedere College.

The Junior Cricket Team had a good record in the Leinster Schools' Competition. They were, however, defeated in the semi-final by Belvedere College, the winners of the Cup.

In the case of day-boys in all schools it is hard to secure general keenness about games except amongst those who are actually playing on teams against other clubs. This is not desirable, as games are for the good of all. During the whole of the past year two masters attended every day at Belgrave Square to train boys. They succeeded in improving the attendance, but much still remained to be done.

I think that the difficulty has been solved this term by the adoption of the "House" system for games. The school has divided into four "Houses," with distinctive colours. Each "House" contains a senior and junior team, so that all boys secure matches. It has been taken up enthusiastically by the boys. The members of the Staff who have organised it have taken much trouble to try to ensure success. To complete the system we now require some permanent trophy, such as a shield.

The annual sports were successfully held at Lansdowne Road in June. The Senior Championship Cup was won by H. W. W. Good, and the Junior by G. Begley. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the parents, Old Boys, and friends who gave us generous financial support, and especially Mr. W. E. Magill, who presented a permanent Cup.

A good deal of new equipment for games has been provided. A hot and cold and a shower bath have been put up at Belgrave Square, and a second dressing-room. A practice cricket pitch, completely fenced, with nets, has been constructed in an old garden behind the playground. In general, the outlook for games and sports is most promising.

I trust that I shall not detain you too long if I refer to a subject of educational importance to our schools.

Secondary Education in this country has improved in many ways, especially in the methods of examination and in the betterment of the position of teachers by financial grants, and recently by the provision of pensions. For all these things we are very grateful. There are, however, two main influences which tend to retard Higher Education :—

(1) The difficulty of finding recruits for the teaching profession owing to the conditions of registration, which are more stringent than in any other part of the British Isles.

(2) COMPULSION.

Lack of time forbids further comment on the first^t of these, but I think that we should lose no opportunity of crying out against the second—Compulsion.

An unprejudiced inquirer, who follows the controversy about the effect of compulsory Irish or secondary education must be somewhat bewildered. He will see it stated by excellent authorities that modern European languages have almost disappeared from the schools. He will also see, to his surprise, such statements as that made by Professor Tierney in a recent letter to the "Irish Times" that since Irish was made compulsory "it is well known that French has suffered little, if any, decline." As a matter of fact, both of these apparently contradictory statements are true. The figures are as follows:—Up to 1905, about 95 per cent. of boy candidates took French. In 1916 this had fallen to 69 per cent. By 1921, before the change of Government, it had fallen to 47 per cent. In 1924, the last year of the old Intermediate system, the number taking French was 23 per cent. This year, 1929, only 17 per cent. took French, and the only candidates in German came from this school.

What is the explanation of this marked decline? There was a growing tendency in all countries before the war to decry the old linguistic subjects of education and encourage what were supposed to be practical subjects, such as mathematics, history and geography, and various kinds of science, which led to our great material progress. Outside of the Free State there has been a strong reaction against this one-sided system since the war. I have before me as I write the figures for State-aided Secondary Schools in England. There has been an extraordinary revival and extension of Greek and Latin during the last ten years.

In Ireland we have continued to make obligatory a group of subjects which may be called Technical or Advanced Primary School Education. The following subjects are in some way compulsory or encouraged by special grants:—Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, History, Geography, Science, English, and Irish.

There is little time left, and no shadow of encouragement, for Greek, Latin, French or German. The result has been that if a School wishes to have its name blazoned in the papers for magnificent results, the best method is to expel the old Humanities and all modern European languages from the curriculum. When the results of the Certificate Examinations were published this year, one of our chief Dublin daily papers picked out two schools for special mention. One was described as having gained "the outstanding result" in the whole examination. Not one of its candidates took Greek, Latin, or any Modern Language. The other was stated to have gained "an unusually striking First Place" amongst all schools. In this case no candidate took Greek or any modern language, and less than half (63 out of 132) took Latin.

I do not believe that our rulers in Education are at all happy about the disappearance of modern languages, but there will be no improvement until they revise their whole system of obligatory subjects.

We are all obsessed by the idea of the necessity of Compulsion. Even the Universities are infected. It is quite easy to devise a scheme which will give perfect freedom in the choice of subjects, and yet insure a proper standard in the payment of State grants.

Those who believe in Compulsion in any subject have efficient weapons to enforce compulsion in one subject, and I believe that a fight against compulsion in general would unite many who are completely divided about compulsory Irish. Meanwhile we can only try in our own School to continue, as in the past, to teach what we believe to be best for the cultural development of our boys.

During the past year we have had one change of Staff. Mr. H. L. Doak left us after Xmas, to our great regret. In his place we have Mr. E. G. Shannon, who graduated with First of First-class Honours and a Research Studentship. He has been of great assistance in developing games.

The teaching of Manual Instruction has been extended. There are now four classes instead of two.

May I take this opportunity of asking parents to consult me at any time about home work if they think it is not satisfactory. Some of them, who have talked to me, think that there is not enough, and others that there is too much. Of course, no system can be devised which will suit every boy, and there must be uniformity in a school. I can only assure them that we are leaving nothing undone to see that it is adequate. I arrange personally to look at all the homework done by every boy in the seven most Junior Classes, and some of the Senior work also.

Before concluding, I want to thank my colleagues on the Staff for the assistance which they have given to me since I came here as a stranger last year. They have unhesitatingly taken up every suggestion, and have given much of their time outside of school hours to carry out schemes for the benefit of the boys. Above all, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and that of all the School to the Governors for the generous way in which they have met every suggestion, and for the many and striking improvements which have been carried out.

Provost's Address.

The Provost, referring to the report of the Headmaster, said that it showed every indication that Mr. Bennett vindicated the choice which the Governors had made in appointing him. He was very glad to notice that the School's record during the past year was as good as at any period in the past. He was also pleased that the Headmaster had found time to speak of sport, because that was a part of school life that deserved to have attention. He told of his own experiences of prizes, of work and of sport in the course of a very interesting speech.

The Bishop of Ossery was to have addressed the gathering, but he had, unfortunately, been taken ill with influenza, and his place was kindly taken at the last moment by the Bishop of Meath, who spoke to the boys of the threefold nature of their school life. First, he said, there was the physical building up. He was delighted about what had been said about attention to games, as there was nothing that so brought out manliness in a boy and taught him to play the game. Their second task in school was to train their minds, and he asked them to make the best use of their time in that respect. The third was the building of their spiritual lives, and that must be the driving force of all. They should go from that school strong in character, trained in truthfulness and sincerity.

The Bishop's illustrative anecdotes were greatly appreciated by the visitors and boys.

* * *

Sports and Games.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

Captain—D. T. BARDON.

Vice-Captain—J. A. BAMFORD.

Secretary—J. H. HAWKINS.

Up to the present the S.C.T. has not shown much promise. It should be better than last year's team, considering we have five of last year's S.C.T. and a good pack of forwards. The backs seem to be the weakness of this team, but if they practice more together they should improve their play. No doubt much might be said in defence of losses. Swimming prevented a number of players from playing earlier in the season, and some have been out from time to time owing to injuries.

The School seems to be exceptionally unlucky this year in not being able to find more suitable players for the J.C.T. Most of its members are under 14 years of age, and consequently they are not heavy enough or experienced. They also seem to lack spirit, and there is no doubt that some of their unsuccesses might have been otherwise if they had only played more vigorously.

The Second XV. consists mostly of last year's J.C.T., and, so far, it has been fairly successful.

The "Under 13 and 14" teams are keen, and should produce some useful players for next year's J.C.T.

An innovation which has been received with great enthusiasm is the "Inter-House" competition. The School has been divided into four divisions, which correspond to the houses of a boarding school, and these so-called houses play League matches. This novelty has been well supported, and there is keen competition for League honours.

Rugby in the past has had little support from the School, except from those who represented School teams. This system, however, has provided a general interest in the game, because every boy in the School gets an opportunity of playing for his house.

THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC SPORTS..

On Friday, June 21st, the School sports were held at Lansdowne Road, under most favourable weather conditions. The large gathering of parents and friends thoroughly enjoyed the lengthy programme, which passed without a hitch, thanks to the capable organisation of Mr. Evans. Results:—

The Senior Championship of the School was won by H. W. Good, and G. Begley took the Junior Championship Cup by a good margin. The D.M.G. band played during the evening, and Mrs. J. Bennett distributed the prizes.

Long Jump, Handicap (under 15)—G. Begley (scr.), 17ft. 3ins., 1; H. Begley (27ins.), 2; J. M. Caldwell (15ins.), 3.

Long Jump (Senior)—H. Good, 17ft. 3½ins., 1; G. Murdock, 2; R. Walker, 3.

75 Yards Handicap (under 12)—Final, D. Ewen (5), 1; A. Mason (2½), 2; F. Jones (2), 3.

100 Yards Handicap (under 13)—Final, R. Mason (scr.), 1; H. Carlisle (scr.), 2; J. McKell (3), 3.

100 Yards, Handicap (under 14)—Final, H. Begley (3½), 1; K. White (5), 2; C. Boyle (2), 3.

100 Yards, Handicap (under 15)—Final, G. Begley (scr.), 1; E. Croxon (3), 2; J. Caldwell (scr.), 3.

100 Yards, Handicap (under 16)—Final, G. Murdock (scr.), 1; W. Farmer (2), 2; H. Lyster (6), 3.

100 Yards (Senior), Handicap—Final, J. Hawkins (3), 1; G. W. Murdock (scr.), 2; J. Webb (3), 3.

75 Yards, Handicap (under 11)—W. Douglas (5), 1; R. Tomlinson (3), 2; D. Vinson (3), 3.

High Jump, Handicap (under 15)—E. Croxon (4ins.), 5ft., 1; A. Hutson (6ins.), 2; H. Begley (5ins.), 3.

High Jump (Senior)—G. Stewart, 4ft. 11ins., 1; H. Good, 2; G. Murdock, 3.

220 Yards, Handicap (under 15)—Final, G. Begley (scr.), 1; E. Croxon (7), 2; A. Hutson (18), 3.

150 Yards, Handicap (under 12)—D. Ewan (11), 1; D. Magill (12), 2; F. Williams (12), 3.

220 Yards, Handicap (under 16)—G. Murdock (scr.), 1; G. Stewart (6), 2; J. Hawkins (scr.), 3.

220 Yards, Handicap (Senior)—H. Good (scr.), 1; J. Webb (6), 2; W. Kirkpatrick (8), 3.

Siamese Race, Handicap—R. and N. Marchant (scr.), 1; A. Blake and C. Williamson, 2.

440 Yards, Handicap (under 15)—G. Begley (scr.), 1; A. Hutson (30), 2; J. Caldwell (scr.), 3.

440 Yards, Handicap (Senior)—H. Good (scr.), 1; J. Clarke (scr.), 2; W. Farmer (18), 3.

Sisters' Race under (13)—Miss Croxon, 1; Miss E. Curry, 2; Miss D. Curry, 3.

Sisters' Race (over 13)—Miss Boyle, 1; Miss Scott, 2; Miss Mitchell, 3.

120 Yards Hurdles Handicap (under 15)—Final, G. Begley (owes 10), 1; A. McKee (owes 8), 2; C. Boyle (owes 7), 3.

120 Yards Hurdles, Handicap (Senior)—G. Mitchell (owes 9), 1; H. Good (owes 15), 2; A. Orr (scr.), 3.

Half-mile, Handicap (under 15)—R. Walker (scr.), 1; G. Stewart (22), 2; W. Warwick (25), 3.

Sack Race, Handicap (under 13)—D. Huggard (scr.), 1; W. Smyth (6), 2; K. Alexander (scr.), 3.

Sack Race, Handicap (over 13)—R. Boothman (6), 1; C. Boyle (scr.), 2; W. Collett (scr.), 3.

Old Boys' Race—R. Reynolds, 1; P. Ellis, 2.

One Mile, Handicap (over 15)—R. Marchant (70), 1; R. Walker (scr.), 2.

Obstacle Race (under 13)—G. Crocket, 1; R. Tomlinson, 2; W. Smyth, 3.

Obstacle Race (over 13)—T. Early, 1; C. Williamson, 2; H. Ward, 3.

Relay Race (Old Boys)—Reynolds' team (Reynolds, Walker and Clarke) beat Ellis's team (Ellis, Murphy and McHoul).

SWIMMING NOTES.

Captain—R. S. SAVAGE.

Vice-Captain—J. M. BRYSON.

Secretary—G. F. MITCHELL.

This season we retained one of the two championships we held last year—the Leinster Schools' Water Polo Cup. In the competition we received a bye into the semi-final and then reached the final at the expense of St. Andrew's College, whom we defeated by two goals to one. We then met Belvedere College, and after crossing over at half-time two goals down, defeated them after an exciting match by three goals to two. We were placed third in the Leinster Schools' Squadron Championship.

Our annual Gala was held in the Iveagh Baths on the evening of Tuesday, the 24th of September. There was a large attendance, and all the events were well contested. At the Gala the Leinster Junior Schoolboy Championship and two Polo matches—one a first round tie of the School Cup—added interest to the programme, which was carried through expeditiously. The Old Boys' race was won by the Stanley Woods, amid general enthusiasm. Mrs. Bennett kindly distributed the prizes. The results were as follows:—

22 Yards (Beginners) Handicap—1st, N. Marchant; 2nd, D. Lewin; 3rd, D. Huggard. Time—19 secs.

44 Yards (under 16), Handicap—1st, D. R. Meyer; 2nd, E. Flynn; 3rd, J. Durie. Time—35 2-5 secs.

22 Yards (under 13), Handicap—1st, W. D. Boyle; 2nd, J. H. Martin; 3rd, D. Ewen. Time—21 2-5 secs.

66 Yards (Senior), Handicap—1st, C. A. Boyle; 2nd, G. A. Bamford; 3rd, R. Walker. Time—46 secs.

22 Yards (under 15), Handicap—1st, W. J. Collett; 2nd, T. H. Chillingworth; 3rd, K. White. Time—19 4-5 secs.

44 Yards Breast and Back Stroke, Handicap—1st, G. A. Bamford; 2nd, R. J. Walker; 3rd, C. V. Boyle. Time—42 2-5 secs.

100 Yards School Championship—J. M. Bryson. Time—77 secs.

66 Yards Old Boys' Handicap—1st, S. Woods; 2nd, R. E. Montgomery; 3rd, W. Begley. Time—52 secs.

Junior Schoolboys' Championship of Leinster—K. Dolan (Belvedere College). Time—38 secs.

Diving Competition, Handicap—1st, J. M. Bryson; 2nd, R. J. Walker; 3rd, C. A. Boyle.

WATER POLO—Leinster Schools' Cup.

St. Andrew's College, 2 goals; Mountjoy School, 1 goal.

High School, Past, 3 goals; High School, Present, 1 goal.

A number of boys were awarded the Proficiency Certificates of the Leinster Branch of the I.A.S.A.

We wish to thank, especially Mr. Wilson, for his interest all the season, and Mr. H. G. Ellerker, for his coaching of the polo team, and all the officials who assisted at the Gala.



Obituary.

DR. FREDERICK WILLIAM O'CONNELL.

We regret to record the death of Dr. F. W. O'Connell. Educated first at the High School, he had a distinguished career in Trinity College. He was a brilliant linguist, as is shown by his numerous publications and the positions which he held. He used to broadcast from Dublin in more than a dozen languages. Those who knew him tell of his attractive personality, and his death, due to an accident, was a great loss to Irish scholarship.

STAWELL LLEWELLYN HEARD.

(Born 1st July, 1897; died 13th October, 1929).

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Stawell Llewellyn Heard, eldest son of the late Mr. Eustace S. L. Heard, Ardagh, Sandymount, Co. Dublin. Mr. Heard was educated at the High School, Dublin. He passed the competitive examination for the National Bank, Ltd., 1914, and joined the Bank service in February, 1915. He was a prominent member of the Rugby Football Club at school, and played on the Cup team in the years 1911-'12. He joined the Dublin Schools' Cadet Corps at the outbreak of war, 1914, and took first prize in the Drill-down held by Lord Powerscourt in Portobello Barracks in 1916. He acted as Treasurer to the Claremont Lawn Tennis Club for a number of years, and it was mainly due to his untiring efforts that the Club attained such a prosperous position.

A vote of sympathy was passed at a meeting held at Lansdowne Road, by Lansdowne Rugby Football Club, on 21st October, of which Club he was a staunch supporter since 1918.

His genial manner in business and sporting circles endeared him to all, and his death at the early age of 32 cuts short a promising career.

JOHN WILLIAM CECIL WILKINSON.

We regret to record the death of John William Cecil Wilkinson, who died on the 19th October, aged 13 years. He left us last Easter to go to the Royal Commercial Travellers' School in England after his father's death. He was popular with the staff and boys alike, and we extend our deepest sympathy to his mother.

Marriages.

DODDS AND GREENE—June 19, 1929, at Clontarf Parish Church, Dublin, by the Rev. Canon Connell, Rector of the Parish, assisted by the Rev. W. J. Mayne, M.A. Harold C., son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dodds, 18 Charleville road, Rathmines, to Henrietta Ella (Riette), elder daughter of the late George Greene and Mrs. Greene, 98 St. Lawrence road, Clontarf.

HILLIS AND HENDERSON—On Thursday, September 19, 1929, at Langside Parish Church, Glasgow, by the Rev. James Anderson, B.D., Charles Rexter Hillis, M.B., B.Ch., T.C.D., son of the late John D. Hillis, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., and the late Mrs. Hillis, Dublin, to Dorothy Maude, younger daughter of the late Thomas E. Henderson, British Guiana, and Mrs. Henderson, 132 Woodstock avenue, Shawlands, Glasgow.

KEDDIE AND FINCH—August 28, 1929, at the Parish Church, Howth, John Sinclair Keddie, eldest son of John Campbell Keddie, of Beachfield, Sutton, and Florence Margaret Finch, second daughter of the late Edward Finch and Mrs. Finch, of Sutton. Foreign papers please copy.

MACNEICE AND ELLIS—September 4, 1929, at Rathgar Methodist Church, by the Rev. James M. Alley, Geoffrey David, fourth son of Richard W. and Mrs. MacNeice, Brookville, Sallymount avenue, Leeson Park, Dublin, and Muriel Edith, only child of C. J. Hogan and Mrs. Ellis, 12 Clareville road, Rathgar.

SPENCE AND RICHARDSON—September 11, 1929, at Christ Church, Rathgar, by the Rev. J. J. Macaulay, B.A., Ernest Edgar, youngest son of the late Arthur William Spence, of Dublin, and Mrs. Spence, 103 Oakington avenue, Wembley Park Middlesex, to Alice Muriel, eldest daughter of Charles E., and Mrs. Richardson, 47 Kenilworth square, Rathgar. At home October 18th, afternoon and evening, "Khalifa," Beaufort, Rathfarnham.

STEPHENSON AND REEVES—On Wednesday, July 17, 1929, at Holy Trinity Church, Rathmines, by Rev. A. E. Hughes, M.A., assisted by Rev. John Tobias, B.D., Wilson Moore Stephenson, of Abadan, Persian Gulf, youngest son of the late M. J. Stephenson and Mrs. Percival, 9 Dunville avenue, Rathmines, to Constance Mary Reeves, widow of the late R. H. L. Reeves, Athgarvan House, Curragh, County Kildare, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Bridge Whelan, 70 Moyne road, Rathmines, Dublin.

TICKELL AND HAYNES—July 4, 1929, at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, Jerrard, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hill Tickell (formerly of Dublin), to Renee Oriana, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. P. Haynes, 38 St. John's Wood Park, London.

TOWERS AND KENT—October 17, 1929, at Christ Church, Waterloo, by the Rev. Canon Sykes, Dudley, son of Charles Towers, of Rathgar, Dublin, to Marjorie, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Kent, of Waterloo.

At the Centenary Church, St. Stephen's Green, on Friday, 7th June, Carter Spencer Draper, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Hastings D. Draper, Rosenau, Zion road, Rathgar, was married to Irene, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Phillips, Grand Canal Harbour. The church was tastefully decorated with palms and hydrangeas. The Service was conducted by the Rev. E. Lee Cole, M.A., B.D.

* * *

Our Contemporaries.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following—
 "T.C.D." (Trinity College, Dublin); "R.S.D. (Royal School, Dungannon); "School News" (Royal Belfast Academical Institution).

* * *

Notices.

The ERASMIAN is published three times a year—at the end of the Christmas, Easter, and Summer terms.

The Editor invites literary contributions from past and present pupils, and all others interested in the School.

Editor—D. T. BARDON.
 Treasurer—G. MITCHELL.

Switzers

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