

The ERASMIAN

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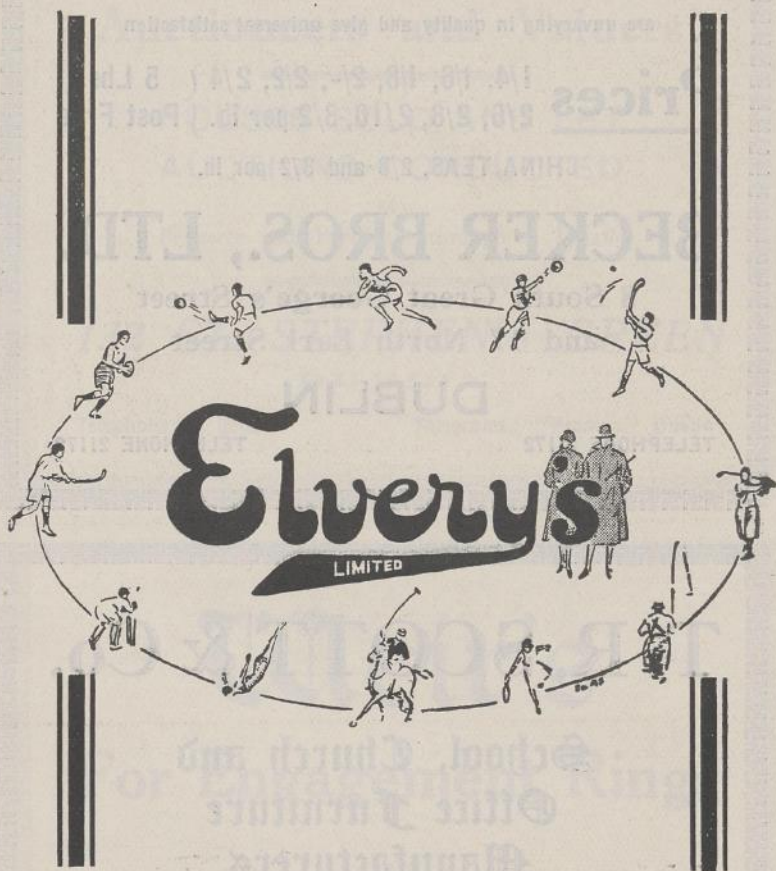
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: THE ERASMIAN :

DECEMBER, 1931

Editorial

"Earth changes her seasons, and lifeless winter speeds back again," and brings with it (as countless Editors have remarked before to fill up space) the deep cogitation and the frantic search for ideas in an obstinate mind necessary for the production of an Editorial in keeping with the best traditions of *The Erasmian*. Last but not least is the fruitless quest for articles. Will any Editor of *The Erasmian* ever again write the magic words: "We have been reluctantly obliged, for want of space, to hold over some very interesting matter and contributions until the next issue"? Surely there is some "mute, inglorious Milton" amongst us, who could produce an article. Almost anything will be accepted, though treatises on such subjects as "The Mentality of the Politician," or "Actresses and their Pets," will be rigorously censored, lest our readers should suspect us of journalistic tendencies. An *Erasmian* with several articles should create more interest in the Christmas holidays than at any other time, unless the predictions of certain weather prophets are fulfilled and we spend the time skating on the Dodder, or tobogganing on the Featherbed. But this is not likely to happen, and *The Erasmian*, like Horace's celebrated book, will be read when "*sol tepidus plures admoverit aures*."

We find that we have almost unwittingly inserted a Latin quotation, a fault, according to harsher critics, of those who wish to impress their readers with their literary knowledge. There must be some strange attraction in completing a sentence with a suitable Latin expression. The quotation fiends have gradually evolved, mostly with the aid of Horace's works, a series of these suitable for all occasions and situations from the cradle to the grave. Had Horace foreseen the employment of his odes for this purpose he would certainly have ordered them to be burnt when he died, as Virgil did. Incidentally, many of us think that this would have been a great idea. "Smith minor" has often avenged his troubles in Latin by mangling and mistranslating Horace. His latest effort is: "*Quid sit futurum cras: fuge quaerere*." "The pound may be going to crash: seek flight."

Having proceeded so far in our wanton ramblings (we apologise to all classical students for the Thucydidean construction), we turn your thoughts back to the present by congratulating Evans' House on winning the Holmpatriek Cup. Although

Burrows' were a fairly close second in the football, and won the Cricket Championship, Evans' proved too good for them, for they won the House Relay at the Sports, and the Inter-House Squadron Race at the Gala.

There have been several changes in the Staff since the Summer Term. We were sorry to lose Mr. Shannon, whose place has been taken by Mr. Ferguson. He trained the Cup teams for the last three seasons, and also helped in the production of the Sixth Form play for the concert last year. Mr. Quinn has come to teach us our native tongue. Mr. Burrows has left also, and Mr. Harrison has taken up the task of acquainting us with the mysteries of Horace. Mr. Ferguson has become the head of Mr. Burrows' House. The rapid changes in its name—from Watson's to Burrows' and then to Ferguson's—in the short period of three years has given rise to the suggestion that houses should be distinguished by their colours, or in some other way, instead of by the names of their masters, so that when Old Boys visit the School in future years they may know to what house they belonged. Though such rapid changes in the name of a house should rarely occur again, the suggestion is a fairly reasonable one.

Having thus written the conventional Editorial, containing its useless appeal for articles and its Latin quotation, we feel we have done our bit, in accordance with our abilities. Before ending this literary tit-bit, we make a last request—Reader (if there is any), be kind to us, and pass on quickly to the School Notes.

* * *

School Notes

The School reopened after the summer on Tuesday, September 1st.

The School Sports were held at Lansdowne Road on June 23rd.

The Senior Cup was won by R. J. Walker, and the Junior Cup by W. S. Moore.

The 440 Yards Championship was won by R. J. Walker, and the House Relay was won by Evans' House.

The School Gala was held at the Iveagh Baths on October 5th. The Inter-House Squadron Race was won by Evans' House.

The Handball Competitions took place in May. They were won by R. J. Walker, E. F. Plant, and H. H. Brislane.

The Concert was held on December 15th and 16th. There was a pantomime, "Jack and the Beanstalk," and a Sixth Form play, as last year.

The Prizes Distribution was held on Friday, November 27th. The prizes were presented by Professor W. E. Thrift. A memorial was unveiled in memory of the late Dr. Stevenson, and the Old Boys' Cup was presented by Mr. Rupert Jeffares.

On Wednesday, November 11th, the School assembled to observe the two minutes' silence. The Headmaster gave a short address, in which he said, "We are here to-day to keep the silence in remembrance of those who were killed in the War, and especially those of our own School who gave their lives for the sake of duty, and whose names are inscribed on the tablets beside the memorial window, and serve as a reminder to us of what war means to a generation."

The Headmaster had a portable wireless set put up at one end of the cloakroom, by means of which we were able to hear the whole service at the Cenotaph in London. The Dead March was played by the band of the Grenadier Guards, and was followed by The Last Post, after which we heard clearly the only sound in London at that moment, the booming of Big Ben striking eleven. The silence followed, and the service ended with the Reveillé, "O God, our help in ages past," and "God Save the King."

We congratulate the Headmaster on being elected a member of the Council of Trinity College.

D. T. Bardon on winning a Sizarship, and obtaining fourth place in the Junior Exhibition Examination.

F. A. J. Willis, E. Croxon, and R. J. Walker on winning Erasmus Smith Exhibitions.

C. A. Boyle on winning the High School Swimming Championship at the Gala.

A. D. Mason on winning the Junior School Swimming Championship.

R. Boucher on obtaining his inter-provincial trial in cricket.

D. G. Walker, who played for the "Probables" in the Leinster trial.

H. B. Moore on winning The Carpenter Memorial Essay Prize.

We do not notice that the possibility of having a pet canary has attracted the interest of anyone sufficiently to make him write an essay for the "Canary Society of Erin." However, we have learned something from this Society, for which we should be duly grateful. Hitherto we had supposed, in our ignorance, that mules only belonged to the equine tribe.

Summer Idleness

Come, let us roam the woods among

This lovely summer morning;

Shut up the book, lay down the pen,

Such beauty thou art scorning.

Let weary brains and troubled hearts

Taste of kind Nature's healing arts,

And learn the joys that she imparts

This lovely summer morning.

Through arching boughs that whispering wave
 We'll watch the sunlight streaming,
 Or linger in some flowery dell
 Where hyacinths are gleaming.
 And as we gaze from some green height
 Some gaudy hue may catch our sight,
 Then, when we see the heather bright,
 How these thoughts set you dreaming!

J. HAMILTON.

* * * *

Phantasmagoria

A person when commencing to recount an episode or the story of an adventure or series of adventures which have befallen him at some stage of his career has one great difficulty—where to begin. He seizes on one event as the starting point, but recalls that another occurrence led up to that, and another to that, and so on. He finds that he could trace back his story interminably in such a way if he wished, and finds it difficult to know where to start his tale, which, to his mind, now begins to resemble the story of the "House that Jack Built," or that other tag which we learnt at a remote period of our existence, "The cat began to kill the rat, the rat began to gnaw the rope——" *ad infinitum*, as in Arithmetical Progressions.

Fortunately my adventure was not of the sort that would give any trouble to the teller. It began definitely on a certain autumn day at twelve forty-five pip emma, by the little window at the top of the steps leading to the clock room from the playground. Strange events usually come like a bolt from the blue. Accordingly, there was nothing to warn me that "malignant Fate sat by and smiled." All was as usual—the buses and luxury trams were "warping down" Harcourt Street, taking their usual toll of three pedestrians per half-mile. The pigeons had already watched from the roofs, with their habitual calm disdain, the horde of beings which rushed out of the next building as soon as another being had made unpleasant noises by shaking a mysterious and dangerous-looking iron implement in the air several times. These beings, uttering weird cries, having hastily deposited square, brown objects in various places, fled, some in one direction and some in another, as defeated soldiers do in Latin compositions.

I had not joined the crowd which rushes daily to the "soup-tureenian" regions beneath the clock room to partake of those things the scent of which had been wafted up the steps towards the boardroom since eleven o'clock. For this reason I proceeded in leisurely fashion in the opposite direction, and having passed the "F" room I proceeded through the door and then to the left

up the steps leading to the clock room. When I had reached the topmost step and stood upon the platform I saw, through the small window opposite the storeroom door, a strange sight. In the middle of the yard stood a pigeon. He had apparently seen some tempting morsel of food which had lodged between the cobblestones, and was making desperate efforts to dislodge it. But my attention was suddenly attracted by The Thing.

It was in ambush behind one of the red pillars of the stairs leading to the laboratory. It was a cat, a large cat, a yellow, fierce, voracious, vicious cat, with a body like a new rugby ball, and a striking martial tail, which was held commandingly erect, and which might have been in front of a regiment on parade. Imagine a combination of a ghoul, the features of a Chicago gunman, and a skull, and then something ten times worse, and you will have some conception of what its face was like. The remains of what were once ears surmounted two large, green, baleful eyes. A black streak running diagonally across its face, and two bunches of whiskers which enhanced the effect of its tail completed the picture.

As I watched, this fearsome apparition proceeded towards the pigeon with the slow, cautious gait peculiar to the feline species when hunting their prey. The bird continued to peck furiously and vainly at the object on the ground, blissfully unconscious of approaching doom in the shape of The Thing. I watched spellbound—fascinated by that marvellous cat. It advanced to within a yard of its victim . . . the morsel of food was yielding rapidly to the efforts of the pigeon's beak . . . but the cat was about to spring. . . .

A hand clutched my shoulder and I was whirled round by the swing of a strong arm. Facing this unruly new arrival, I recognised the rather pale face, wild eyes, disordered hair, and furtive gaze of the ex-Editor of *The Erasmian*. He still held me firmly by the shoulder with one hand, and beckoning to me with the other he stalked into the clock room, and I perforce followed. We proceeded through the clock room into the hall and up the stairs towards the Art Room. I have only a vague recollection of our subsequent wanderings, but we eventually arrived before a door covered with green baize, with ERASMIAN in red capitals across it. He opened it and we entered.

An extraordinary sight met my gaze. The room was all red—walls, ceiling, floor—while the ceiling was crossed by strips of black between the red. The walls were adorned with the portraits "Erasmus Smith, Esq.," and "Madam Erasmus Smith." Besides these there was a picture of Demosthenes trying to speak with the pebbles in his mouth, Diogenes giving his tub a spring cleaning, Cæsar jumping over the Rubicon, and Horace running away at Philippi. My companion then said, "You are now Editor of *The Erasmian*, and must write School Notes and get contributions, either of jokes, poems, or articles, which is the thirteenth labour which Hercules either forgot or hadn't time to do.

"The following is a joke I once received: 'There was once a barber at Portsmouth who was a keen yachtsman. He loved to see the clippers running through the waves!' I also received this contribution from a First Former several weeks ago:

" 'Artikle for *The Erasmian* for the edditer from J. Brown, annonymuss. We had a novell eksperience the other day when an inspektur came from the Depot of Eddication to see how the class were getting on with there work. The master had been teeching us a very long pome called the Village Blaksmith and Jones who was first had the first virse because it was the hardest and the next chap the next virse because it was sumwhatt easier and so on to the dunses at the bottum who had the last virses which were very easy at least so the master sed but pursunelly I think and Bates agrees with me that we each no a virse so that when ennywun like an inspektur comes and heers us a virse eech, we'll all no it by the way I don't think if thats it its very cute of the master don't you think.

" 'Wun day an inspektur did cum as I sed at the begining (but I seem to be wandering from the point what wun of the masters says we shouldn't do) and he tauked for a bit about eddication and our nattive tung which he called urce and then tirmed to me and sed what pome do you no and I sed the Village Blaksmith sir the thirt— but here the master interrupted and sed wood the inspektur like to see the marks so they both looked at them and then they tauked for a long time about substantial impression and the flight of the starling and Injun questions and Mahaffy Gander and the Round Tabell conferense what must have been sumthing to do with King Arthur tho I thought he was ded and so did I sed Bates when I asked him. Then the inspektur tirmed to me and sed now sunny repeat the furst virse of Wurds-wirth's sellybrated pome and I gaped and sed sir I know the thirteen— and the master sed it is gloomy on these winter days even at midday let me tirm on the elektrik lite and he sed by the way did you hear that wun about the elektrissity supply bord and the inspektur sed no and the master tauked and they both laffed and the inspektur sed I have a new joke where was Moses when the lite went out and the master sed trying to find the lite switch I suppose and the inspektur sed no in the dark ha ha and they laffed agen and the master told a story about a man who went up to Bellfast to atend an Orrange Demonstrashun and the inspektur was delited, and the master sed this furst boy is clevver and good at his wurk and Jones blushed and the inspektur sed repeat some of the Village Blaksmith sunny and Jones did the furst virse and then the bell wrang and the master sed goodbye sir come soon agen and the inspektur sed we were a very clevver class and we gave him three cheers hear endeth my contribushion.'

" 'Now,' said my companion, 'you must be prepared for articles like that. This year I intend to write an article on prep-books, and I have collected a lot——' Then followed shouting of

"Where's my prep-book?" and banging on the door, and my companion said "Quick!" and we ran out another door, he went to the left and I to the right, and I rushed to the top of the stairs, tripped and fell headlong. I felt myself flying through space . . . bump!

I awake on the floor, and slowly realise four things, herein-after called conclusions, and set down beneath:

(1) I am alive; (2) It is 8 a.m.; (3) The Editorial must be handed in to-day; and (4) Taking everything into consideration, an Editor's life is not a happy one. (With apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan.)

QUI VIVE.

* * * *

The Escape to the Frontier

[Note.—The author wishes to state that this article was not written expressly for the Sixth Form.]

For a week we had been cooped up in the cellar, hiding from the Revolutionists. We were safe enough, for the house above us had been burned down ten days before, and all traces of the cellar entrance had been lost—buried beneath many tons of rubbish. Our sole means of ventilation was through some chinks in the walls of our prison, which had been caused by the intense heat while our house was burning.

We had expected the Revolution. Consequently, knowing that we would be the first upon which it would wreak its vengeance, we had conveyed provisions and other necessities of life to our cellar, in readiness for our probable internment there. But we had somehow overlooked the fact that our house would be destroyed and, with that, our exit blocked. By a remarkable chance, however, José had discovered another means of exit.

As I said before, the fierce heat had cracked the walls of the cellar. Now it had also cracked the floor, and had left a fissure large enough to admit a person of average size. We had ventured through this hole, and had found ourselves in a low passage which ran towards the north-east. By the light of our electric torches we had followed this subterranean passage for a long while, when it terminated in a cave just overlooking the Mediterranean. There was a small stone door which shut off the passage from the cave, and which evidently could only be opened from the passage side, for on the other side it had been made to resemble the walls of the cave, and we could find nothing there by which it could be opened. This passage and cave had evidently been connected with smuggler activities in bygone days.

But we had not much time to debate about it. A man suddenly entered the cave, wearing the rebel uniform, and seeing us raised his knife and ordered us to surrender. I, not knowing how many more there were outside, was about to do so, when Jacques

fired his revolver point blank at the Republican. The cave rang and resounded with the echoes, and immediately two other Revolutionists entered. A veritable battle followed, but by mere luck my two companions and myself were unscratched. Not so with our attackers. Both lay on the ground stone dead. Immediately José had an idea, which afterwards proved most advantageous to us. Stripping the uniforms off the dead Revolutionists, we threw their bodies into the inmost recesses of the cave, and, hastily shutting the passage door, made our way back to the cellar.

For three days we remained there, expecting every minute that the roof and walls would fall, owing to the explosions which could be heard hourly in the streets. Then we decided to make use of the rebel uniforms which had fallen into our hands. Our plan was to attire ourselves in them and make our way to the cave, and mixing with any Revolutionists whom we might meet would free ourselves from suspicion by acting as they did. If our true persons came to light we would have to escape as well as we could.

When we had been imprisoned in our cellar for a week, we left our temporary rendezvous, and after some time reached the door of the cave. Here a difficulty presented itself. What would we say if the cave was full of the rebels? What story could we make up? After some quiet deliberation we decided that our story would be that we were Revolutionists who had discovered the passage while searching the ruins of a house.

We opened the door. Ah! What a relief! No one to be seen! We entered the cave, and, shutting the door, found to our dismay that we had unwittingly cut ourselves off from our only safe place of retreat. For only then did we remember that we had been unable to find a means of opening the door from the outside.

However, nothing more could be done in that direction, so we cautiously made our way to the mouth of the cave. We immediately recognised where we were, but, strange to relate, could not recall ever having seen that place before. The only conclusion we could draw was that it had been hidden for years by dense growths of creeper and ivy, which, as we could see, had been pulled down quite recently, thus leaving bare the cave's mouth.

We made our way up the cliff to the coast road, which we knew ran from Almaga to Cormaden, expecting to meet the rebels every minute. But we had gone some miles before anything could be seen of them. We then practically stumbled upon a force of about forty Revolutionists, under the command of the notorious ruffian Galandez, the native of Andorra, whose services had been enlisted but a day before we had to take refuge in our cellar. We were not known to him, however, but we feared that some member of the band might recognise us, in spite of our having shaved off our moustaches and altered our appearances in many other ways.

As we knew that it would be impossible to pass them by, we deliberately went over to them and offered our services to Galandez, saying that the force to which we belonged had been routed in Albacete, and that we had made our way down to the coast. After a searching cross-examination Galandez, suspecting nothing, willingly allowed us to join his band. That afternoon, it being then about midday, he intended to strike, as he said, a crushing blow against the Royalists, and extra help would be most beneficent.

Shortly after noon a runner entered the camp and spoke some words to Galandez. The man then ran away again at full speed, and Galandez addressed his band. "Comrades, an excellent piece of news through. A troop train passes within two miles of here in ninety minutes. Where we come in is simply to put it out of action—as well as the troops—and prevent it reaching Cormaden."

A murmur of assent went through the band, and preparations were made for the attempt. The requisite tools were obtained from a neighbouring farm, and soon afterwards the whole troop set off for the railway. Within a reasonable time it was reached, and within twenty minutes the line was cut in such a manner as to cause immediate repairs to be out of the question. The would-be wreckers lay in ambush, waiting until the train should either be wrecked or should stop, when, in either case, the troops would be attacked.

Meanwhile, we had not been idle. We helped to cut the line, and were complimented by Galandez on the dexterity and zeal with which we pursued our task. Had he but known with what dexterity and zeal we were shortly to help to rout him!

When everything was ready for the wrecking of the expected train the band lay around in ambush. The country was thickly wooded, and consequently there were many places where a man could hide in ambush. Moreover, by reason of both the trees and the hilly nature of the ground about one hundred yards of the line could only be seen from where the band lay. My two companions and myself also went into ambush, but left as great a distance as possible between the rebels and ourselves.

There were still twenty minutes to elapse before the train would appear. So we had barely sufficient time for the carrying out of our hazardous plan. Silently and steadily we crept away; yard after yard was put between the unsuspecting rebels and ourselves. In fifteen minutes we were one mile from the scene of ambush. Hastily discarding our hitherto sole means of safety, we buried our borrowed uniforms beneath some fallen leaves, and hurriedly made our way to the railway line, knowing that our legal uniforms, which we alone were entitled to wear, and which we had worn all the time under the borrowed ones, would cause the driver of the train to stop.

We were none too soon. Slowly, for the gradient was steep, came the troop train, its occupants little suspecting whom they were about to see.

I stepped on the line fifty yards in front of the oncoming train. The driver, recognising the president of the country which was in such a chaotic state, applied his brakes, and, shutting off steam, came to a stop. There being no time for explanations, I hastily told what lay ahead, and suggested that some dozen of the troops should follow my lead and lie in wait for the rebels when they took to flight. He called the colonel, and he, instantly seeing the state of affairs, ordered the soldiers in the first two coaches to get out. The driver was then told to proceed as if nothing had happened, and in the meanwhile the captain would tell the rest of the troops what had occurred, and would prepare them for the ambush.

When I had explained the position to the troops, I led them as quickly as possible in the direction of the proposed ambush. In five minutes we heard a loud uproar in front, followed almost immediately afterwards by a fusillade of rifle shots which lasted for three minutes. Then a lull. We were within two hundred yards of the foiled ambush, and could see that although the train had been saved there was still a great deal to be done, for half of the rebels remained alive, and were a serious menace to the so far victorious loyalists.

After about half an hour's fighting, which in many cases became a hand to hand one, the rebels gave way. Those who had escaped the loyalist rifles turned about and fled. Five alone were captured in flight, and about the same number who were wounded were taken.

When the prisoners had been placed under an escort the troops proceeded the rest of the way on foot, it being impossible to run the train any further. But it was found that the train could go back to Elvajo, from which town it had set out twelve hours before. Accordingly, after the necessary preparations, we commenced the journey, which was to end at the frontier.

It did not take long to explain to the astonished officials what had occurred, when we arrived at Elvajo, on the Portuguese frontier. My mysterious disappearance at the beginning of the trouble, together with that of my faithful friends, had caused the Portuguese, and indeed, as I afterwards learned, the greater part of Europe, to suspect foul play. At Elvajo I learned what I had expected all along—the greater part of Spain was overrun by the fanatical rebels—fanatical because surely the last revolution had proved disastrous enough for them? I knew that my country was doomed, and was secretly glad that the price which was upon my head would always prevent me from entering or becoming part of the country which had hurled herself from peace and prosperity to the murky depths of confusion and internecine strife.

A Trip to Germany

One cold morning I arrived at the wharf in Queenstown, equipped with travelling bag, for my trip to Hamburg. My fellow-travellers all looked cold and despondent. They were a very varied crowd, dignitaries of various churches were represented, and a score or so of laymen, like myself.

At about 6 a.m. we boarded the tender, and set out for the liner which was to be our floating home for three days. After half an hour's steaming we sighted her rounding a headland. Presently we came alongside, and without undue haste boarded the *St. Louis*, a liner of 14,000 tons. The liner had been recently built, and contained all the latest comforts, such as a swimming pool, elevator, shops, beauty parlour, squash racket court, and equipment for games like table tennis, boxing, and fencing, etc. With such games at my disposal you may be sure my life was not dull.

Next morning, on awakening at 4 a.m., I was informed by my cabin-mate that we lay at anchor in Cherbourg Harbour. This astonished me, for late at night I had been looking at the dim outline of Land's End. I decided to get up and have a look around. On reaching the main deck I found a number of passengers there before me. After some delay the liner turned again and steamed on its way.

The whole of the following day was spent in proceeding up the Channel, and when night fell we were passing through the Straits of Dover. Next morning I rose at a respectable hour, and went on deck to see what new land had appeared. When I came on deck the sun was shining from a cloudless sky, and so far as eye could see there was one glorious expanse of sparkling blue.

The same evening, at 5 o'clock, we arrived at Cuxhaven, and proceeded by train to Hamburg.

Hamburg is the largest of the three free Hanseatic cities of the German Empire. It is one of the most important commercial centres in the world. The modern town is built, for the greater part, round a lake, called the Alster. Its streets are all planted with trees, and in many of the older parts of the town canals take the place of streets. All this makes Hamburg very beautiful and picturesque. Indeed it is said that it is the second most beautiful city in the world.

My hotel was a few miles from the centre of the city, and was situated on the bank of the Alster. One travelled to and from the city by boat. Small steamers ran every five minutes, and it was very much pleasanter travelling by water than by tram.

During my stay I went on many excursions. The most interesting was to Lübeck, which is the smallest of the Hanseatic towns, though it was once the most important. It is situated fourteen miles from the Baltic, on the River Trave. The town still contains many reminiscences of its mediæval greatness—its

lofty towers, ancient gabled houses, fortified gateways, Gothic churches, and its venerable Rathaus. I returned the same evening, having spent a most enjoyable day.

At last the time for departure came, and I said good-bye to lovely Hamburg, and went by train to Bremen, the headquarters of the North German Lloyd Line, in one of whose boats I was returning home.

Bremen is a small but interesting city. It contains many ancient houses, the most notable being the Rathaus, beneath which is the world-famous Ratskeller, which everyone visits. Its fame is due to a book written over one hundred years ago by Wilhelm Hauj. The cellar is famous for the rose which is painted on the ceiling, beneath which merchants of old used to hold secret conferences. This is stated to be the origin of the phrase "sub rosa."

Next morning I went down to the port of embarkation, a distance of two miles. Here we boarded the liner *General von Steuben*, and set out for home. When leaving the port we passed many famous liners, the most famous of which was the *Europa*. There is no need to dwell on the sea voyage. The liner called at Boulogne, and then proceeded to Southampton. We anchored at Cowes, and saw many famous yachts around us. The King and Queen were on board their yacht. It is interesting to note that the German band on the liner played "God Save The King," which was acknowledged by the King on board his yacht.

I now left the liner, and the last link with Germany. After a slow journey through England on the first Monday in August, I arrived in Ireland, having completed a most enjoyable holiday.

T. H. M. C.

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Answers to Correspondents

S. O. S.—I should not advise you to use liquid gum as a lubricator for your cycle. If you are fond of experiments, by all means try it.

S. P. Q. R.—You are mistaken. Erasmus Smith was not the author of "A Smaller History of Greece." Nor was he the author of your "Book of Verse."

Youthful Logician.—A hypothesis is a supposition of something not proved. It is closely related to a proposition, which is also frequently, though not universally, non-proven. The latter case is equivalent to guilty.

Anxious Mother.—No, your son has not been overworking himself. His unusual pallor is due to his having eaten twelve penny cakes and other "unconsidered trifles" at a sitting, or perhaps at a standing, in the tuck shop.

Belated Optimist.—I am sorry for your disappointment. Cycle agents do not put the same meaning into "free wheels" as you did.

Pedestrian.—It is a pity you have to walk so far in the mornings to school. There is, I think, little possibility of a "Dublin Iambus Company" being formed, as you suggest.

Intermediate Student.—The following hints may prove useful:

(1) Do not prepare your work during the year, as you cannot tell what questions will be asked you in the examination. It is better to go in fresh.

(2) If thirsty, do not drink the ink.

(3) Should you not be sure of the answer to a question, do not leave a blank, but draw a picture of the Superintendent to show that you take an interest in your surroundings.

(4) Read over the "Instructions to Students" carefully, and break as many as you can. Your name will then appear in the "Results Pamphlet," with a minimum of trouble, on one of the front pages.

(5) Ask the Superintendent as many questions and give him as much trouble as you can, and complain that your desk is not in a good position for copying. He will then probably look upon you as a boy of marked intelligence, and you will receive a special report to *An Roinn Oideachais* (The Department of Education).

* * * *

Athletic Sports

Our Annual Athletic Sports were held at Landsdowne Road on Tuesday, 23rd June. An interesting programme was carried out very successfully in favourable weather, thanks to the excellent organisation of Mr. Evans.

The Senior Cup was won by R. J. Walker, who also won the cup for the championship quarter-mile. W. S. Moore carried off the Junior Cup, and the Junior Magill Cup for the best event.

The band of the British Legion played a good programme during the afternoon, and Mrs. J. Bennett very kindly presented the prizes.

Results:

Long Jump Handicap (under 15)—1, W. S. Moore (21 ins.); 2, H. S. Carlile (18 ins.); 3, V. S. Dungan (30 ins.)

Long Jump (Senior)—1, H. Begley; 2, R. J. Walker; 3, C. V. Boyle.

75 Yards Handicap (under 10) Final—1, B. Rooney (8 yds.); 2, W. Heaney (6 yds.); 3, G. Johnson (10 yds.)

75 Yards Handicap (under 11) Final—1, A. Begley (2 yds.); 2, B. White (4 yds.); 3, W. O'Malley (5 yds.)

75 Yards Handicap (under 12) Final—1, A. Maynard (7 yds.); 2, A. O'Neill (8 yds.); 3, A. Begley (6 yds.)

100 Yards Handicap (under 13) Final—1, W. Booker (6 yds.); 2, A. Maynard (8 yds.); 3, K. Alexander.

100 Yards Handicap (under 14) Final—1, B. Hunter (3 yds.); 2, A. Morrow (5 yds.); 3, K. Alexander (3 yds.)

100 Yards Handicap (under 15) Final—1, W. S. Moore (5 yds.); 2, R. W. Mason (scr.); 3, A. E. G. Moore (3 yds.)

100 Yards Handicap (under 16) Final—1, G. Worlin (2 yds.); 2, P. Walker (3 yds.); 3, C. V. Boyle (scr.)

100 Yards Handicap (Senior) Final—1, R. J. Walker (scr.); 2, J. P. Dunn (scr.); 3, E. Croxon (scr.)

High Jump Handicap (under 15)—1, W. S. Moore (3 ins.); 2, J. McKell (4 ins.); 3, D. Ewen (5 ins.)

High Jump (Senior)—1, C. V. Boyle; 2, H. Begley; 3, J. P. Dunn and J. Cairns (tied).

150 Yards Handicap (under 12) Final—1, N. E. Rowe (12 yds.); 2, R. Ollerton (6 yds.); 3, W. O'Malley (14 yds.)

220 Yards Handicap (under 15) Final—1, W. S. Moore (11 yds.); 2, A. E. G. Moore (7 yds.); 3, J. McKell (7 yds.)

220 Yards Handicap (Senior) Final—1, R. J. Walker (scr.); 2, A. D. Goff (9 yds.); 3, J. P. Dunn (scr.)

220 Yards Handicap (under 16) Final—1, G. H. Worlin (5 yds.); 2, P. Walker (7 yds.); 3, H. Begley (6 yds.)

Siamese Race (Handicap)—1, W. Page and B. Graves (6 yds.); 2, R. Magill and T. L. Cooley (scr.)

440 Yards Handicap (under 15) Final—1, A. E. G. Moore (14 yds.); 2, W. S. Moore (22 yds.); 3, D. Ewen (34 yds.)

440 Yards (Senior Championship)—1, R. Walker; 2, J. Cairns.

440 Yards Handicap (Senior)—1, R. J. Walker (scr.); 2, W. G. Dukes (22 yds.); 3, C. V. Boyle (10 yds.)

Sisters' Race (under 13)—1, Miss Nancy McKell; 2, Miss Vera Bryans; 3, Miss Mabel Loughnan.

120 Hurdles Handicap (under 15) Final—1, A. E. G. Moore (4 yds.); 2, D. Huggard (8 yds.); 3, W. S. Moore.

120 Hurdles Handicap (Senior) Final—1, T. Bamford (scr.); 2, J. P. Dunn (10 yds.); 3, C. V. Boyle (6 yds.)

Band Race—1, T. Core; 2, J. Guilfoyle.

Half-mile Handicap (over 15)—1, C. A. Boyle (30 yds.); 2, R. J. Walker (scr.); 3, J. Hamilton (50 yds.)

Sack Race Handicap (under 13)—1, C. Misstear (6 yds.); 2, A. Burrowes (6 yds.); 3, F. Boyd (6 yds.)

Sack Race Handicap (over 13)—1, R. Boothman (scr.); 2, T. L. McLoughlin (scr.); 3, D. A. Huggard (scr.)

Old Boys' Race—1, D. G. Walker; 2, J. B. Clarke.

One Mile Handicap (over 15)—1, C. A. Boyle (60 yds.); 2, A. C. Blake (40 yds.); 3, P. Walker (90 yds.)

Obstacle Race (under 13)—1, G. McCabe; 2, W. Crockett; 3, B. Graves.

Obstacle Race (over 13)—1, J. D. Smyth; 2, T. L. McLoughlin; 3, W. Smith.

Consolation Race (under 12)—1, P. R. Owen; 2, A. Graham; 3, A. Wall.

Consolation Race (under 15)—1, H. Keegan; 2, W. Boyle; 3, G. Huggard.

Consolation Race (Senior)—1, T. Early; 2, D. Reeves; 3, C. Williamson.

Inter-House Relay Race—1, Evans' House; 2, Butler's House.

Masters' Race—Mr. Dillon.

GYMNASTIC DISPLAY.

This was held at the Athletic Sports on June 23rd at Landsdowne Road. The programme consisted of physical exercises and vaulting horse.

The Class Medals which were presented on that occasion were won by the following:

Form 4 (Upper)—T. Early.

Form 4 (Lower)—H. H. K. James.

Form 3A—J. D. Rowe.

Form 3B—H. S. Keegan.

Form 3C1—W. B. Smyth.

Form 3C2—P. Telford.

Form 2—T. E. P. Darling.

Form 1A—W. T. Heaney.

Form 1B—B. F. L. Rooney.

The Sports Committee express their sincere thanks on behalf of the boys to the following, who have kindly presented prizes or subscriptions:

Mrs. Bennett; W. Good, Esq.; W. Findlater, Esq.; C. B. W. Boyle, Esq.; C. V. Lyster, Esq.; Rev. G. V. Jourdan, D.D.; T. Bell, Esq.; M. Bell, Esq.; J. W. Rooney, Esq.; R. C. de Veasan, Esq.; Rev. Canon Kingsmill Moore, D.D.; J. Stafford, Esq.; A. W. Stelfox, Esq.; W. H. Thrift, Esq.; R. Jeffares, Esq.; R. A. Dunlop, Esq.; A. J. Beatty, Esq.; Hon. Mr. Justice Sealy; J. W. Bridle, Esq.; Rev. W. G. Proctor; S. R. Rogers, Esq.; R. Boucher, Esq.; D. H. Taylor, Esq.; J. K. Freeland, Esq.; R. S. Savage, Esq.; Madame Louvrier.

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Football Notes

Captain, J. M. Caldwell. Vice-Captain, C. V. Boyle.

Hon. Secretary, J. P. Dunn.

Although the S.C.T. have been unfortunate in not winning many matches up to the present, we are hopeful that as the season progresses the team will develop more match-winning qualities. Our chief difficulty lies in the three-quarter line, having only one three-quarter of experience from last season's S.C.T. The forwards, though rather light and inexperienced, have the makings of a strong and fast pack.

The J.C.T., considering that most of its members are under 14 years of age, have shown quite good form, and promise to be an excellent side with a little more practice and training.

The "Under 13 and 14," though very keen, have been rather unlucky in their matches, but should provide some good material for next season.

The revival of form matches has been taken up with great enthusiasm throughout the School, and provides games for boys who are not members of School or House fiftens.

The House System is still going strong, and the same keenness is seen all around. There has been a change in one House, Mr. Ferguson having taken the place of Mr. Burrows. The competition appears to be taking the same form as last season, Mr. Butler's House being superior in the Junior matches, and the Senior being strongly contested between Mr. Evans' and Mr. Ferguson's House, as the House Table shows:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		Total
					For	Against	
Mr. Butler's	4	3	1	0	47	33	6
Mr. Dillon's	3	0	3	0	12	72	0
Mr. Evans'	3	1	1	1	41	23	3
Mr. Ferguson's	4	2	1	1	57	29	5

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Swimming Notes

Club Captain, C. V. Boyle. Vice-Captain, H. Poole.

Hon. Secretary, C. V. Boyle.

Our swimming season concluded at the Iveagh Baths on October 8th. The season has been most successful, when judged by the standard of swimming, a record number gaining the Beginners' Proficiency Certificates awarded by the Leinster Branch of the Irish Amateur Swimming Association, while the number of Second-Class Certificates gained is well up to the average. Unfortunately we did not gain any First-Class Certificates, but this may be attributed to the fact that our Senior swimmers have had to concentrate upon polo alone.

We say alone because unfortunately we started the season without any member of last year's team. But the keenness of the boys and the help of Sergeant-Major Burke and of Mr. Ellerker, who took great pains with us, have worked wonders.

In the Schools Water Polo Cup we received a bye into the semi-final. In the semi-final we met St. Andrew's College (the holders) and had to retire defeated. We were rather unlucky in this match, as one of our best men was down with the 'flu.

The School Gala, which was held at the Iveagh Baths on October 5th, was a great success. The competition for the new Junior Championship of the School showed that the Juniors were taking their swimming seriously. Our thanks are due to Mr.

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HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CRICKET XI., 1931

T. W. Bamford, E. Croxon, H. A. Penney, J. Cairns, R. J. Walker, J. P. Dunn.



Mr. S. S. Evans, F. A. G. Willis, R. Boucher (*Capt.*), E. A. Thompson, Mr. G. R. Butler.
J. McKell and W. G. S. C. Smyth.

Harry Devlin, the old Irish 100 yards champion and water polo international, for his interesting display of fancy swimming, which was greatly appreciated.

In conclusion we would like to say that, for the benefit of those boys who wish to swim during the winter, the Iveagh Baths are being kept open for an extra month or so, and if they receive sufficient support they will keep open during the winter months. We would like to thank Mr. Wilson for so regularly attending the baths, and also Mr. Ellerker, who has been most unselfish in his support and training of us.

Because of the inexperience and general lack of knowledge of the rules by the polo team, which was very young, we have been compelled to omit the usual criticism of the players.

RESULTS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL GALA

22 Yards (under 13) Beginners' Handicap—1, G. S. Prince (7); 2, G. A. Treanor (5); 3, G. I. McCabe (scr.) Time, 21 3-5 secs.

Schools Squadron Championship of Leinster (176 Yards)—Clongowes Wood College I. Time, 1 min. 50 4-5 secs.

50 Yards Junior Championship of High School—1, A. D. Mason; 2, D. C. Ewen; 3, W. D. Boyle. Four competed. Won by two feet; a foot. Time, 45 secs.

22 Yards (over 13) Beginners' Handicap—1, J. D. Murray (1); 2, E. Williams (4); 3, R. J. Chillingworth (2). Eight competed. Time, 19 secs.

44 Yards (under 16) Handicap—1, K. M. White (3); 2, A. E. G. Moore (6); 3, D. A. Huggard (10). Nine competed. Time, 32 secs.

22 Yards (under 13) Handicap—1, G. I. McCabe; 2, W. D. Boyle (scr.); 3, R. Tomlinson (3). Five competed. Time, 17 secs.

44 Yards (under 15) Handicap—1, A. D. Mason (1); 2, D. C. Ewen (scr.); 3, J. M. McKell (6). Six competed. Time, 40 secs.

The High School Championship (100 Yards)—1, C. A. Boyle; 2, J. Stafford; 3, C. V. Boyle. Won by five yards. Time, 74 4-5 secs.

66 Yards Senior Handicap—1, K. M. White (9); 2, T. F. Eager (6); 3, H. McCabe (10). Five competed. Time, 56 3-5 secs.

Diving Handicap—1, J. Stafford (scr.); 2, T. F. Eager (1); 3, C. A. Boyle (scr.) Five competed.

66 Yards Old Boys' Handicap—1, H. Montgomery (12); 2, R. S. Savage (7); 3, G. Begley (7). Eight competed. Time, 48 secs.

44 Yards Breast and Back Strokes Handicap—1, D. H. McNeill (5); 2, C. V. Boyle (scr.); 3, F. Eager (3). Nine competed. Time, 45 secs.

Inter-House Squadron Race (176 Yards)—1, Evans'; 2, Butler's. Four teams competed. Won easily. Time, 2 mins. 8 2-5 secs.

Old Boys' Squadron Race (176 Yards)—1, Old St. Andrew's; 2, Old Mountjoy. Three teams competed. Time, 1 min. 44 secs.

WATER POLO

Leinster Schools' Cup (First Round)—St. Andrew's College (Holders), 4 (P. H. Dockrell, 4); Wesley College, nil.

Exhibition Match—Old St. Andrew's College, 7 (Ellerker, 4; Dockrell, 2; Morton, 1); Old High School and Old Mountjoy School, 3 (R. N. Case, 3).

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Boxing Notes

Captain, A. D. Goff. Vice-Captain, J. M. Caldwell.

The boxing classes are now going strong every Tuesday and Friday afternoon, and although we would like to see a greater number of boys attending we have material for a very good team, as we have four of last year's team and some new arrivals who are showing great promise. This year, in addition to our annual with St. Andrew's College, we hope to have bouts with one or two other boxing schools.

We should like to take this opportunity of pointing out that the amount of individual boxing that takes place is very small compared with the amount of physical training, and therefore a dislike for boxing is not an excuse for non-attendance at the classes. We also think that it would considerably improve both Senior and Junior Cup teams if more of their members turned up at the boxing class, if only for the physical training.

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Prize Distribution

The Annual Prize Distribution was held in the Clock Room on Friday, 27th November, at 3-30, Professor W. E. Thrift, T.D., S.F., T.C.D., in the Chair. There was a very large attendance. The Headmaster conveyed a message of regret for inability to be present from Mr. John Thompson, M.A., who said that he would particularly have wished to be present when an Old Boy of the School, Professor Thrift, had been appointed Chairman of the Board, and a memorial was to be unveiled to one of his former pupils, Dr. Stevenson.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

I bring before you to-day the Sixty-First Annual Report of the High School.

We record with regret the death of our late Chairman, the Lord Bishop of Cashel, who presided here at the last Prize Distribution. As Secretary of the Incorporated Society he had a long and intimate experience of Secondary Schools; and so, in my relations with him as Headmaster, I found him quick to see what was really needed by the school, and ready to use his influence to carry it out. A long list of improvements, including a Gymnasium, Baths at Belgrave Square, and the institution of midday dinners for boys, were carried out by the Governors with his active support.

We are fortunate in having as the new Chairman of the Erasmus Smith Board, Professor Thrift, a former pupil of the School, who knows our history intimately and has shown his continued confidence in the High School by sending to it all his sons. It is well known that no man's opinions have more weight with the Free State Government when they seek counsel in matters of Education.

We welcome also the recently elected member of the Board of Governors, Professor T. G. Moorhead, who has kindly consented to speak to the boys to-day.

This Report covers the school year 1930-31.

Numbers

Our numbers have again increased, and during the school year under review seventy new boys entered the School, a number not often exceeded in its past history. We have had to form an additional class this year. The Board has made this possible by increasing the number of the Staff.

Examinations

I shall deal briefly with the results of examinations.

The Half-Yearly School Examinations were held as usual, and prizes awarded at these are being distributed to-day.

The special prizes given by the French Government in 1930 were received after the distribution last year. They were won by D. T. Bardon and E. A. Thompson. This year (1931) they were won by D. T. Bardon and E. B. Moore.

The Carpenter Memorial Prize was won by H. B. Moore.

In the examinations in Holy Scripture held by the General Synod and the Presbyterian Assembly 96 boys passed, of whom 30 gained prizes. Half the number of prizes awarded for Greek Testament were won by candidates from this School.

At the Certificate Examinations, which have replaced the old Intermediate, 40 per cent. of our candidates passed with Honours. D. T. Bardon gained first place in Greek in the Leaving

Certificate. E. B. Moore was awarded a Scholarship. For various causes which are outside our control, few of these Scholarships now fall to Protestant schools, but the High School has not yet failed to obtain at least one of them every year.

D. T. Bardon was awarded a Kitchener Scholarship (£200) as a result of his school record.

At the Trinity Entrance Examination, J. W. Bridle won the High School Exhibition (£100), and seven boys were awarded Erasmus Smith Statutory Exhibitions. G. F. Mitchell was later awarded a vacant High School Exhibition.

At the Trinity Scholarship Examination this year three High School boys were successful. T. N. Richardson gained first Experimental Science Scholarship; H. B. S. Montgomery a Scholarship in Natural Science; and W. Warnock a Scholarship in Modern Languages.

At the Honour Degree Examinations the two Studentships were won by former pupils of the High School. A. W. Breakey, the Classical Student, entered College from the High School. H. G. Yates, the Mathematical Student, was a pupil of the High School until his family moved to Belfast, when he went to Methodist College, from which he entered Trinity College. It must have rarely happened that both University Students in one year had been pupils of the same school.

At the recent Junior Exhibition Examination, D. T. Bardon gained fourth place, winning the High Exhibition and also a Classical Sizarship. A book of results has been distributed, in which you will find the names of boys who have left us, winning successes in every department of the University. D. M. Mitchell has continued to win all available prizes in the Trinity College Medical School. In the College of Surgeons, E. A. Joyce gained a Primary Fellowship, a silver medal for Surgery, and his Final Professional.

J. W. Bridle gained first place at the last Bank of Ireland Examination.

Games and Sports

In Sport we had an interesting year. The Senior Cup Team, captained by R. Boucher, was the best for many years. In the Leinster Schools Competition it was beaten by the winners of the Cup (Castleknock).

In Cricket, in which R. Boucher also captained the First XI., the Governors have helped us greatly by supplying a petrol mower. The field was much improved, but the continuous rain somewhat spoiled our plans. However, next year, normal weather, a good groundsman, and the new mower should make things very much better.

The House Cup, generously presented by Lord Holmpatrick, was won by Mr. Evans' House. These House competitions, which are keenly contested, are designed to give more boys an interest in sport. In addition we have now organised a system of Class

Captains and weekly Class matches, so that a still larger number of boys are encouraged to play games. I hope that parents, for the sake of the boys' health, will support us by sending them regularly to Belgrave Square.

The attendance at the Swimming Classes was very good. The Polo Team was inexperienced, as the members of last year's team were over age for the competitions. There was a record number of Beginners' Proficiency Certificates. We owe our best thanks to Mr. Ellerker for the trouble which he has taken in training our boys.

Boxing Classes were held last season twice a week. The attendance was small, but enthusiastic.

The Annual Sports were held on 23rd June. The weather was fine, and the attendance excellent. The Senior Championship Cup was won by R. J. Walker, and the Junior by W. S. Moore.

Gymnastic Training is given regularly, and there was a display at the Annual Sports.

At the All-Ireland School Sports this year R. J. Walker won the One Mile Championship.

Dinners

The chief innovation during the year was the introduction of a system of midday dinners last January. As the Board has subsidised the scheme, and we have secured an excellent caterer, there is no doubt that boys receive very good value for the price paid. The total cost for a year is a little over £7, if a boy takes every dinner. Those who take these meals have a good dinner at a regular hour instead of possibly a reheated meal at 3-30, just before the time for exercise.

Last December the boys produced a Play, followed by a Pantomime. The great success of the performance was due to Mrs. Begley and Mr. Geoffrey Mackay, with the generous help of a number of Old Boys. We owe them our most sincere thanks. They are preparing another performance for production on the 15th and 16th December this year. Mr. C. N. Jeffares is also giving his time and large experience to the production of a Play of an uncommon kind. We are very grateful to all of them, and to the Old Boys, who are helping us again.

Debating Society

The Debating Society held a number of interesting debates last winter. Several lectures were given, including one by the late Dr. Walter Stevenson on "Radium," one by Mr. J. B. S. McIlwaine, R.H.A., on "British Coinage," and one by Professor J. C. Patten, M.A., M.D., Sc.D., on "The Language of Birds."

Library

The School Library is kept in constant use. It is continually being increased by gifts or purchase.

The Erasmian

The Erasmian was published three times during the year, once each term, and was edited by E. A. Thompson.

Old Boys' Union

The Old Boys' Union had a prosperous year. A Dance and a Dinner were held, Rugby, Cricket, and Golf matches were played. His Grace the Lord Primate is President, and Messrs. Mervyn Bell and Arthur J. Beatty are Hon. Secretaries. Mr. T. Bell is Hon. Treasurer in place of The Rev. W. C. G. Proctor, who had to resign owing to pressure of work.

I regret to announce the deaths of the following past pupils—Dr. Walter Clegg Stevenson, to whose memory a Tablet has been erected by his fellow-pupils. He gave us a lecture in the school only a fortnight before he died. Dr. Alexander Findlater, D.S.O. Mr. Henry Stuart Doig. Dr. W. H. A. O'Grady. Mr. Thomas Patrick Stuart.

Amongst distinctions conferred on Old Boys are the following—Dr. Wm. Butler Yeats has received the D.Litt. from Oxford University; Mr. I. E. Jones has been appointed Deputy Commissioner in charge of the Sargodha District, Punjab; the Rev. C. C. W. Duggan has been appointed Lecturer in the Divinity School, T.C.D.

The Old Boys' Cup

This year the Old Boys' Union has generously presented a Cup, to be given annually to the best type of boy in the School. A vote was taken among the Staff, and also the boys of the Upper School. A very solid majority of the votes of both orders was given to Ralph Walker, and I fully concur in the decision.

The Cup will be presented to-day by an old boy, known to everybody in the world of Sport, and one who has done much both for the O.B.U. and the present boys—Mr. Rupert Jeffares.

General Activities

In this Report I have referred to many school activities outside of class work. I am glad to say that they are all flourishing, because I have a very strong belief in having as many of them as possible, although they do involve a good deal of extra work for the Staff. Schools should be more than mere grinding machines, and should provide means of expression and development for the various sides of pupils' personalities. So far is this from injuring class work that I have found in experience that, with a few exceptions, the boys who have been most successful in examinations have also been most prominent in these activities. For example, a boy who left this year gained over £400 in prizes. He had been Captain of the First XV., Captain of the Boxing Club, Editor of *The Erasmian*, Secretary of the Debating Society, member of the Polo Team, and took part in all our Christmas Plays and other School activities. This was D. T. Bardon.

Modern Education

We often criticise our system of Education, which, like all human institutions, is imperfect. Parents of boys in Secondary Schools in Ireland have, however, a great advantage which is seldom recognised. Elsewhere, as for example in England, schools which receive public grants are so strictly controlled that there is little room for individuality. Parents in Ireland who send their sons to English schools seldom send them to one of these schools. But they have to pay extra fees in the independent schools in England, because they do not receive public grants. In Ireland, on the contrary, there is so much freedom that there is little to be gained by staying outside the system, and in fact almost all Secondary Schools, Northern and Southern, are under the Departments of Education. Our schools are private foundations, using their own funds, and in addition we receive Government grants, on condition that we allow the Educational Authorities to see that we are doing adequate work. We set all our own courses, and choose our own books, and if we were completely severed from the Department of Education to-morrow we should go on almost exactly as we are doing to-day. Parents might well ponder these facts. What, then, is the chief defect in our system? It is one that belongs in a greater or lesser degree to Education everywhere to-day—the overcrowding of the curriculum and the multiplicity of subjects. This goes far to undo the undoubted advances which have been made in methods of education. We add subject to subject in little boys' programmes, lest they might want them at some time. The spectacle is not unlike the foolish White Knight in *Alice In Wonderland*. He was loaded with contrivances of every kind, from a mouse-trap to spikes for sharks. It was better, as he said, to be prepared for all the things which one might meet in the world.

We have had some changes in the Staff. Mr. Shannon and Mr. Burrows have left, and in their places we have Mr. Harrison, who was a scholar and Honour graduate of the University of Wales, and Mr. Ferguson, who was first Classical scholar in Trinity College. The Board has given an additional master, who teaches Irish, Mr. A. A. Quinn, Honour graduate of the National University.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Staff for their help and loyalty, especially for the large amount of work outside of the regular class work which they have willingly undertaken. Finally, I want to thank the Governors, who have carried out every reasonable suggestion for the benefit of the School, and the parents and Old Boys for many instances of kindness and help.

* * *

The new Chairman of the Erasmus Smith Board, Professor W. E. Thrift, S.F., T.C.D., T.D., addressing the parents and boys, referred to the loss which the Board had suffered in the

death of Bishop Miller, whom he was proud of having been called on to succeed. He could promise that he would do all in his power to further the interests of his old school, which, he was glad to observe, continued to hold a high place in Irish education. He pointed out that for the pupils school was a place where they learned how to learn. Parents and teachers might not always be able to plan a boy's future, but if the boy himself learned how to learn their inability would not hinder the boy's advance. The speaker expressed his appreciation of what the Headmaster had done in the promotion of *esprit de corps*, towards which the formation of the Old Boys' Association had greatly helped. Turning to the subject of school work, to which the Headmaster had referred in his Report, he agreed with Mr. Bennett that the schools of the Free State had reason to be thankful for the freedom which the Department of Education allowed in the choice of subjects. That freedom, he thought, might give schools the means of getting over difficulties due to a crowded curriculum.

Professor Thrift's speech was followed by one from Professor T. Gilman Moorhead, M.D., who reminded the boys of the School's part in producing such men as the Brothers Thrift, Professor Alton, Mr. W. B. Yeats, and Primate D'Arcy. These men had done notable work in their own country, and he exhorted the boys to imitate them in this. He believed that, for capable men, there were still jobs to be had in Ireland. He had something to say about the vexed question of compulsory Irish. He was against compulsion. Irish seemed to him to be, like Greek, a luxury language. But, though he would not force the Irish language on pupils, he would have plenty of Irish history taught. He regretted that he had learned no Irish history at school. He concluded a useful address by giving the boys a bit of advice. They should learn the value of punctuality—punctuality in keeping engagements, in answering letters, and in paying their debts.

A pleasant item in the proceedings was the presentation, on behalf of the Old Boys, of a Cup to the boy who in the opinion of his schoolfellows and the staff represented "the best type of boy in the school." The Cup was presented to R. J. Walker by Mr. Rupert Jeffares, who addressed the boys in a humorous speech on some of the differences—striking differences, one might call them—between school life in his time and school life in the High School to-day. Mr. Jeffares seemed to have a vivid memory of his experiences at school in the early eighties, and though he (and his audience) found them laughable, it is certain that he thought them much less mirth-provoking forty-five years ago. Mr. Jeffares has no excessive respect for the boy in whom Nature has implanted the trick of passing examinations and winning prizes, but he has a great respect for boys whom schoolfellows and masters regard as decent fellows—boys who might be honoured by such a distinction as the Old Boys' Cup.

A presentation of a very different kind was made by the Rev. W. J. Mayne, who, on behalf of the Old Boys' Association, asked the School authorities to accept a memorial in the form of a mural tablet to the late Dr. Walter Clegg Stevenson, whose name, along with that of Dr. Joly, will live in the history of the fight against malignant disease. Dr. Joly was present, and addressed the school on the subject of his friend and collaborator. The text of his address appears below.

* * * *

Dr. John Joly's Speech

We are here to-day to do honour to the memory of a very great and good man, who spent some years of his early life within the walls of this School. No more suitable place could be found for this Memorial Tablet. A place wherein it will continue, we hope, to hold up to successive generations of young scholars those aims which should appeal to all as the highest which can actuate human endeavour.

My acquaintance with Walter Clegg Stevenson began when he was a student of Medicine in Trinity College, and when, as Assistant in the Department of Experimental Physics, I had occasionally to teach the Medical students.

Shortly after obtaining his Degree of M.B., Stevenson joined the Army Medical, and served in South Africa in 1901. The Army service did not suit his temperament, and (although later he served in France during the Great War) he returned to Dublin and took the Degree of M.D. in 1901. Shortly after he obtained a surgical post in Dr. Steevens' Hospital, and, still later, a similar post in the Orthopædic Hospital of Ireland.

As all know, Stevenson's fame as Medical Practitioner rests upon his early recognition of the value of radioactivity as used in the cure of disease. One of the earliest results obtained by Stevenson was the cure of an inoperable facial rodent ulcer by exposure to the rays emerging from a glass tube containing a few milligrams of radium. The radium had been obtained by me from Berlin. This was early in the present century. Other results indicative of the therapeutic value of these rays were at this period obtained by Stevenson.

In the year 1914 the Royal Dublin Society established the Radium Institute of Ireland on funds contributed by the late Earl of Iveagh, by Sir John P. Griffith, and by the Society.

In connection with the projected founding of this Institute, Stevenson and I visited many hospitals in London, and the London Radium Institute.

At this period the procedure in the surgical application of radium consisted mainly in the use of centralised dosages of great strength. This system was not only wasteful, but also, in many

cases, actually injurious. The result of considerations arising out of this visit was the now generally accepted method of sub-dividing the dosage into very many comparatively feeble centres of radiation. Stevenson and I published several papers upon this newly suggested mode of application, which acquired subsequently the rather clumsy name of the "Needle Method." This designation originated in the use of hollow needles—like ordinary exploring needles—to protect the fine glass tubes containing the "emanation," i.e., the gas which is the source of the penetrating rays. These early papers will be found in the Proceedings of the R.D.S., or in the current Medical Journals.

This advance finally determined the career of Walter Stevenson. He soon established the value of the new radio-therapy. His annual reports to the Irish Radium Institute will bear out this statement.

It is needless to add that Stevenson's results could not have been obtained by the original supply of radium possessed by the R.D.S. The British Government, however, at the conclusion of the War—on the instance of Sir E. Coey Bigger—lent the Institute a valuable addition to its stock. Still more recently an appeal to the members of the Society and to the public elicited a response so generous as to secure it against any such wants for many years to come.

But notwithstanding its financial prosperity, and even taking into account the valuable work done by other practitioners in Ireland, it may be stated that it was Stevenson's work which was mainly effective in raising the Irish Institute into the proud position of being one of the most successful in the world.

But his early death was near at hand. He died in his 54th year, leaving very many poor sufferers in this city to recognise in his death the end of their hopes of prolonged life. There was nobody like him.

Walter Stevenson's life is a noble example of what a great-hearted man can accomplish in his day; even in a day which has not seen the twilight.

The Memorial was then unveiled by the Chairman, who read the inscription—"Erected by his fellow-pupils of the High School to the memory of Dr. Walter Clegg Stevenson, M.D., T.C.D., who by his pioneer work in radio-therapy brought relief to suffering humanity."

The following letter has since been received from Lieut.-Col. F. Stevenson, M.D., I.M.S.:

To the Honorary Secretary,
Old Boys' Union,
The High School,
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the children of my brother—the late Doctor Walter Clegg Stevenson—and the members of his family, I

desire to express our sincere thanks to the members of the Old Boys' Union of the High School, Dublin, for the honour they have bestowed on his memory in placing such a fitting Memorial in his old School.

Yours faithfully,

F. STEVENSON.

[The Memorial was designed and executed by Wm. Sawier, Bedford Row, Dublin.]

* * *

Old Boys' Union

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

Vice-President—The Headmaster.

Hon. Secretaries—Messrs. Mervyn Bell and Arthur J. Beatty.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. T. Bell.

All Old Boys are invited to join the Union. Life subscription is one guinea, which may be paid in two annual instalments. Boys leaving School will, if they wish, have their names placed on the register of the Union. Part, at least, of their life subscription must be paid within three years.

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at the School on Monday, 9th November, at 8 p.m. The Headmaster (Vice-President) in the Chair. The Rev. W. C. G. Proctor, B.D., who has acted as Hon. Treasurer since the Union was founded, said that, owing to pressure of private work, he was not able to continue in office. His resignation was accepted with regret, and a very hearty vote of thanks passed to him for the work which he had done. Mr. T. Bell was appointed Hon. Treasurer in his place.

A notice of motion was handed in to abolish the General Committee, and to elect the Executive Committee annually at the general meeting. The following were appointed Secretaries, to arrange and carry out sports fixtures—Football, T. D. Murphy; Cricket, F. H. Flewitt; Golf, H. Williams; Tennis, E. H. Maynard.

NOTES

The Editor wishes to apologise sincerely for a mistake in a notice in last issue about the Rev. A. W. R. Cheales, M.A., who has been appointed Rector of Coln St. Denys with Coln Rogers, Cheltenham. When Press cuttings were being sent to the printer this was accidentally included under the wrong heading.

The Rev. C. C. W. Duggan has been appointed Assistant Lecturer in the Divinity School, T.C.D.

The Rev. E. J. Young, B.D., Incumbent of the Parish of St. Michem and St. Paul, has been appointed a Canon of Christchurch Cathedral.

Rev. George A. Rice, formerly of Rathgar, Co. Dublin, has joined the Inland South America Missionary Union, and is working in Argentina.

The Honorary Degree of D.Litt. was conferred upon Dr. W. B. Yeats, the Irish poet, at Oxford recently.

T. S. C. Dagg has recently been promoted from Chief Advisory Officer of Finance to Chief Officer of that Department of the Free State Government.

D. Mallock Lawson has been appointed Telegraph Engineer, Nyassaland.

Derrick W. Rice has passed the Pre-Registration of the College of Surgeons, and has also become a Fellow of the College of Violinists, London. He has the honour of being the youngest Fellow on record. He also gained the gold medal in Senior Violin at the Feis Coeil.

Seymour Rice gained the Kerner-Greenwood Travelling Scholarship in Architecture. This is a great honour, and his work has been published in some of the London Architectural Journals.

R. W. Reynolds gained a Second-Class Moderatorship in Classics at the Trinity College Examinations.

D. M. Mitchell gained a first of First-Class Moderatorship in Natural Science.

H. A. E. Egan gained a Moderatorship in Oriental Languages.

As far as is known, the following are the Old Boys of the School who have been Rugby Internationalists:

1890	Doran, E. F.	1881-1884
1895	Brunker, A. A.	1885-1889
1896	Sealy, J.	1886-1894
1900	Doran, B. R. W.	1888-1891
1904	Thrift, H.	1891-1901
1904	Knox, A. J.	1893-1896
1908	Smartt, F. N.	1900-1903
1913	Holmes, J. W.	1907-1909

Perhaps some Old Boy can add to the list.

FIXTURES

The Old Boys' Dinner is fixed for 30th January, 1932. It will take place in the Clock Room.

Marriages

FERGUSON and RAY.—November 14th, 1931, at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, London, Captain A. K. Ferguson (Leicestershire Regiment) to Nora Lillian Ray, Park Road, Crouch End, London.

GILLIGAN and BUTLER.—At St. Patrick's Church, Dalkey, by the Rev. C. S. Collins, M.A., Rector of St. Patrick's, Dalkey, Captain C. H. Gilligan (late Indian Army), second son of the late Mr. William Gilligan and Mrs. Gilligan, Maythorne, Ealing, London, W., to Miss Emily Frances Butler, younger daughter of the late Mr. C. J. Butler, of Dalkey, and Mrs. Butler, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin.

OWGAN and JASPER.—September 21st, 1931, at St. David's Church, Davidstowe, North Cornwall, by the Rev. W. H. L. Jennings, B.A., assisted by the Rev. G. A. Chatterton, B.A., George Alleyne, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Owgan, 58 Palmerston Road, Dublin, to Marina, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jasper, Trewinnow, Davidstowe, North Cornwall.

BEATTY and DRAPER.—On November 17th, 1931, at St. Alban's Church, by the Rev. Herbert Trundle, Lewis H. S. Beatty, 40 Ailesbury Road, Dublin, to Olive Winifred, third daughter of the late Charles Draper and Mrs. Draper, 12 Wellgarth Road, Hampstead.

WORLIN and BOLTON.—October 14th, 1931, at Malahide Presbyterian Church, by Rev. James McCaughley, M.A., James, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. George Worlin, 24 Wigan Road, Dublin, and Aileen Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Bolton, Woodlawn, Malahide, Co. Dublin.

HARRIS and PURVES.—October 17th, 1931, at Ecclesall Church, Sheffield, by Rev. H. W. Mackay, M.A., Thomas Victor, eldest son of the late James Harris and Mrs. Harris, of 32 Albany Road, Ranelagh, Dublin, to Maureen, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Purves, 3 Brentwood Road, Sheffield.

ALLEN and SWEETMAN.—October 19th, 1931, at Rathgar Methodist Church, by the Rev. W. H. Massey, Norman Scott, son of the late John S. Allen and Mrs. Allen, 44 Malahide Road, Clontarf, to Gertrude Palmer, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Sweetman, 8 Kenilworth Square, Rathgar.

WALLEN and CURNOW.—September 15th, 1931, at St. Paul's Church, Glenageary, by the Rev. Canon D. H. Hall, Arthur Wilson, third son of Mr. F. A. Wallen, 2 Belgrave Park, Rathmines, to Vera Irene, eldest daughter of Mr. B. H. Curnow, M.B.E., and Mrs. Curnow, Verdemay, Crosthwaite Park, East Dun Laoghaire.

ELLIS and PATTON.—June 16th, 1931, Herbert de Burgh Ellis, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James T. Ellis, Valdar, Garville Avenue, Rathgar, to Marguerite Lilian (Rita), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Patton, St. Anne's Road, Drumcondra.

EASON and STAMFORD.—June 6th, 1931, at St. Mary's Church, Beverley, Gareth Aimers Eason, M.B., M.R.C.P., son of the late William Waugh Eason and the late Mrs. Jessie Hill Tulloch, to Barbara, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard B. Stamford, of Beverley, Yorks.

RICHARDSON and NEALE.—June 18th, 1931, at St. James' Church, Dublin, by the Rev. E. M. Bateman, Rector, James William, only son of the late J. D. Richardson, V.S., and Mrs. Richardson, Herbert House, South Circular Road, Dublin, to Alice Maud, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Neale, 91 Pavilion Road, Knightsbridge, London.

BLANCHE and VON PODEWILS.—At the Chapel of the Nunciatura, Bogota, Columbia, by Monsignor Grobbo, Henri Georges Antoine Blanche, younger son of Monsieur Alfred Blanche, French Minister in Columbia, and formerly French Consul in Dublin, to Countess Elga von Podewils, elder daughter of the German Minister in Columbia and Countess von Podewils-Duernitz.

* * *

Obituary

We regret to announce the following deaths:

DUNLOP.—Geoffrey Arthur, 33 Rathgar Road, September 23rd, 1931.

SPIRO.—Abraham, B.A., T.C.D., at 20 Windsor Terrace, on September 21st, 1931.

PARKER.—August 2nd, 1931, at Hinaidi, Iraq, suddenly, of acute pneumonia, Cecil T. Parker, aged 38 years, youngest son of the late Edward Parker, of Leeson Park, Dublin, and Mrs. Parker, of 49 Kingsway, East Sheen, London, and beloved husband of Eileen Parker, of Knebworthy, Herts, and Erroldene, Dalkey, Dublin.

DR. HUGH O'GRADY

News of the sudden death of Dr. H. O'Grady, on 8th May, came as a very great shock to those who knew him, especially to those past and present students who came under him in his capacity as lecturer in Latin and Ancient History, and latterly in Greek, at the University of Pretoria.

Born forty-five years ago in County Cork, Ireland, the son of a famous Celtic scholar and novelist, Dr. O'Grady had a varied and notable career. He entered Trinity College, Dublin, and as a student showed great promise, being a gold medallist in Classics,

and also filling the auditorial chair of the College Historical Society. It was in historical research that he was most interested, and in this connection he obtained his degree of Doctor of Literature with a biography of Strafford.

But he did not confine himself to these activities. He was at one time editor of a newspaper; it was probably due to this that he took up politics, taking active part in electioneering campaigns and being himself elected Member for Parliament. During the Great War he served in France and Salonika. In 1923 he went out to South Africa to join the staff of St. John's College, Johannesburg, but left it in 1925 for a lectureship at the T.U.C., now the University of Pretoria, which position he held till his death.

Scholar, journalist, historian, politician, and soldier—all these Dr. O'Grady was, but above all he was that rarest of human beings, a gentleman. Of a cheery disposition and with a mellow sense of humour, he made a favourable impression on all with whom he came in contact. As a lecturer he was ideal; he contrived, none better, to make his subject live—how well he succeeded his students know. He very soon established contact between himself and his audience, and that conversational manner of his with which he delivered his lectures made one think of him as a friend and not as a university lecturer. I, at any rate, always regarded him as such. He was possessed, too, of an infinite capacity of taking pains, and was unsparing in his efforts to do his best for his students; it was his amazing industry for the sake of his students that brought on the disease that eventually led to his death before his time. Unaffected himself, Dr. O'Grady hated affectation in others. He never lost the spirit of youth which was his, and remained the same simple, modest, unassuming, courageous, and honourable man to the end. We shall never see his like again.

Dr. O'Grady has gone to his last rest, but he leaves behind him in the minds of his students a memory that time cannot efface. *Requiescat in pace.*

I. A.

Our Contemporaries

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following magazines: "T. C. D." (Trinity College, Dublin); "The Campbellian" (Campbell College, Belfast).

M.C.B. (Methodist College Belfast), R.B.A. (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 from all others interested in the School.

Editor—E. B. Moore.

Sub-Editor—E. A. Thompson.

Sports Editor—J. M. Caldwell.

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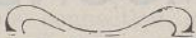
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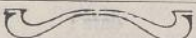
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