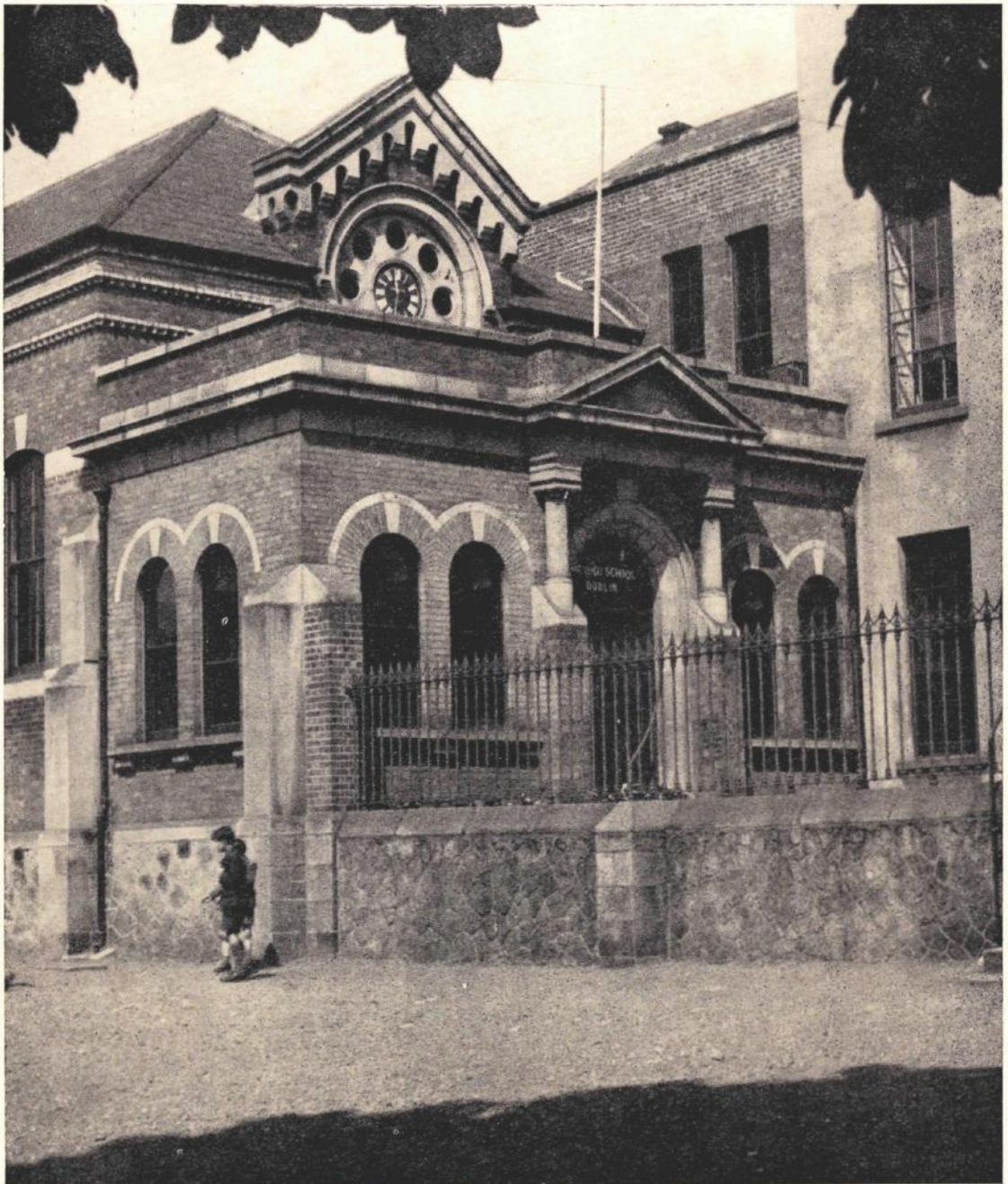


THE ERASMIAN

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL, DUBLIN



DECEMBER, 1953

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EDITORIAL

*"Yet once more O ye laurels, and once more
Ye myrtles green with ivy never sere,
I come to pluck your berries harsh and crude . . ."*

We can think of no better preface to our words than these lines of Milton as with borrowed pen as staff we set forth on the hazardous pilgrimage into the realms of literary composition.

At this season of good will to all men and at a time when Christmas shopping is in full swing, it seems a dastardly act to heap tribulation in the form of examinations on the miserable wretches who cower in the classrooms under the watchful eye of cruel taskmasters.

We hear of the advent of a new society to the cultural world of the school. This, "The High School Musical Society," was formed by a group of musical enthusiasts in the senior school with the object of instructing and amusing those interested, by a study of classical music. We congratulate these boys on their initiative and progressive spirit.

And now since our readers must wish to turn the pages and scan the contributions within, we shall not permit our faltering pen to detain them longer, and will leave them with the parting thought that among these budding litterateurs there may be a Shaw or an Eliot.

First Impressions of Rugby

When I went to High School, I found that it would be difficult to avoid playing rugby. My parents were glad of this, but I had different ideas on the subject. Being new to the game, I could not understand it at all. I was told that I was to be a forward, and a forward I have been ever since. However, I soon learned that when the ball went over the touch-line, there was a throw-in. I did what everybody else did, and when they jumped in the line-out, I jumped with them. Whenever the ball came in my direction, when possible, I got out of the way of it, and if it did happen to be pushed into my hands, I got rid of it as quickly as possible, usually by passing it forward. I will now describe a typical rugby practice, as seen through the eyes of a non-enthusiastic player like myself at that time.

We leave school in a leisurely manner, and eventually arrive at the bus stop. The sight of a number twelve bus disappearing over Charlemont Bridge causes no dismay. However, one arrives soon enough, and we are transported to Belgrave Square, where we undress as slowly as possible, hoping that the drizzle will turn to rain, heavy enough to force us to abandon play.

We shiver as we report to the master, who gets us to practice getting down on the ball. Soon it is my turn. I grab the ball, lie down in the mud, and putting my hands over my ears, as everybody else seems to do, I surrender myself to the inevitable. On looking up, I see half a dozen boots, all groping blindly for the ball, within an inch of my nose. This is all very well, but at any moment I expect a violent kick in the small of the back, or to have my good looks (if any) spoiled by having at least one tooth kicked down my throat. However, it is at last over, and I get up, a miserable mud-bespattered specimen of humanity.

Scrumming is the next item on the agenda, and this is almost as unpleasant as getting down on the ball. Suddenly there is the blast of a whistle, which almost roots me to the spot, and the master jabs his heel into the mud, crying: "Scrum it here chaps." Gingerly, as lock forward, I put my head between the two second-row men, and then I hear the master say: "Winter, get your head in low." The drizzle thickens, and a biting north-west wind sweeps diagonally across the field, chilling us to the marrow. Every movement of either second-row man is torture to me, for my ears are being rubbed backwards and forwards. I almost wish that I had been kept in for my Shakespeare, for nothing could possibly be worse than my present plight. I try to imagine that I am sitting at home in front of a roaring fire reading a "Biggles" book. I also wish that I had the moral courage to turn out on the field wearing a scrum-cap. Looking at a scrum from the outside, one is reminded of a huge beetle, but it is really the personification of misery.

As scrum succeeds scrum, and misery piles on misery, some of the boys begin to "remember" that they have to leave early for

various reasons. Thus, the more timid brethren, like myself, who have not the courage to invent such excuses, are left to struggle on, slopping around the field, and chasing a greasy ball. However, as even the worst things come to an end, and the light gets so bad that we cannot see from one end of the field to the other, we are dismissed, and return to the pavilion. By this time, my ears are red and sore from scrums innumerable, my hands blue with the cold, and my shirt, damp with mud, mist and perspiration is almost glued to my back. Having hobbled back to the pavilion, we are glad to discard our greasy togs, and return home weighed down with portions of Belgrave Square adhering to our persons.

That was four years ago, and since then I have come to enjoy rugby. Now I am glad that I was made to play rugby; for had it not been so, I should not have the honour of playing for my school.

E. H. WINTER (4A).

Television and the Wireless

Television and the wireless are subjects which are open to much criticism and discussion. Even although television has not yet been introduced in Ireland on a large scale, there is no doubt that it will be in the near future. Therefore, it is interesting to realise the troubles and problems, as well as the advantages and pleasures appertaining to it in advance. Television will probably soon be considered essential, like the wireless is to-day.

Almost every home at the present time is equipped with a wireless set. This means that the wireless has a tremendous influence on the life of the whole nation. Generally speaking, radio broadcasts are good sometimes, both interesting and instructive. However, there are some inferior types of broadcasts which spoil the radio's good programmes. At its best, the wireless is well worth listening to, and some of the plays are good literary works, and well cast. Music is another branch of entertainment, and the wireless caters for a large variety of tastes. People make fun of the Third Programme of the B.B.C., and say it is only for that select band of people called "highbrows!" Nevertheless, very few people have ever even tried to listen to it. Many people merely "switch on"

the wireless whenever possible, regardless of what the programme is. Then, they continue with the occupation which they have in hand, and at the same time are also able to hear the wireless.

This is a fault which television is likely to correct. It is not possible to watch television and do any other kind of work simultaneously. This is considered its chief drawback by most people and has occasioned the greatest opposition to it. Also, it has not yet developed fully. There is no doubt that one day there will be television in colour and in three dimensions.

It is interesting to note how commercialism is making its way into British television. Many debates and discussions have been caused by this new introduction, and it has been decided that advertising shall not interfere with sponsored programmes. The new scheme will be supervised by a corporation set up by the British Government.

Meanwhile in Ireland it is only possible to wait and watch (not however, television!). Finally, when television is introduced in Ireland, the Irish Government should avoid making unnecessary errors, having benefited by the experience of others. Thus, it is hoped that it will one day start a television programme, which will be enjoyed by all.

A. M. GANN (Form 5s).

The Horse Feather

It is a fine day in August, the sun shines on a scene of great activity. In a small rocky field in Inishmore two workmen dig ever deeper into a large mound of cairn material (lumps of rock to the uninitiated). They are working with short hand picks and clad in homespuns, while a bearded archaeological student from Cambridge, clad in ancient army shirt and shorts, shovels rubble on to an ever-growing mound. Two lazy looking characters, one wearing army surplus battledress, the other wearing fairly civilised attire, are half-heartedly hacking at a haphazard pile of large rock slabs overgrown with ivy and furze. For ought they know (or care) this may conceal a skeleton or perhaps a valuable bronze dagger. The Man in Charge is chatting in fluent Gaelic to the workmen as he discusses various samples of bone and chipped rock which they discover in the mound.

Suddenly the air is disturbed by a voice which savours of Dublin. "Yez'd need borin' drills there, wouldn't yez." His worship, the M.I.C., looks up in amazement. "Ta get below the rocks, dontcha know," says this apparition. Everybody is struck dumb with horrified amazement, but by the time our friend has entered the field dragging a small child after him, the M.I.C. is recovered sufficiently to explain to him gently, as if to a small child (and a not too bright one) that this drastic step is not really necessary as man has never penetrated below the rocks and is not likely to do so. He appears disappointed but continues his inquisition: "D'ya think tha Fir-Bolgs built that, d'ya think." With a patient smile the M.I.C. explains that he was in search of facts, not myths. He appears surprised, and his faith in archæology seems shaken.

Meanwhile the visitor's offspring, having clambered into a rather shaky circle of standing stones, seems in imminent danger of precipitating the whole edifice to the ground. On having his attention drawn to this fact, our friend strolls over and says: "Don't mooave Lovey, stay there till I lift ya." The child is duly removed and is hauled over to the far side of the mound by his curious parent. At this point one of the somnolent characters appears to be struck with a beautiful idea and with a beatific smile he swiftly plucks a bristle from a broom which lies idle nearby and slips it into the finds box.

On the return of the visitor he shows him the finds of genuine deer-antler and so forth, but on enquiring the nature of the bristle, he is told with an admirable semblance of scholastic knowledge that it is a feather from a prehistoric horse. He is informed that horses, several thousand years ago, were covered in a coat of spiny feathers which later, by process of evolution, became the hairs which we behold upon the horses of to-day. The character examines this valuable relic of the past and with wonder evident on his countenance he exclaims: "Horse feathers! Go way! Now I never would have believed that! Horse feathers! Ah, well, we live and learn." Carefully replacing the precious bristle he finally departed, muttering as he went: "Horse feathers—well, well, well." His last words capped everything. "Good-bye," he called; "thanks for showing me your evacuation."

Zebbras

Have you ever tried keeping zebras, either for pleasure or profit? I don't mean the four-legged ones with their black and white stripes, but the small Australian Zebra Finch which has been available in Ireland for many years.

The Zebra Finch is an extremely hardy bird and may be kept either indoors or outdoors. The cock of the species is a small fawn bird with black and white markings across its chest. He has a tiny red beak and a black and white tail. The hen is similar in colour, but lacks the black and white suffusion on the chest.

The Zebra Finch will breed quite easily either in a cage or aviary as long as it is supplied with nesting-material and a nest-box. It will live on canary and millet seeds with oats and water. The breeding season for zebras is from April to November, during which time one pair should rear eight youngsters.

I find, however, that the hen zebra is rather careless and sometimes fails to feed her young. She will not allow the cock to help, and this year I have lost three youngsters through this fault. However, in her second nest this hen has reared four youngsters who will be leaving the nest shortly.

If you have ever thought of keeping birds, I strongly recommend a pair of zebras as a start. These are hardy, cheap and colourful birds, whose needs are very small.

K. R. TYRRELL (Form 4A).

Five Years a Tramp

It was a misty evening when the ragged tramp came trudging along the highway which led towards the dusty city. Tim, as he called himself, had been tramping the country for five years, and now once more he found himself approaching the city in which he had lost his wife and house in a fire. After the fire Tim had become a tramp and had managed to keep alive for five years, although he knew not how. He was hoping to find a job in the city so that he could return to civilisation once more.

At last, fifty miles from the city, he sank to rest on the grassy verge of the road. Then, as darkness was beginning to descend, he heard a shrill whistle and the rattle of a railway train

quite close to him. He stumbled to his feet and moved on in the direction of the railway. He soon came upon the great shining silvery rails. There was a junction a few yards along the track where a small black dog was crossing the rails.

Suddenly Tim was startled by a sharp report as the points changed, in readiness for the next train. Almost at once the dog yelped and collapsed in a twitching heap upon the track. In the distance Tim could hear the train approaching. He sprang into action.

In a second he was bounding along the sleepers. He reached the unfortunate animal and tried to pull its trapped leg from the rails. The smoking monster behind him emitted a long whistle. The train was approaching at ninety miles an hour. Tim wedged his boot into the track and released the pressure on the dog's leg. He clutched the dog wildly in his arms and dived towards the bank. With a rattle of pounding wheels and with flashes of light the streamlined iron monster was rapidly receding into the blackness. Tim now was vaguely aware of voices, of being lifted and carried gently to a motor-car.

Two days later Tim was sitting watching the scenery flash past the carriage window of the train which was bearing him swiftly towards the city. The dog he had rescued was very valuable, and belonged to the owner of a large factory in the city, where Tim was to have a job for the rest of his life. Tim was rejoining civilisation at last.

W. G. FISHER (Form 4A).

The Future of the Steam Locomotive

What is the future of the steam locomotive? Will the diesel train replace it altogether? Those are questions which everybody is asking. In some countries, the diesel and diesel-electric locomotives are replacing all the steam locomotives, but in other countries there is a better future awaiting the steam locomotive, particularly in Great Britain. There is one very obvious reason for the latter state of affairs; if a country has an abundant supply of coal available, then it can run a steam train much cheaper than a diesel train running on imported fuel, except perhaps it may use diesel shunting locomotives.

There are many good reasons why people prefer diesel trains. Probably the most outstanding one, to the common traveller, is the complete absence of smoke, resulting in clean coaches. The traveller may also notice that the diesel train can pull away quicker from a station than a steam train, which means that journeys are made much quicker. From the railway point of view, the diesel train is very popular, because it is much cheaper to run than a steam locomotive (where, as I have said, coal is not available), and maintenance costs are not high.

Despite the trend of replacing steam locomotives, they are still holding their place in many countries. Steam locomotives are far superior to diesel locomotives — if the fuel is available for them. Britain, as I have pointed out, is the cradle of steam locomotives, and has the distinction of producing some of the finest machines. A British steam locomotive holds the world speed record for that type of locomotive, and even at this very time British railway engineers are making plans to build a new powerful locomotive for the main lines.

Thus the steam locomotive is far from becoming extinct. And perhaps diesel and steam locomotives will work together as firm friends on the railways of to-morrow.

G. N. EAMES (Form 5s).

Irish Railway Record Society

JUNIOR BRANCH

The Junior Branch of the Irish Railway Record Society was founded on January 31st, 1948. The Junior Branch of the Society is the section which caters for boys between the age of 12 and 18 years who are interested in railways.

The Junior Branch's year commences each September with the Annual General Meeting, at which the committee are elected and the programme for the year is set out. After this a meeting is held on the first Saturday of each month until the following May, when a summer programme of visits to railway works, etc., at greatly reduced fares, is organised. The monthly meetings each consist of a paper on some railway subject, explained in a simple and interesting way. The paper is followed by a discussion and a report on the latest Irish rail-

way developments and happenings. All meetings begin at 7.30 p.m. and finish before 10 p.m. In addition to these meetings, there is a social evening at Christmas and a film show in January. The film show is presented by a member of the Society and the films consist of shots taken of Society's outings.

The next film show will take place on Saturday, January 16th, 1954, at 7.30 p.m., in the C.I.E. club, Earl Place. All those interested in railways and who are not members are invited to come along, and bring their fathers also!

[NOTE: An extra film will be shown this year entitled "Belfast Trams"].

The annual subscription of the Junior Branch is five shillings and no entry fee is necessary on joining. By being a member of the Junior Branch one has the right to attend the affairs of the Society proper. These consist of meetings, outings (by special trains!!!), an annual film show and an annual dinner.

The Junior Branch has vacancies for the remainder of the 1953-54 season at half-year subscription of 3/-; so if you are interested, or wish to make any enquiries, please write to:

The Hon. Secretary,
C. D. SEYMOUR (Form 5),
40 Cremore,
Glasnevin, Dublin.

Autumn Dawn: A Rondel

Aurora's roseate lights bestow their rays
On those who have seen worse or better days;
And dulcet sounds of heavenly choirs that sing
The lays of dawn, while bells in concord ring.
So bright Aurora man's uprising sees,
And still descends to kiss the golden trees.
And Phoebus' lights in rays translucent shine
As if they seek the heav'n's t' incarnadine
And gentle Zephyrs calmly waft away
To space unborn the nightly galaxy.
So bright Aurora man's uprising sees,
And still descends to kiss the golden trees.
Celestial light continues thus to shine,
While we in comfort breakfast, sup, or dine;
Until the evening with a silent stealth
Comes, like a vengeful king, to claim his wealth.
So bright Aurora man's uprising sees,
And still descends to kiss the golden trees.

JULIAN DAWSON.

A Cycle Ride to Glendalough

One sunny August day my sister and I cycled with our parents to Glendalough from Greystones, twenty miles there and twenty miles back.

In case any of you boys would like to try this trip next summer's holidays, I will describe it to you.

We set out with our lunch at 10 o'clock, passing through Delgany and there we saw men reaping a field of oats. Our road next took us past the south side of the Downs Hill by a big castle-like house, called Altidore. There we had to wheel our bicycles up a long hill. It was extremely steep, and when we were about half-way up we wished we had never started, but when we got up to the top, we found we were rewarded for our climbing. We stood transfixed to our place. In front of us was the most wonderful scene I ever saw—mountains all covered with heather, Vartry reservoirs and all the beauties of nature. In the distance we could see where Glendalough was. We rode on to the Calary road and there we had a refreshing drink of lemonade. After that we cycled on past the Vartry reservoirs and the village of Togher or Roundwood. On the main Glendalough road we rode through Annamoe and Laragh, and suddenly saw the Round Tower in the distance.

At half-past one we arrived tired and hungry to the lakeside, where we lunched and rested till teatime. After tea we spent an hour looking at the Round Tower, St. Kevin's Kitchen, and the old churches and taking photographs.

At 6 o'clock we started home. First we rode to Togher and turned to the right up a big hill for the Roundwood reservoirs. Unfortunately, when we got to the top we found we had left our cameras on a waterpump at the bottom, so we had to climb the hill twice. At the reservoir on the other side of the road were filter beds for the water. It was a lovely sight, fountains playing and lovely gardens. Soon we came to the top of a steep winding stony hill. Here we had to keep our brakes full on all the time. At the bottom of the hill we came into Newtownmountkennedy, where we had a chat with a man who was amazed at our journey.

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We rode on past the oat field which was nearly finished being reaped. When we got home we felt like heroes of ancient Greece.

J. E. BARDON (Form 1A).

A Trip to Holland

Last summer we went to Holland on a Dutch cargo boat. When I first saw the ship from Drogheda Bridge it looked very small, but when we got on it seemed quite big and there was plenty of room for the ten passengers and twenty-four of a crew. We could not leave till next day as the dockers had not finished putting on the oil-cake until that night. The Captain was afraid of getting stuck in the two-mile long channel, so next morning we started with the high tide into a terrific gale.

When we got out into the Irish Sea we watched the pilot getting off into a small motor-boat. Then we had lunch. Everybody was disappearing from the table until there were only two passengers left. All that afternoon the storm got worse and so did we. The next morning the Captain and stewards made us get up and go on deck. At lunch the Captain made us eat all we could; it tasted very good because I had not had anything to eat since the day before. After lunch the Captain asked me if I would like to steer, so for a whole hour I stayed up on the bridge steering. The ship was steered by gyro compass, and I had to keep it at a certain number. Then it was time to go to bed. I shared a cabin with a Dutch man; I had the top berth, it closed up during the day. Next morning I got up at 5 o'clock with the crew. A sailor gave me a pair of Wellingtons and I helped to scrub the decks; there was a hose, and I was using it to squirt water at the sailors who were laughing at the big boots I had on.

So our journey continued for two and a half days, and then we saw Holland for the first time. We saw windmills turning round and also the gaps in the sea-wall where the floods had broken through. A pilot came on board to take us into Rotterdam and after the Customs men and harbour officials had seen our baggage, we were able to land in lovely Holland.

BRUCE W. F. WOODWORTH (J3, age 9).

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

School News

Term began on Tuesday, 8th September, 1953.

We record with regret the death of Mr. H. J. Johnston, M.A., a member of the Board of Governors and an Old Boy who took the keenest interest in the welfare of the School.

We welcome to the Staff Mr. B. McHenry, B.A. (N.U.I.); Mr. A. A. Leeson, B.A. (T.C.D.), and Mr. J. S. Kendall, Moderator, B.A. (T.C.D.).

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Evans and Miss Orr on their engagement. By the time this issue of "The Erasmian" appears in print the boys and staff of the School will have given token of their esteem and affection in the form of presentations to these two members of our staff.

Congratulations to Miss Williams and to Mr. Kendall on obtaining the Higher Diploma in Education, T.C.D.

During the Summer two classrooms on the first floor of No. 40 were redecorated in a style which endeavoured to recapture some of the original Georgian atmosphere. They were also fitted with fluorescent lighting.

A lecture on Dr. Barnardo's Homes was given to the boys in the Second Year by Lieut.-Colonel Rose, and illustrated with films by the Rev. D. J. MacAndrew. The arrangements for the lecture were made by Mr. Johnson, who also looks after the collection made annually in the school for these homes.

The Rev. Canon Bloomfield spoke to the boys of the Third Year on the work of the Universities Mission to Central Africa in St. Joseph's College, Chidya. High School has a "link" with St. Joseph's College, and a collection made in school under the supervision of Mr. Willoughby realised the sum of £10 for the work of the mission.

On November 11th a short memorial service was held at Prayers, during which wreaths were laid by Prefects on the War Memorial.

After an explanatory talk by the Rev. B. Graeme-Cooke, B.A., a number of senior boys attended the S.C.M. Conference in November.

During Term classes visit St. Patrick's Cathedral for Matins on the last Tuesday of each month. Classes due to visit the Cathedral were spoken to earlier in the week by the Rev. Guy L'Estrange, Dean's Vicar, who told them about the Service and the building in which it would be held. After Matins the boys were conducted round the Cathedral before returning to school. Parents and Old Boys wishing to accompany the boys at these Services will be very welcome.

A party of boys attended the concert of the Culwick Choral Society on December 12th.

J5 and J2, accompanied by Miss Williams, and J3, accompanied by Miss Blakeney, paid visits to the National Museum. Mr. E. M. Stephens, a Governor of The High School, gave the boys of J5 and J2 a talk on the sections of the museum they were visiting. Mr. Stephens also invited J2 to his house to examine a reproduction of the Book of Kells. J5 and J6 made Nature Expeditions to Powerscourt, accompanied by Miss Williams.

During the Summer Holidays two members of the 6th Form, R. A. Skerrett and J. T. Killen, spent a month on Aran learning Irish. While there they helped Mr. Goulden with an archaeological excavation he was making.

We Congratulate:—

R. Dobbyn on being selected to play for Leinster in the Schools' Interprovincial Cricket match against Munster.

D. J. FitzPatrick on being selected to play in the Leinster Schools' Rugby Trials.

The Prize Distributions

The Junior School Prize Distribution was held in the Clockroom on Thursday, 12th November. The Chair was taken by the Registrar, Mr. Mervyn Bell, in the absence of the Very Rev. J. J. Jackson, M.A., Dean of Tuam, who was indisposed. The Guest of Honour was Mrs. Owen Guinness.

In his report on the Junior School, 1952-53, the Headmaster said that, in spite of the creation of a sixth class, the Junior School was again full and almost all the available vacancies

for September, 1954, had already been filled. He expressed his gratitude to all who taught in the Junior School, in particular to Mr. Evans, for a year of efficient work and steady progress, and congratulated Miss Williams on obtaining a first class Higher Diploma of Education in Trinity College, Dublin.

During the year swimming classes had been held at the Iveagh Baths; a display of class-work in Physical Education had been given in June, and the Junior School Sports had been held, with great success, as a separate function at Belgrave Square.

Having referred to the Junior School Libraries the Headmaster spoke of the reading of "comics." These publications which pander to the lowest instincts of the boys, were written in a cheap style, filled with crudely conceived and badly drawn pictures; they were the products of poor minds. Reading them was a complete waste of a child's time. He should be encouraged to read good books—those by Enid Blyton, Arthur Ransome and other writers of that kind—or non-fiction books on the subjects in which he might have a special interest, such as Natural History, Geography, Engineering, etc.

In conclusion, the Headmaster thanked the Registrar for taking the Chair in the unavoidable absence of the Dean of Tuam, and expressed his appreciation of the kindness of Mrs. Owen Guinness in coming to present the prizes to the Junior School.

After the Headmaster's Report the following Items were performed:—

1. Form J1: Percussion Band and Song (Miss Orr).
2. Form J4: "The Pudding Pan" (Miss Smyth).
3. Form J6: Percussion Band and Song (Miss Williams).
4. Form J1: Poems (Miss Blakeney).
5. Form J2: Percussion Band and Songs (Miss Orr).
6. Form J4: Choral Speaking (Miss Smyth).
7. Form J3: Percussion Band (Miss Orr).
8. Form J5: The Bell of Atri (Miss Smyth).
9. Form J4: Percussion Band and Song (Miss Williams).

10. Form J3: Choral Speaking (Miss Smyth).

11. Form J5: Percussion Band and Song (Miss Williams).

12. Form J6: Dotheboys Hall (Miss Williams).

The Chairman then introduced the Guest of Honour, Mrs. Owen Guinness, who presented the prizes.

Mrs. Guinness congratulated the boys on the performance they had just given. Speaking to them on the subject of Christmas Presents she said that the important presents were not those the parents gave their children, but those the children gave, or ought to give, to their parents. The greatest gift they could give their parents was the confidence that they could always be relied upon to behave as their parents would wish them to behave, and never do anything of which their parents would disapprove.

Mrs. Guinness was presented with a bouquet by Stephen Mackay, Head Boy of the Junior School, and the Prize Distribution closed with a hymn. Tea was then served to visitors and boys.

The Senior School Prize Distribution was held in the Clockroom on Friday, 13th November. The Chairman was the Rev. Canon W. H. Coulter, M.A., and the special speaker was Dr. A. J. McConnell, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin.

Dr. Reynolds read his report on the School Year, 1952-53. The number of pupils at the School had reached a new high level and in September this year was 456, of which 316 were pupils in the Senior School. An extra class had been formed and an additional member of staff engaged. This development was largely due to the high ability and conscientious work of the teaching staff. He thanked them all, in particular Mr. Dillon who had completed his 35th year of service in the School, and Mr. Evans.

The examination results had been very gratifying—34 boys sat for the Intermediate Examination, 19 obtained honours, and 11 passed. R. A. Q. Skerrett won the Silver Medal for first place in Greek Testament in the Synod Examinations. In the Trinity College Sizarship and Entrance Exhibition Examinations C. C. Walker won a Sizarship in Mathematics, and J. R. Hautz won a Junior Exhibition. During the past 11 years 10 High School

boys had won Sizarships in Mathematics, and 11 Old Boys gained Scholarships in Mathematics, 7 of them obtaining first place; last Trinity Monday all three Mathematical Scholars were former pupils of The High School. All these boys had been pupils of Mr. Graham, and this splendid record was a just tribute to his inspired teaching.

In games the devoted attention of the sports masters was rewarded by some striking successes by the junior rugby and cricket teams. Last year's rugby J.C.T. was one of the best for many years, and although beaten by a heavy Castleknock team in the quarter-final of the Cup, had beaten every one of the strongest rugby schools in Leinster during the season, including the eventual Cup winners. R. H. C. Walshe had been awarded his 5th Leinster Interprovincial cap. In athletics, J. G. Fish had won the 100 yards and the 220 yards championship in his age group at both Leinster and All-Ireland sports.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Old Boys' Union, and he welcomed Mr. S. W. Meyer who, as the first elected President of the Union, had very properly been elected President once more for this jubilee year. The Union had just completed another very successful year under the Presidency of Mr. John Bell. He also welcomed Mr. Rupert Jeffares, a founder-member of the Old Boys' Union, who had come to present the Old Boys' Cup, a cup which had been inaugurated largely through the inspiration of Mr. Jeffares.

The Headmaster then spoke of one of the great deficiencies in Irish education. This was the lack of facilities for making the acquaintance of great paintings.

A scheme was desirable by which one or two representative paintings or reproductions of great paintings could be exhibited in schools for some weeks at a time and then changed for others so that pupils might gradually build up an acquaintance with good pictures of varying types. A central collection could be established from which loans might be made to all schools. Such a scheme could only be undertaken by some body like the National Gallery or the Department of Education. Financial support might possibly be forthcoming from the generous bequest of the late Mrs. G. B. Shaw.

In concluding, Dr. Reynolds extended a hearty welcome to the Provost of Trinity

College, Dublin, and thanked him for the great honour he did the School in coming to speak at the Prize Distribution.

Having presented the prizes, the Chairman, Canon Coulter, expressed regret at the absence through illness of Mr. C. H. Darley, Chairman of the Board of Governors, who had presided at the Prize Distribution for many years. He hoped that after rest and recuperation Mr. Darley would be able to resume duty as Chairman of the Erasmus Smith Board.

Canon Coulter then welcomed the Provost, Dr. A. J. McConnell. He congratulated the Headmaster and Staff on the excellent examination results and the flourishing condition of the School. He regretted the tendency there was to remove boys from school as soon as they had passed the Intermediate Examination, because it was between the ages of 15 and 18 that boys gained the greatest benefit from Secondary Education. In conclusion, he congratulated the Old Boys' Union on having reached its 25th year and welcomed the two representatives of the O.B.U. on the platform, Mr. Rupert Jeffares and Mr. Sam Meyer.

Dr. A. J. McConnell, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, then spoke. He expressed appreciation of the work being done in High School, and said this appreciation was directed particularly to the teachers, many of whom were graduates of Trinity College. Parents often did not realise the necessity for long school holidays, but he could assure them that these were essential because of the nature of the teachers' work. Teachers often complained that their salaries and conditions of service should be comparable to what they could earn in other walks of life. If Capitation Grants were increased, the increases should be used to lighten the conditions of service under which the teachers worked. The High School had a long classical tradition — Wilkins, Thompson, John Bennett, and the present Headmaster were all classical scholars. But in the last 11 years a new mathematical tradition had appeared, and a distinguished stream of mathematical scholars in T.C.D. maintained. Three of the most distinguished mathematical students in the last 11 years had been Old Boys of High School. One, Roger Kyle, had distinguished himself in a very special manner in Trinity College, and in Princeton University. After three years at Princeton, where he became a Fellow, he returned as Lecturer in Mathematics



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to Trinity College, Dublin, but on the very first day of his appointment he met with a tragic accident climbing on Cave Hill. His death had been a great personal loss for the Provost, and a loss for High School, for Trinity College, and for the mathematical world. Referring to the Headmaster's report, the Provost agreed that the appreciative side of education needed to be developed. He suggested that architecture might receive attention, especially as here in Dublin there were so many fine Georgian buildings. Such appreciation would make us proud of the city in which we live.

Mr. Meyer, President of the Old Boys' Union, said he felt it a great honour to have been elected President for this, the Silver Jubilee Year. He thanked Dr. Reynolds and the Chairman for all the complimentary things that had been said about the Old Boys' Union. It was customary for the President of the Union to present the Old Boys' Cup at the Distribution, but this year he was breaking away from precedent in order to ask the Grand Old Man of the Union, Mr. Rupert Jeffares, to present the Cup.

Mr. Rupert Jeffares made his usual witty speech. He said he was rather frightened when he heard the Provost was to be present until he remembered that he had been in the same class at High School as two Provosts. After a vivid account of early days at H.S.D. he urged present boys to join the Old Boys' Union on leaving school, and so keep in touch with the school and their school friends. Presenting the Old Boys' Cup to Colin C. Walker, he congratulated him on his distinction.

Major R. R. Wilson then unveiled a portrait of Mr. John Thompson, third Headmaster of the High School. In this portrait, the artist, Mr. W. R. Wilson, F.R.S.A., had recalled in the finest way possible the personality of a great Headmaster and the picture would remain as a tribute to one who was notable in the history of the School. He was an Englishman, a distinguished graduate of Cambridge University, where he was a member of Christ College, Milton's Old College. Two years after graduating he became Classical Master in the High School, and started what was to be his life's work. In 1908 he became Headmaster, and continued in that position until he retired in 1928. In his will he left the bulk of his fortune to found the John Thompson Exhibition to Trinity College, Dublin.

The High School Musical Society

Dr. Reynolds has taken the fifth forms each week for a class to further discussion on cultural topics. During one of these periods, schemes to promote the appreciation of music were discussed. Arising out of this Dr. Reynolds was approached with the idea of forming a society at whose meetings boys could hear and discuss good music.

The first meeting of the proposed society was arranged for Monday, 9th November, 1953, and was held in the boardroom, with Mr. Dillon presiding. The meeting took the form of a concert on gramophone records. Twelve boys attended and for part of the time the concert was attended by the committee of the Parents' Association, which had a meeting at the School that evening. Dr. Reynolds kindly attended and gave his encouragement. At this concert Julian Dawson explained the music, while Eric Winter played the principal themes on his violin. There was only a very simple programme for this the first time. The main item was the first and last movements of Beethoven's 5th Symphony in C minor. The overture to *Ruslan and Ludmilla* by Glinka and the first movement of Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony were also heard.

The aim of this society is to promote a knowledge of music among the boys and to give to some boys an opportunity of listening to music which they may not have had before. The society is open to all boys in the School and is not being confined to the senior classes alone. Any boy is welcome to come if he is genuinely interested in, or would like to learn about, music. After some discussion it was arranged that the society would meet each Tuesday in the School term. The first meeting seemed to be a great success and it is hoped that future meetings will arouse still greater enthusiasm.

We should like very much to express our appreciation and thanks to Dr. Mills and Prof. Moody for so kindly lending us recordings.

Friends, Old Boys and Parents are welcome to attend meetings of the society.

J.S.D., D.R.M.

Our Contemporaries

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following magazines:—"C.A.I." (Coleraine Academical Institution), "The Columban."

Lending Library

We wish to thank the Board of the Bank of Ireland for a copy of "The History of the Bank of Ireland," Mr. Gardner for a copy of "Popular Scientific Recreations," and R. E. Wilson for six books.

Erasmian Committee

The Editorial Committee of "The Erasmian" invites literary contributions from present and past pupils, especially from Old Boys overseas, and all others interested in the School.

Editor—J. T. KILLEN.

Assistant Editor—R. A. SKERRETT.

Sports Editors — D. J. FITZPATRICK, J. T. PAUL.

Examination Results

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS

Intermediate Certificate — Honours: A. M. Gann, R. Beste, R. L. Berman, R. E. Wilson, J. T. Paul, B. J. Stewart, J. D. R. Oakes, M. S. Haskins, B. E. W. Dowse, G. H. Bleakley, A. W. Flood, J. F. Buttimore, G. N. Eames, D. R. Moody, J. K. Bailey, J. K. Brownlee, N. R. S. Foster, D. M. Johnston, R. N. Walker. Pass: P. D. W. Piel, G. W. Browning, F. R. Baigel, J. H. Topping, R. L. Schlesinger, R. J. E. Hill, C. D. Seymour, F. W. Hutchinson, H. G. Brady, E. L. Kimberley, K. H. Bornemann.

THE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION

First Class—R. J. Miller, M. T. Richardson, D. Watson.
Second Class — A. C. Newell, D. J. Maynard, G. B. Wisdom.

OTHER PRIZES

John Philips Rogers' Prize—A. M. Gann.
Carpenter Memorial Prize—J. D. R. Oakes.
Dr. William Warnock's Prize in Irish—R. H. Haskins and G. H. Bleakley.
Prize in Music—D. P. Taylor.

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DEGREES

M.A.—E. R. Haynes.

Moderatorship — Legal Science (3rd Class):
J. D. Erdberg.

B.A.I.—G. H. M. Payne (1st Class Honours).

B.A.—D. R. Jupe, R. F. Marks.

SIZARSHIPS, ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS, AND EXHIBITIONS

Sizarship in Mathematics—C. C. Walker.

Junior Exhibition—J. R. Hautz.

High School Exhibition—J. R. Hautz.

Thompson Exhibition—R. A. Q. Skerrett.

John Bennett Memorial Prize—G. H. Watson.

Erasmus Smith Exhibitions — D. O'D. Ferris,
J. W. Dowse.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Entrance Examination—A. C. Knott, R. Stevens, G. H. Watson.

LAW SCHOOL

Law of Property—G. A. Henderson.

Intermediate—J. D. Erdberg.

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Final Medical, Section (D)—S. Baigel.

Pre-Registration: Physics—M. L. Cowan.
Chemistry—J. C. R. Seager.

TERM HONOR EXAMINATIONS

W. J. A. Graham (J.S.) — Mathematics (3rd Rank).

E. W. Allen (J.S.) — Economics and Political Science (3rd Rank).

J. L. Wilding (J.S.)—Classics (3rd Rank).

T. V. Jackson (J.S.) — Experimental Science (2nd Rank).

J. M. A. Turner (J.S.)—Natural Science (2nd Rank).

W. S. W. Poole (S.F.)—Classics (3rd Rank).

A. W. M. Cooper (S.F.)—Experimental Science (2nd Rank).

R. W. A. Feuerstak (S.F.)—Mathematics (1st Rank).

A. P. R. Brook (S.F.) — Mathematics (2nd Rank).

A. Clarke (S.F.) — Modern History (2nd Rank).

B. R. Wilkinson (J.F.) — French (2nd Rank),
Latin (2nd Rank).

G. Clarke (J.F.)—Mathematics (1st Rank),
Experimental Science (2nd Rank).

I. R. McAuley (J.F.) — Experimental Science
(2nd Rank).

B. M. McCracken (J.F.)—Legal Science (2nd
Rank).

FINAL FRESHMAN EXAMINATION

A. P. R. Brook, A. Clarke, A. W. M. Cooper,
M. L. Cowan, W. S. W. Poole.

Parents' Association

The Committee of the Association join with me in wishing all our members and friends, Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. Evans, Miss Huet, the Teaching Staff and all with whom we have been associated—a very happy Christmas. With this happy wish I would like to add my thanks for the splendid support and co-operation so freely given.

To those Parents whose boys have recently come to the School and who, as yet, know little of our activities, I would like to say something about the Association.

Now in its eleventh year, the Association has as its object the promoting, in every possible way, of the welfare of the School and the boys. The Association is a link between the parents and the School authorities. It arranges authoritative talks and discussions on subjects of general interest, and provides opportunities for the parents to meet the Teaching Staff and other parents at social evenings and other functions. It closes its year with an Annual General Meeting, at which parents can air their opinions on any matter connected with the welfare of the boys and the School.

Here are some of the things we did last year:—

In November about 120 Parents heard an interesting talk by Dr. McCracken, M.B., D.P.H., entitled "In Defence of Parents." This was followed in January by a very authoritative talk on "Quantity Surveying" by Mr. Robert Kerr, A.R.I.C.S. A Whist Drive was held in February, and in March Mr. Dungan arranged a very pleasant musical evening. During the Sports Week in June a cricket match was arranged—Fathers v. Boys—the boys winning by 24 runs. The Mothers played the junior boys at tennis and completely overwhelmed them in a win of six matches to nil.

The Association supported the Library Fund of the School by making a contribution of £10, and subscribed £5 towards the Sports Fund.

Those of you who recently attended the Junior School Distribution of Prizes will agree that the Percussion Band (to start which the parents spontaneously contributed £6 12s. 0d.) is going really well and has a promising future.

Now for a few notes on current affairs. It is always encouraging to a Committee to see an Association grow, and it would not be surprising if our membership doubled itself this year. We have got off to a promising start. I am told that our first meeting in November—the Forum on "Careers," at which six well-known Dublin professional and business men took part—was considered one of our most successful efforts. The attendance was over 200. By the time you read these notes Dr. Wallace will have given his talk on "B.C.G.," and this, too, we hope, will be equally well received. By the way—the Ladies of your Committee, in co-operation with Dr. Reynolds and the Staff, have given the question of "Lost Property" their attention. All "Lost Property" in future that has not been restored to the boys will be put on view at each meeting of the Association. If therefore, John has lost his cap, or Michael his "Rugger" shorts, examine our collection in the Clockroom when you come next time to meet us.

The success of the Junior Percussion Band appears to have stimulated a lively interest in music in the School. At a Committee Meeting recently we were intrigued by hearing strains of classical music coming from another room, and Dr. Reynolds took us along to see what was going on. We found a dozen or so of the Senior boys seriously studying, with the aid of a gramophone and a violin, a well-known symphony. The fact that they were doing this voluntarily in their own time reveals their enthusiasm. We must, I think, find a way to encourage and assist this work—have you any ideas?

In lighter vein; during the first part of 1954, with Mr. Dungan's kind help, we hope to arrange a musical evening, to be followed by a Whist Drive in February, when we hope to have the pleasure of seeing as many of you as possible.

A very happy New Year to you all.

R. G. A. PRICE,
Hon. Secretary.

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SPORTS REVIEW

CLUB OFFICERS:

RUGBY, 1953-54

Capt.: D. J. FitzPatrick,
Vice-Capt.: R. M. Galloway.
Hon. Sec.: J. T. Paul.

TABLE TENNIS, 1953-54

Capt.: J. P. Williams.
Vice-Capt.: T. W. R. Meates.
Hon. Sec.: R. Berman.

CRICKET, 1953

Capt.: R. Dobbyn.
Vice-Capt.: G. H. Watson.
Hon. Sec.: R. M. Galloway.

ATHLETICS, 1953

Capt.: R. H. C. Walshe.
Vice-Capt.: E. Kimberley.
Hon. Sec.: D. M. Johnston.
Junior Capt.: J. G. Fish.

TENNIS, 1953

Capt.: G. H. Watson.
Vice-Capt.: N. Armstrong.
Hon. Sec.: D. J. FitzPatrick.

SWIMMING, 1953-54

Capt.: J. K. Bailey.
Vice-Capt.: M. Burrows.
Hon. Sec.: D. Marks.

Annual Sports Committee—Hon. Secs.: R. H. C. Walshe, M. V. Burns, Hon. Treas.: D. W. C. Walsh.

Rugby

As in recent years the interest in rugby in both the Senior and Junior Schools is very keen and there is a record number of boys playing. Belgrave Square was very crowded and we are indebted to Old Wesley Rugby Football Club for the use of their Milltown ground on Thursdays. It is very unfortunate that there are not enough pitches to accommodate the large number of boys.

The S.C.T. have had a good record so far this season considering their size and age and recently the forwards and the backs have been combining to make an efficient team. After Christmas, however, our team will be depleted when some of its members will be leaving school. We would like to congratulate D. J. FitzPatrick on having gained a place on the Leinster Schools' final trial. The 2nd XV have had a rather unsuccessful season, but it has played with very great zeal. There has been lively competition for places on the 1st and 2nd XVs which shows how keen the Senior rugby players are.

The J.C.T. has upheld the good reputation of former junior teams and has succeeded in winning seven matches out of ten. The "Under 14," "Under 13" and "Under 12" have also made successful starts to the season.

There has been considerable interest in the game among the boys of the Junior School and the "Under 11" have had their first match against Belvedere College.

The winner of the de Vere Shortt Cup for the 1952-3 season was D. M. Johnston.

J. T. P.

Tennis

This year as usual there was great enthusiasm for Tennis, particularly among the Juniors. In fact, the courts were open for play for some time after School closed. At the end of the season we held the Championships. The Sealy Cup, for the Seniors, was won by J. D. R. Oakes, and the Junior Cup by C. Bain. The Senior Handicap Doubles were won by V. Reid and G. Watson, and the Junior Handicap Doubles by C. Bain and S. Heaney. During Sports Week a very enjoyable match was played between a Senior team and the Mothers. The result of this was a win for the Mothers, 6-0.

D. J. F.

Swimming

This year we are glad to say we held a Swimming Gala, the first since 1942. From all points of view this Gala was a great success. This was mostly due to the brilliant organisation of Dr. Reynolds, Mr. O'Kane, Mr. Evans, and the other masters, and the help of the Leinster Branch officials. We must also thank Mrs. Reynolds for presenting the awards. The major results were:—

Senior Championship—J. K. Bailey.
Junior Championship—D. W. G. McClatchie.
House Squadron—Belgrave: M. J. Burrows (capt.).

Mr. A. Myles now instructs us at Iveagh Baths and there is such a demand for his instruction that the 150 boys have to be divided into three classes. Mr. Myles has also started two new life-saving classes which are well supported and which we hope will gain many life-saving badges in the future.

For the first time in many years we have started a Water Polo team which is very keen and quite good considering some boys have never played before.



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We must congratulate M. J. Burrows on gaining 3rd in the Backstroke race at the Leinster Championships, and J. K. Bailey on gaining 4th place in the Intermediate Freestyle. In these events also a keen interest was shown by the School.

D. C. M.

Athletics

The Annual Sports were held at Lansdowne Road on Saturday, 27th June. It was gratifying to see such a large number of spectators. This year Athletics in School again reached a very high standard, and we think this standard can be maintained.

The War Memorial Cup was won by R. H. C. Walshe, who also took the Moore Cup. The Junior Cup and the Magill Cup were won by J. G. Fish, who this year distinguished himself by becoming the 100 yards and 220 yards Schools' Champion of all Ireland.

D. M. J.

Table Tennis

Owing to unforeseen circumstances the Table Tennis practices began late this term. However, at the first practice there was a record attendance of over thirty members. On account of the great numbers wishing to join the club play had to be restricted to boys from 3c upwards. There was considerable keenness shown amongst all the members, especially amongst the Junior members. We are looking forward to playing inter-school matches in the near future. At the committee meeting the club officers elected were: J. P. Williams (capt.), R. Meates (vice-capt.), R. L. Berman (sec.), H. Quin, H. F. A. Wann (committee members).

R. L. B.

Boxing

This season we welcome Mr. Myles as trainer. There is now no boxing for members of the Junior School and the club meets on Friday only, instead of two days a week, as in former years. The attendance at first was very good, but of late there has been a drop in numbers, partially owing to injuries (sustained in rugby) and largely, we fear, owing to lack of interest on the part of some of our members. As this is the twenty-fifth year of the club's existence we should like to hold the annual championships and matches, with other schools, but this will not be possible without improved attendance.

M. S. H.

Cricket

Despite the fact that some earlier matches were spoiled by inclement weather, the cricket season was a most enjoyable and comparatively successful one.

In the Senior Cup we were beaten by the King's Hospital. This S.C.T., although a moderately good bowling side, did not realise its potential batting form, and this helped to bring about our defeat, particularly in the Cup

It was decided this season to change the practice of former years and to allow the J.C.T., instead of the 1st XI, to play the fathers. This arrangement was very successful and contributed much to the enjoyment of the fixture. The result of this match was a win for the School.

Our "Under 14" team was also quite successful, finishing second in their section of the "Under 14" League. Good individual performances in this section augur well for the future.

Cricket was very popular in the Junior School



SENIOR CUP TEAM, 1953

Standing—N. P. D. Kilroy, R. H. C. Walshe, H. G. Brady, Mr. Lowry, K. H. Bornemann, E. Kimberley, W. A. Alexander.

Sitting—Mr. Cornish, J. P. Williams, G. H. Watson, R. Dobbyn (capt.), W. A. Bornemann, R. M. Galloway, Dr. Reynolds.

competition. The match against the Old Boys, played at the end of the season, resulted in a win for the O.B.U. by eight wickets.

The J.C.T. compensated for the failure of the senior team by reaching the semi-final of the Junior Cup. In the first round we secured a facile victory over Avoca School by the margin of an innings and 70 runs; and in the second round, after an exciting and closely-fought match, we emerged victorious, by the slender margin of three runs, over Terenure College. In the semi-final, however, Masonic School defeated us by 58 runs.

this year. Large numbers of boys attended Belgrave Square each week.

We congratulate R. Dobbyn, the captain of the S.C.T., on gaining a Leinster Schools' cricket cap, and also G. H. Watson on winning the de Vere Shortt Cup for the best batting performance in the senior team.

Despite the deplorable inadequacy of playing facilities at Belgrave Square, the season was, for the younger teams especially, quite a successful one, and was enjoyed by all the cricketers.

R. M. G.

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OLD BOYS' UNION

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Boardroom on Friday, 16th October, 1953, the President, Mr. John Bell, in the Chair. The attendance was about the average of former years.

The Hon. Secretaries, in their report for the year under review (1952-1953), stated that it was a case of success in everything attempted. They referred to the loss the Old Boys' Union had sustained due to the death of Arthur J. Beatty, an active member of the Union since its inception, for many years Joint Honorary Secretary and President in 1944-1945. He will be sadly missed at our Committee meetings and the annual functions of the Union.

During the year 25 new members were enrolled, compared with 23 the previous year.

The President, Mr. John Bell, had more than maintained the high tradition set up by his predecessors. He presided over all Committee meetings held during the year and spared no efforts to ensure the success of our social functions.

The Annual Dance was held in the Metro-pole Ballroom on Saturday, 1st November, 1952, and 484 members and their friends enjoyed a very good evening.

The Annual Dinner took place in the Clockroom on Saturday, 17th January, 1953. On this occasion all attendance records went by the board and 225 members and their guests sat down to dinner. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Justice Budd. During the evening a presentation was made to Mr. W. R. Wilson for all the work he has done for the Old Boys' Union.

The Ladies' Night was held in the Mills Hall on Saturday, 28th March, 1953. Seventy-three members and their guests were present, and it was agreed by all present that this was our most successful and enjoyable Ladies' Night to date.

A Junior Dance was held in the Clockroom on Saturday, 4th July, 1953. The attendance at this function was rather disappointing.

The continued success of the School was noted with pride and our congratulations were accorded to Dr. Reynolds and the staff for their efforts.

The Hon. Treasurer reported an excess of expenditure over income of £2 12s. 4d. for the year. Attention was drawn to the Voluntary Subscription which had fallen to £2 5s. 0d. from £8 15s. 0d. the previous year.

The Election of Hon. Officers and Committee for our Silver Jubilee Year resulted as follows:

Patron: C. H. Darley.

President: S. W. Meyer.

Vice-President: Dr. R. W. Reynolds (Headmaster).

Honorary Secretaries: W. G. Booker, 6 Gledswood Close, Roebuck Road, Clonskea, Co. Dublin; C. G. Morton, 50 Orwell Road, Rathgar, Dublin.

Honorary Treasurer: E. W. Frith, 9 Goats-town Avenue, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.

Committee: W. F. Burgess, W. G. Kirkpatrick, T. D. Murphy, F. E. Tate, G. W. Keegan, A. D. Mason, W. S. W. Poole, P. R. Walker, R. P. Willis, C. C. Walker (Winner Old Boys' Cup, 1953).

Sports and Social Secretaries: G. W. Griffin and A. W. M. Cooper, Rugby; J. A. Bell, R. M. Mahon and J. L. Wilding, Cricket; S. S. Evans, Golf; B. E. P. Hennessey, Athletics; C. G. Morton and W. G. Booker, Dance; R. G. Gibson, Hockey.

♦ ♦ ♦

The Silver Jubilee Dinner

The Silver Jubilee Dinner will be held in the Clockroom on Saturday, 16th January, 1954. If you intend being present and have not received a booking form, please write to the Hon. Secretary, W. G. Booker, for one before 2nd January, 1954.

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Letter from the President

To the Editor, "THE ERASMIAN."

Dear Sir,

I would like to make use of "The Erasmian" in order to express to the Committee and members of our O.B.U. my best thanks for the honour which they have conferred on me by electing me as President on the occasion of our twenty-fifth (Jubilee) year.

I consider that to have been the first elected President of High School O.B.U. was in itself as high an honour as anyone could hope for, but to be invited to fill the office again at a stage in my life when I should be sitting back and making room for younger members, gives me a feeling of extraordinary pride and appreciation of your action.

With your help, I shall do my best to carry out the duties of this office as you would all expect me to, but I warn you that I am not half the man I was twenty-five years ago, and so would ask you to deal gently with me in my old age.

As most of you are aware, I have always been very keen on our Adelaide Hospital Scheme, and so would suggest that a practical way of showing our thankfulness for 25 years' existence would be to send a lump sum towards this very deserving object.

I fully realise that most of us are passing through a difficult financial period, but if even a proportion of our members were to send a few shillings to myself or our Honorary Treasurer, we could remit to the Hospital quite a nice cheque to mark our Jubilee year.

It is hardly necessary to point out that we are one of the few School Unions which has no Annual Subscription, and so I do not hesitate to ask for your consideration and help in this direction.

The success of our Union has been due, not to individuals, but to a wonderful team spirit and I would like to think that in electing me as President, yours was really an appreciative gesture to the "allicadoos" whose staunch support has meant so much in the past.

Thanks again, and do help me to make this "Old Timers" year, the best ever.

Yours sincerely,

SAM W. MEYER.

Retrospect

(The O.B.U. as recorded in "THE ERASMIAN" and Minute Books).

1928, NOVEMBER 22ND: *Inaugural Meeting*

A meeting was held in the Clockroom, on Thursday, 22nd November, 1928, to establish an Old Boys' Union. It was very well attended (120), and much enthusiasm was shown both at the meeting and in the large amount of correspondence received with promises of support.

His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Armagh, the Most Rev. C. F. D'Arcy, D.D., Primate of All Ireland, presided, and very kindly consented to become President of the Union. Messrs. Mervyn Bell and W. H. Thrift were elected Hon. Secretaries, and the Rev. W. C. G. Proctor was elected Treasurer. The following Committee was appointed: Prof. E. H. Alton, Messrs. A. J. Beatty, W. H. Carson, K.C., C. H. Darley, J. T. Drennan, the Rev. C. C. W. Duggan, Mr. J. W. Fox, Capt. D. M. Frazer, Mr. Rupert Jeffares, Rev. W. T. Mayne, Mr. A. L. B. Moore, Major Guillamore O'Grady, Messrs. A. R. Patterson, C. E. Riley, Mr. Justice Sealy, Mr. T. S. Tomlinson, Messrs. H. C. Thompson and H. Thrift, F.T.C.D., Prof. W. E. Thrift, Sir W. de C. Wheeler, Mr. A. Whiteside.

A vote of thanks to the Honorary Secretaries and Treasurer, Messrs. M. Bell, W. H. Thrift and the Rev. W. C. Proctor, was proposed by the Rev. W. J. Mayne.

Mr. Rupert Jeffares proposed a vote of thanks to the musical members. His reminiscences of his High School days were most amusing and his speech contributed much to the success of the dinner.

The following Old Boys contributed to the musical programme: Messrs. Leahy, Jeffares, M. Bell, Flewett, Mackay, Worlin, Rupert Jeffares.

1929, MARCH 20TH: *First Annual Dinner*

The first dinner of the Old Boys' Union was held in Mills' Restaurant on Wednesday, 20th March. Mr. W. H. Carson, K.C., was in the Chair.

The toast of "The School" was proposed by Mr. Edward H. Byrne, President of the Incor-

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porated Law Society. The Headmaster, Mr. J. Bennett, M.A., replied to the toast. The toast of "Our Guests" was proposed by Sir William de Courcy Wheeler, and Sir Robert Tate, F.T.C.D., replied to the toast. The Rev. R. Watson and Mr. W. G. Wakeley replied on behalf of the Mountjoy and Diocesan Old Boys' Associations.

The dinner was well attended, and in the opinion of all, an unqualified success.

1929, JUNE 29TH: *First Cricket Match, Old Boys v. The School*

Won by the School.

SEPTEMBER: *First Golf Competition*

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

1929, OCTOBER 28TH: *First Annual General Meeting*

The following description is from 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 classroom suffered from a dangerous form of rheumatism which prevented it from functioning at a speed visioned by the schoolboy. 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."

1929, NOVEMBER 22ND: *First Annual Dance*

The first annual dance of the O.B.U. was held on the 22nd November, 1929, in Clery's Ballroom. There was a good rally of past pupils, and over 200 dancers took part. There

was an air of gaiety and good fellowship about the whole function, not the least enjoyable part being the re-union at supper, which took place in the basement room. Mr. Rupert Jeffares made a speech in characteristic fashion, in which he exhorted all past pupils to join the Union, and also thanked the organisers for their efforts in promoting such a successful function. The music was provided by Miss Campbell's band, and Geoff Mackay at the "effects" was a host in himself.

The Dinner was held in the Clockroom for the first time in January, 1930, when the Chair was taken by Professor W. E. Thrift, S.F.T.C.D., T.D., and nearly 100 Old Boys were present. In January, 1953, the attendance at the Dinner was 225. The number at our Silver Jubilee Dinner in January, 1954, will probably be even greater. In 1930, Mr. W. H. Thrift resigned as Joint Hon. Secretary and was succeeded by Mr. Arthur J. Beatty. The Headmaster was elected Vice-President of the Union. At the Annual Dinner in January, 1931, it was decided, on the proposal of Mr. Rupert Jeffares, to establish an Old Boys' Cup, to be awarded to the best type of boy in the School each year. In the same year the Old Boys' Union erected a Memorial Plaque in the Clockroom to the memory of Dr. Walter Clegg Stevenson, a pioneer in the medical use of radium and inventor of the radium needle.

At the Annual General Meeting in 1931 the Rev. W. C. G. Proctor, B.D., resigned from the position of Hon. Treasurer and was succeeded by Mr. Tom Bell. Within the next two years a dinner had been held in Belfast, a Branch of the Union founded there — Hon. Secretaries Norman Allen, Eric Scales; Hon. Treasurer Gordon Macbeth—and a Badminton Club started, the Secretary being E. H. Maynard. In 1933 the Annual Dance was held in the Hibernian and the following spring a whist drive was held to wipe out the deficit on the dance. In 1934 the Dance was held in the Metropole for the first time and the attendance was 275. It has been held in the Metropole ever since and at the Silver Jubilee Dance this year the ballroom was filled to capacity (500). In 1935 the Primate, Dr. D'Arcy, was made Patron and it was decided to elect a President annually. The first President was Mr. Sam Meyer, who has been elected President once again for the 25th Anniversary year.

In 1936 a meeting was held in the High School to found a Central Union of Protestant Schools. The Chairman and prime mover in the organising of the meeting was Mr. Meyer, and as a result the Association of Schools' Unions was founded. Representatives from the O.B.U. of the following schools attended—King's Hospital, Mountjoy, St. Columba's, Diocesan, and St. Andrew's. In the same year the cricket match with K.H. O.B.U. was first played and it has been an annual fixture since.

The first London Dinner was held at the Holborn Restaurant in February, 1939. A con-

tions they were. In November, 1948, a moving and impressive ceremony took place in the Clockroom when the new War Memorial Tablets were unveiled by Lord Rugby and dedicated by His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin.

In 1943 the Adelaide Hospital Scheme was inaugurated. In 1947 the first "Ladies' Night" was held in the Mills Hall. In the same year Mr. Mervyn Bell, who had been Joint Hon. Secretary of the Union since its inception, resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Cecil Morton. In 1951 the John Bennett Memorial



Annual Dinner, January, 1936

tingent of Old Boys, including the President, Mr. G. B. Butler, travelled from Dublin, and a considerable number came from all parts of England. It was a very enjoyable function. The toast of "the School" was proposed by Sir Joseph Kemp (1885-1891) and the Headmaster replied. Mr. John C. Duncan, B.L. (1892-1903), proposed the toast of "the Guests," which was replied to by Dr. Reid and Mr. H. S. Ruttle, B.L.

At the Annual Dinner, January, 1942, the Guest of Honour was Sir John Maffey, afterwards Lord Rugby; from 1942 until 1948 he was Guest of Honour at the Annual Dinner, and by his personality and brilliant speaking helped to make the dinners the enjoyable func-

Fund was opened, and a Prize, the John Bennett Memorial Prize, has been established in memory of a great Headmaster.

The Union has been going from strength to strength and is now in a most flourishing condition. Below is a list of the chief Officers of the Union since it was founded.

Patrons:

The Most Rev. Dr. D'Arcy, Primate of All Ireland, 1935-38. Dr. W. E. Thrift, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, 1938-42. Dr. E. H. Alton, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, 1942-52. Mr. Cecil H. Darley, B.L., Chairman, Board of Governors.

Presidents:

The Most Rev. Dr. D'Arcy, Primate of All Ireland, 1928-1935. Mr. Sam Meyer, 1935-36. Mr. H. Thrift, F.T.C.D., 1936-37. Mr. R. W. Jeffares, 1937-38. Mr.

G. B. Butler, M.A., 1938-39. Mr. H. J. Johnston, 1939-40. Mr. W. R. McCaw, 1940-41. Mr. W. R. McCaw, 1941-42. Mr. Cecil H. Darley, B.L., 1942-43. Mr. W. H. Carson, 1943-44. Mr. A. J. Beatty, 1944-45. Mr. Tom Bell, 1945-46. Rev. R. E. Weir, M.A., 1946-47. Major R. R. Wilson, 1947-48. Mr. Mervyn Bell, 1948-49. Mr. F. R. A. West, 1949-50. Mr. E. E. Spence, 1950-51. Mr. H. E. P. Anderson, 1951-52. Mr. John Bell, 1952-53. Silver Jubilee Year, 1953-54. Mr. Sam Meyer.

Vice-Presidents:

Dr. J. Bennett, 1930-51. Dr. R. W. Reynolds.

Joint Hon. Secretaries:

Mr. Mervyn Bell, 1928-47. Mr. W. H. Thrift, 1928-30. Mr. A. J. Beatty, 1930-44. Mr. Harry Bunbury, 1944-49. Mr. Cecil Morton since 1947. Mr. W. G. Booker since 1949.

Hon. Treasurers:

Rev. W. C. G. Proctor, 1928-31. Mr. Tom Bell, 1931-48. Mr. P. R. Walker, 1948-53. Mr. E. W. Frith, 1953.

Ambassadors' Schools

That the Diplomatic Service is no longer the preserve of those who have been at Eton, Harrow or their near equivalents is shown by the reply of Mr. Dodds-Parker to a question in the House. The new Joint Foreign Under-Secretary has tabulated the schools attended by 49 of our ambassadors.

Thirty-three schools are on this list, 26 of them with one envoy apiece. Besides such famous schools as Marlborough, Cheltenham, Repton, Osborne and Dartmouth, there are others of more local prestige, though doubtless equal academic pride.

In this category might be placed Blenheim Council School, Leeds, Dumfries Academy, Dublin High School and the Royal Academy, Belfast.

Top of the list comes Winchester with six ambassadors. Eton has five, Wellington and Harrow three. There are three schools with two each, Westminster, Malvern and Hele's School, Exeter.

Rugby and Clifton have provided none.

—From the *Daily Telegraph*, 2-12-53.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: As recorded in "The Erasmian" of June last, three High School Old Boys are Ambassadors, each in a different Service, one Irish, one British, one Israeli.]

Cricket

In the season 1952-1953 the O.B.U. played four matches. The first, against St. Andrew's O.B.U., in a new annual competition for the Ellerker Cup, resulted in a win for St. Andrew's by 75 runs to 63. The O.B.U. won their match against King's Hospital by 7 runs, and also the match against the School by 8 wickets. The last match of the season was the annual fixture between the Under Thirtys and the Over Thirtys of the Union, in which everyone batted and everyone bowled, and all enjoyed themselves.

Golf Report

The Annual Outing for the Old Boys' Cup and the Harry Bunbury Cup took place at Milltown Golf Club, by kind permission, on Thursday, 3rd September. Results:—Old Boys' Cup and Replica: F. E. Tate, 66; runner-up: G. A. Cole, 67. Harry Bunbury Cup and Replica: Mervyn Bell, 68. Best Gross: W. H. Taylor, 81. Single Figure: R. L. Bryson, 80. Visitors' Prize: C. F. Myerscough, 68.

U.I.S. Shield: Held at Milltown on Thursday, 17th September. Won by St. Mary's College, Rathmines, with 136½. Our team 11th with 148—R. T. Motyer and G. A. Cole 70½, J. Bell and G. Brownlee 77½.

S. S. EVANS, *Hon. Secretary.*

London Dinner, 1954

We intend to hold this function in London on the eve of the England v. Ireland Rugby International at Twickenham (i.e., Friday, 12th February, 1954). Full details have not yet been arranged, but will be available to those interested on application to the Hon. Secretary, W. G. Booker, early in January.

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AN APPRECIATION

Harry, as he was known to all his friends, young and old alike, passed peacefully away on 26th November, leaving a gap not easily filled.

His quiet, unassuming and generous character appealed to everyone with whom he came in contact, making him a universal favourite.

His intense love for his old School and everything connected with it was always apparent, and during his tedious illness one could always interest him with any reference to it. As a Past President of our O.B.U., he will be remembered for his unfailing anxiety to be helpful in whatever way he was required; in fact, always wishing to do more than his share.

He was a Governor of the School, and as such his regular attendance at the meetings, and help on various sub-committees, was appreciated by all his associates.

Only his very intimate friends were aware of numerous acts of kindness and helpfulness to those in trouble, performed so quietly and without any suggestion of publicity.

A member of the University Club, Past Captain and Honorary Secretary of Milltown Golf Club, and a very old member of Wanderers' Rugby Football Club, he not only proved his own worth to these, but added lustre to his old school.

In this, our Jubilee year, and in common with all those other friends of ours, whom he has now joined, he would bid us, "be of good cheer and carry on."

S. W. M.

News of Old Boys

R. H. ARMSTRONG (1940-44) continues his remarkable series of successes in motor-cycle racing, coming 1st in the 250 c.c. race and 3rd in the 125 c.c. race, Ulster Grand Prix; 1st in 250 c.c. class Swiss G.P., 2nd 500 c.c. class Dutch G.P., 2nd 500 c.c. class French G.P. and fastest lap, 3rd 500 c.c. class Belgian G.P., and 4th 500 c.c. class Grand Prix des Nations; 2nd 250 c.c. and 500 c.c. classes World Championships.

C. S. CAMPBELL (1906-10), who was awarded the O.B.E. in June, is head of a Department of the Ministry of Supply, London, and his award was given for outstanding work in bulk buying.

A. W. M. COOPER (1944-51) played for Leinster in the Interprovincial Cricket match against Munster.

J. D. ERDBERG (1939-49) has been elected Hon. Treasurer of the College Historical Society, T.C.D.

R. L. GARDNER (1933-41), engineer-in-charge of tunnelling in the Garry Hydroelectric Scheme, Inverness, was presented with an inscribed silver cigarette case to mark the successful meeting, after two years' drilling through a mountain, of two tunnels, each extending more than one mile from the rock surface.

C. A. KEMP (1926-32) was Captain of of Ireland's Tennis team which played against England and Wales.

W. G. LEACH (1939-45) has graduated in Arts at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, where he is studying for the Church.

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THE REV. J. D. MURRAY (1928-32), formerly Rector of Powerscourt, Enniskerry, is now a Chaplain in the Royal Navy.

THE REV. E. D. R. SIMMS (1936-44) has been appointed Curate-Assistant of St. Mary's Parish, Belfast.

To the Editor, "THE ERASMIAN."

Sir,

As an old pupil of H.S.D. I would like to express disgust at the Old School Tie Colours.

This tie is unworthy of the School, being dull and funereal, and gives one intense depression to wear it.

In my days the colours were red and black, equal stripes. Now blue has been added. Why not make the colours of the tie blue, red and black in equal sizes, $\frac{1}{2}$ ", $\frac{3}{4}$ ", or 1".

This would put character in the tie, which it now lacks, and would give a feeling of pride to the wearer instead of the feeling he is wearing "half mourning."

If a vote was taken of the past and present pupils I have no doubt but that they would welcome a brighter tie.

C. G. DE VERE SHORTT.

Marriages

EDGAR W. BRENNAN (1936-42) to ANNA M. J. VISSER, September 22, 1953.

HENRY E. FOX (1925-30) to AGNES M. LUDLOW, October 6, 1953.

GERALD W. GRIFFIN (1943-48) to FLORENCE E. DAVIDSON, September 12, 1953.

MERVYN HENDERSON (1938-45) to VERA DUNNE, June 27, 1953.

ERNEST J. MARGETSON (1939-46) to RUTH POWER, August 14, 1953.

NORMAN H. A. MAY (1940-43) to MARJORIE E. NEWTON, August 29, 1953.

THE REV. ERNEST SIMMS (1936-44) to PATRICIA FORD, October 6, 1953.

NIGEL S. TYNEY (1937-39) to GERTRUDE M. COOPER, October 7, 1953.

ROBERT P. WILLIS (1935-41) to ELAINE P. WRIGHT, July 4, 1953.

Deaths

WILLIAM ARCHIBALD BURY, D.S.O., Engineer-Commander, R.N. (1894-99), 17th June, 1953.

HENRY JAMES BYRNE (1913-21), 6th August, 1953.

DONALD GEORGE CATHCART (1920-26), 17th June, 1953.

SIR BERNARD D'OLIER DARLEY, C.I.E. (1898-1900), 13th August, 1953.

HENRY J. JOHNSTON, M.A. (1895-1900), 26th November, 1953.

FRANK THOMPSON (1921-28), 14th October, 1953.

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Boys Grey Flannelette Shirts from 13/6 to 17/6 each.

Boys White Poplin Shirts from 12/9 to 16/6 each.

School Scarves, 11/6 each.



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