

THE ERASMIAN

NEW SERIES.
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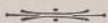
THE MAGAZINE OF

THE HIGH SCHOOL, DUBLIN.

PRICE THREEPENCE.

THE ERASMIAN.

DECEMBER, 1909.



Editorial.



WITH no slight feeling of trepidation we usher in the first number of a new volume of the *Erasmian*, which marks a new phase of its existence. A new Editor is liable to nervousness on his first attempt, in dread that his efforts may not be crowned with success, especially when he reviews the editorials with which his predecessor has adorned the pages of the previous volume. However, "*Experientia docet*": and if we only succeed in fulfilling our duties one tithe as meritoriously as he, we think it will be judged by our readers that we shall not have failed.

1900 *En passant*, it would not come amiss to take our parting leave of H. M. Daniel on the page he has so often himself written. After a long stay of nine years in this school he has left his Alma Mater to proceed to Trinity College, there to study medicine, having been successful in obtaining the High School Exhibition and fifth place at Junior Exhibition (including prize for English Literature), a truly brilliant achievement. May all success attend him in his career.

Apropos de bottes, an Editor's position is no sinecure, and his duties are both varied and multifarious in the case of a school Magazine, where school work has also to be considered. Contributions are urgently needed, and if a supply is not forthcoming the work devolves upon the Editor of going round at the last moment soliciting articles, which in nine cases out of ten are refused, and no one is desirous of writing up an article at one minute's notice. To encourage modest authors a box has been fixed in the hall for the reception of contributions to the *Erasmian*, and this scheme has been availed of by several up to the present.

Again, just before going to press it was discovered that a large section of the football reports was on its way to Australia in the company of T. K. Greene, the ex-Hon. Sec. of the Football Club, and as these form an important part of the Magazine the publication had to be held back until these were prepared. Such a contingency, however, is hardly likely to recur.

And this brings us to another point. The permanent success of the Magazine can only be achieved by co-operation—we do not mean support merely in the way of articles and reports, but also pecuniary support. The ranks of old boys can surely muster

more subscribers to the *Erasmian*. Surely they have not yet lost their affection for the old school. Pleasant reminiscences and a grateful memory are, or should be, a sufficient reason to forward a paltry 1s. 2d. as a year's subscription.

There are as yet but thirty odd Old Boy subscribers; still, if we had one subscriber for every thirty Old Boys we would sing a paean of joy.

As for the present pupils, their bounden duty it is, one and all, to purchase each copy of the *Erasmian*, more from a sense of *esprit de corps* than from the intrinsic value of the Magazine.



School Notes.



THE Annual distribution of prizes was held the third week in November, the Provost once more performing the onerous duty of presenting the prizes to the happy recipients.

The clock-room was transformed for the occasion: a dais was erected at the further end, and chairs were arranged on either side of the room for half its length, the remainder of the space being devoted to the accommodation of the students, the prize-winners being seated apart from the common or garden boys. The attendance was large, and there was not a seat available when the Head Master stood up to read his report, the frequent applause during which amply testified to the approval of the assembly. The Provost in a short speech, complimented the Head Master on the success of his new *régime*, interspersing some remarks anent the necessary association of mind and body, and incidentally relating a few anecdotes. After the distribution the Governors entertained the parents of the pupils in the Boardroom.



The 1st XV. travelled to Carlow to play Knockbeg College on the 14th ult. The team was unlucky to lose by a goal and a try to two tries, the result being mainly accounted for by the weight of their opponents. However, they were very hospitably received, and spent a pleasant day.



By the way, our worthy captain, dreading the team's late-rising propensities caused them to be at the station twenty-five minutes too soon, and then took advantage of his ruse to oversleep himself, arriving just as the train was beginning to move. In fact he was dragged violently into the carriage with one of the team hanging to his legs, and the Hon. Sec.'s arms clasping him round the neck.

The following "gem" has come to our ears :—

A particularly bright specimen of the 3rd Form, on being informed that candles contain an infinitesimal percentage of water, gravely asked : "Please, sir, if a man had no water in the desert, could he eat a candle and quench his thirst?"

* * *

New problem for algebra students in Carlow :—If a mile takes "X" minutes to walk, how long will it take to walk a "moile" and a bit?

* * *

We are very sorry to hear that Mr. Gibson has been ill. However he is now on the right road to recovery, and we hope to see him soon again back at his duties. The Rugby team has sorely missed his services. His place, for the time being, is being taken by G. A. Small, B.A., an Old Boy.

* * *

Congratulations to the prize-winners in the recently published Intermediate Prize List. They are as follows :—

SENIOR GRADE.

J. M. Barron, . . . £1 Prize in the Modern Literary Course (Division II. : French and German).

MIDDLE GRADE.

Max Nurock, . . . First Class Exhibition (£25) in the Classical Course; First Prize (£3) for Latin Composition. [Also eligible for £3 Prize in the Mathematical Course.]

L. J. D. Richardson, . . . Second Class Exhibition (£15) in the Classical Course. [Also eligible for Second Class Exhibition (£15) in the Mathematical Course].

R. R. Wilson, . . . £3 Prize in the Mathematical Course. [Also eligible for £3 Prize in the Experimental Science Course].

JUNIOR GRADE.

H. V. Thornton, . . . £1 Prize in the Classical Course.

C. S. Campbell, . . . £3 Prize in the Mathematical Course. [Also eligible for £3 Prize in the Experimental Science Course.]

H. L. Sleith, . . . £2 Prize in the Mathematical Course.

The Preparatory Grade Prize Fund, which arrived just in time for the distribution, was apportioned as follows :—

Maurice Nurock ...	£1	0	0	W. F. Benson ...	£0	8	6
P. F. T. Burns ...	0	12	6	D. G. Lawson ...	0	7	0
W. H. C. Stone ...	0	12	6	G. B. Holmes ...	0	6	0
A. T. Whitty ...	0	12	6	J. P. Warner ...	0	6	0

C. S. Thomson, 5s.

* * *

We were visited by three Intermediate Inspectors towards the end of September, Mr. Kevin, Mr. Ray and Mr. Wright. We have been deluged with inspections this term, and hope we shall be allowed to work *placidiore animo* after Christmas.

* * *

The Christmas vacation will last three weeks. School will break up on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd, at 12 o'clock, and will re-open in the new year on Thursday, Jan. 13th, at 9.30.

* * *

X With the new year we shall miss some familiar faces. T. K. Greene sailed from Tilbury for Sidney, Australia, on Friday, Dec. 3rd. H. M. Tomlinson, who left us in the summer, and has been playing for Lansdowne, will also be going there early in the new year. E. S. Duggan has gone to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

* * *

X The High School Exhibition was won this year by H. M. Daniel, who obtained highest marks in English Literature and in Science. He also won the second entrance prize for English Literature.

* * *

The Governors have awarded Erasmus Smith Statutory Exhibitions to H. B. Goulding and W. G. Tomlinson.

* * *

W. J. Francis has passed the Boy Clerks' Examination. J. Woods has obtained a high place at the examination for clerkships in the National Bank.

* * *

61881 X We deeply regret to announce the death of T. J. Magee, Esq., B.A., LL.D., a former master in the High School, at the early age of 28. During his stay he endeared himself to all the boys, not only by his kindness, but also by his sterling qualities as a master. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his sorrowing relations and friends.

Literary and Debating Society.



THE second session of the Literary and Debating Society was opened on Friday, October 22, at 3.15, in the Clockroom, when a Debate took place on the proposition, "That the House of Lords Ought to be Abolished." The Head Master presided, and there was an attendance of fifty-five members.

R. R. Wilson opened fire for the abolitionists, and set out his reasons for turning the "Gilded Chamber" into a museum of antiquities. For a future warrior Mr. Wilson exhibits, perhaps, too much mildness: he is an "anti-cyclone," as they say in Room C, though the use of the prefix does not mean that there is anything of the old woman about him. But whatever he lacked in truculence was amply made up by J. C. Taylor, who drove his points home with that braw, sharp voice of his. The remnants of the argument left over by the foregoing were woven by J. H. Barrett into a very creditable maiden speech.

N. E. M. S. Tuite led off for the preservation of the Lords and the demolition of the arguments of the abolitionists; and succeeded in doing something or other to the evident satisfaction of his supporters. F. P. Synnott followed, and the spirits of the hereditary legislators rose visibly as he propounded the case for their retention. The argument was clinched by D. P. W. Carter, to whose voice Tennyson was not really referring when he wrote of "The shrilly whinneyings of the team of —," the place mentioned by the curate in his sermon last Sunday. Mr. Carter's voice is, like elderly game, a little "high," but his ideas are just as lofty, and he will do well.

J. M. Barron and C. R. H. Stewart added the weight of their eloquence to the negative side.

The leaders having replied, the Chairman gave a short and clear account of the present political situation, and the proposition was put to the vote. For the abolition, 5 voted; 50 against. The Chairman declared that the House of Lords was safe.

The second Debate of the session took place on Friday, November 19. The subject was "That Military Training and Service should be Compulsory."

The debate was specially noticeable owing to the fact that of the six set speakers five faced their audience for the first time, and acquitted themselves with much credit.

For the motion—which was taken to mean conscription—C. H. Fennell, G. G. Higgins and D. P. W. Carter spoke.

The retention of the present voluntary system of military service in the British army was advocated by G. S. B. Mack (VI.), G. R. Thomson and J. D. Colquhoun.

Mr. Telfer and J. M. Barron spoke in support of the motion, and Mr. Cousins against, the latter congratulating the speakers on the dignified tone of their utterances, and the absence of the personalities that sometimes take the place of arguments in debates elsewhere.

Voting resulted as follows:—For compulsory training and service, 26; against, 31. The Chairman therefore declared the motion lost.



The Prize Distribution.



OUR Prize Distribution was held on November 24th, at 2.30, in the big Schoolroom, and was a distinct success. The original intention was to have held it in October, but it was postponed owing to the delay of the Intermediate Board in issuing the list of pupils who had been successful in gaining prizes and exhibitions at their examinations last June, as the school gives prizes to all boys who pass the Intermediate Examinations but do not receive any reward from the Intermediate Board. We hope that in future it may be possible to have the distribution at least a month earlier. The Provost, who is Chairman of the Board of Governors, presided. Among the Governors present were—Rev. Principal Moore, D.D.; Very Rev. the Dean of the Chapel Royal, Professor W. E. Thrift, F.T.C.D.; and Mr. E. H. Alton, F.T.C.D. The order of the proceeding was quite simple. The Head Master read his report, which we give below. The Provost then distributed the prizes won last Christmas and last summer, and then addressed those present. He was unfortunately suffering from a bad cold which had affected his voice, but this seemed to improve as he went on. He remarked first on the success which had attended the change of Head Master, and the wisdom of the Governors in allowing Mr. Thompson a free hand in the internal reorganisation of the school, as shown by the increase in the number of pupils, which had been more rapid than could almost have been expected. He next congratulated the school on its success in the Intermediate, a success obtained under difficult circumstances during the first year of the school's reorganisation. He agreed with Mr. Thompson in the importance he attached to the introduction of inspection, and deplored the decrease in the revenue of the Intermediate Board. The Provost then addressed himself to the boys, and impressed upon them the importance of physical development as assisting in mental effort. He added, however, a great caution. Excitable boys should not be subjected to a too severe strain in fast or long races, and no boy should be allowed to run unless medically examined. He referred to some valuable papers read in Belfast this year at the meeting of the British Medical Association, and

dwelt in detail on the rules for "Rugby School runs." Boys of different ages should not be allowed to compete together in the same races.

After the distribution the visitors were entertained by the Governors to tea in their Board Room.

HEAD MASTER'S REPORT.

It is my privilege this afternoon for the first time to present my report of this school as its Head Master. Since I took up the reins of office in the summer of last year the school has undergone many radical changes. These began with a scheme of reorganisation, drawn up by a Committee of the Governors, by which the school was organised for a three-fold purpose—a Junior and Preparatory Department in which boys should receive a sound general education; a University Department for boys proceeding to Trinity College and the professions; and a Commercial and Civil Service Department for boys entering the Civil Service, Banks or other business employment. Many other reforms have taken place side by side with this scheme—an entire readjustment of the time-tables of the whole school; a re-division of the school hours, by which the Junior Classes are separated from the Senior Classes, having shorter lessons and a separate lunch and play interval which, among other things, gives them the use of the large playground to themselves; the introduction of new methods of teaching, *e.g.*, in Modern Languages, where the reform method is generally adopted; in Geography, for which the Governors have equipped the school with modern orographical maps, appliances for outdoor observations, and, above all, with a lantern and many lantern slides; in Drawing, for which the Art Room has been specially furnished with new single moveable desks; and in other subjects in a similar manner. The new buildings have been entirely redecorated, and a dark room for photographic purposes has been added to the Science Laboratories; we have further rearranged the school fees, and abolished all extras; we have changed the method of school discipline, whereby we have not only tempered justice with mercy, but also greatly improved the tone of the school; a new Boarding House on high class lines has been opened in connexion with the school, under the control of one of the Assistant Masters; and we have entirely reorganised the school games. This brief summary of changes connotes a complete transformation of the school, and that they have been appreciated is shown by the increase in the number of boys. The number which I received from my predecessor was 84. The number at present on the roll is 180, an increase of 96, being thus more than doubled in a little over a twelvemonth.

One other very important change introduced by the Governors is deserving of special mention. The previous system of free

pupils has been replaced by a system of school scholarships open to all Protestant boys between the age of twelve and fourteen, whether already in the school or not. These scholarships are forty in number, and eight first-class and eight second-class are awarded every year on the result of a competitive examination held in June. They are tenable for five years, the first-class ones giving free education and the second-class ones education at a reduced fee of £5. This scheme is working well, but is capable of some improvements, which are now under the consideration of the Governors.

I pass now to the results of examinations. First, the Intermediate Examinations. In 1908 we passed thirty boys, seven with honours, one boy obtaining a Prize in the Mathematical course in the Junior Grade, and two others, Classical Exhibitions, in the same Grade, being respectively First and Second in Greek, one of them—Max Nurock—thus winning the Greek Medal, and both winning besides Composition Prizes. In 1909 twenty-six boys passed, nine with honours, seven of whom obtained distinctions, *i.e.*, prizes or exhibitions. In the Senior Grade a Prize was won in the Modern Language course; in the Middle, two Exhibitions in the Classical course, with First Prize in Latin Composition, and prizes in the Mathematical and Science courses; and in the Junior Grade Prizes in the Classical, Mathematical and Experimental Science courses. These results show good work in every department. The number of passes would have been larger but for the new rule which came into operation for the first time last June, by which a pupil is not allowed to pass twice in the same Grade, thus reducing the number of entries. I should like here to remark on this and on two other points of importance in the Intermediate system at the present time. First, this Rule should be condemned and abolished. It penalises good boys by keeping them back, and it deprives the average pupil of the excellent stimulus of an external Pass Examination every year. Secondly, the Intermediate Board have this autumn initiated a wide-sweeping reform by the introduction of inspection as a permanent feature of their system. This will certainly lead to many other changes in Intermediate Education, and will open up the way to improved methods of teaching in most, if not all, subjects. For the first time the Board and the schools are brought into living and personal contact with each other. Our school was visited by three of the Intermediate Inspectors in the month of September. They saw the classes at work, listened to the teaching, made inquiries about the qualifications of the teachers, and after school was over inspected in detail the buildings and class-rooms. The third point that I wish to mention in connexion with the Intermediate system is one that requires serious consideration, *viz.*, the revenue and finances of the Intermediate Board. Owing to the increase of temperance in the country in recent years there has been a marked falling off in the

receipts from local taxation, and the important reform of inspection has been entered upon with a dwindling revenue, which will seriously impair its prospects of success. During the past few years the total amount of the grant paid to schools has been diminished by nearly 15 per cent., and the average grant per pupil has been nearly halved; the amount spent on rewards to pupils has been more than halved: the Preparatory Grade Prize Fund, which has been reduced this year from £1 to 10s. per pupil passing, will after next summer disappear altogether. This decrease of funds available for Intermediate Education in Ireland is a matter of national concern, when we find that in other parts of the kingdom and in other countries the sums devoted to Secondary Education are constantly being augmented.

I turn from the Intermediate to other Examinations. In the Scripture Examinations held last December by the Synod of the Church of Ireland and by the Presbyterian Assembly the number of boys who passed was forty-five, and once more one of our pupils—L. J. Richardson—won the first place and Silver Medal in Greek Testament, a result all the more creditable to him as he was only of the Junior Grade age, and it was his first examination in this subject. At the Junior Exhibition Examination in Trinity College in October last year the High School Exhibition was won by H. Edelstein, who also gained a Classical Sizarship and Entrance Prizes in Greek and Latin Prose and in Hebrew. A Junior Exhibition was also won by W. S. Gray, to whom the Governors awarded in addition a First-class Erasmus Smith Statutory Exhibition. Other distinctions obtained direct from the school include a Clerkship in the Royal Navy, a Teachership in Training in the Royal College of Science, an Erasmus Smith Grammar School Scholarship, and appointments in different banks.

There is also an excellent record of distinctions gained by old boys during the year June, 1908—June, 1909. First among these is that of Harry Thrift, who having won the Madden Prize in 1908, obtained Fellowship in Trinity College in 1909 for Mathematics and Experimental Science; another brilliant distinction was that of Chester Duggan, who obtained a First-class Clerkship in the Home Civil Service, and is now in the Admiralty. Again, Maurice Wilkins obtained First Senior Moderatorship and Gold Medal in Classics, and a Senior Moderatorship and Gold Medal in Modern Literature, and won the Brooke Prize for Classics; P. Campbell won Senior Moderatorship and Gold Medals in Classics and in History and Political Science; E. M. Norton won a Classical Scholarship, and G. A. Small the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Greek Verse. Apart, however, from examinations and prize lists, I may say with confidence that there is a much improved tone and spirit prevailing generally throughout the whole school. This is shown in various ways. There is a renewed and increased interest in the games, in Rugby Football and in Cricket; the

Athletic Sports were successfully revived at Ball's Bridge last June, and will, I hope, become an annual fixture. Within the school, too, we have organised a successful Miniature Rifle Club, while we have also a Literary Society, which has conducted debates during the winter months, and has issued quarterly in a new form *The Erasmian*, the school Magazine. All these things are a sign of healthy life. I may also mention the increased interest in the school evinced by old boys as shown by the old boys' dinner held in the spring, which was presided over by one of the most eminent of their number, viz., the Lord Bishop of Ossory.

In conclusion, I have only to say that there are many further improvements which we hope in course of time to introduce into the school, and to thank first the Chairman and the Governors for their ready sympathetic and practical support during the past year; and next, my colleagues for their willingness, keenness and energy in carrying out our reforms and in helping in every branch of the school work. We may look forward to the future of the school with great confidence.



Experiences in an Irish Boarding School.



BY PAEDAGOGUS.

THOSE persons whose knowledge of boarding-school life is derived from the books dealing with that subject, imagine it principally to consist of pillow-fights and barrings-out, alternating with instances of individual heroism of a most lofty character, and rascally conduct not surpassed in the annals of crime.

But seven years' experience in an Irish Boarding School has convinced me that at least in this country, and in these days, exciting episodes are very rare, and that the everyday life is of the most humdrum and unpicturesque character.

Occasionally, however, incidents occur which give colour and interest to the dull monotony. Some of these incidents, of which I have actual knowledge, I shall here relate, leaving it to the reader to draw whatever inference he chooses from them.

Adjacent to our playing fields was a large orchard, containing some fine fruit trees, whose heavily laden branches made the mouths of many a youth water.

The boundary wall, however, was unusually high, and there were no crevices between the stones, which would afford a foothold for the adventurous marauder. Besides, the wall was crowned with a fringe of broken bottles, which entirely quenched the ardour of the few bold spirits who might have entertained a slight hope of reaching the top.

For these reasons the orchard seemed immune from assault, and for several years indeed proved so.

But at length a rumour reached the school that the fruit was constantly being taken.

The watchman in charge was directed to keep a vigilant eye upon the place during the night, and the police received instructions to visit it occasionally in the course of their rounds.

Notwithstanding the depredations continued. Though police and watchman patrolled outside the wall nightly, they could not discover any intruders, and yet it was noticed that even on these nights, the trees were being still stripped of their fruit.

At length uncanny stories began to circulate of ghostly figures seen from the watchman's cottage, perambulating the garden at night, disappearing as strangely as they came. In fact the watchman himself, a feeble octogenarian, told a mysterious story of how, as one night prior to going to rest he was making the rounds of the orchard, he saw an unearthly apparition suddenly emerge from the bowels of the earth, and as suddenly vanish. The watchman's narrative excited the interest of the owner of the orchard, who was not so superstitious as his servant, and next day on proceeding to the spot where the figure was said to have appeared, he noticed a large stone which had evidently been recently disturbed.

On investigation he discovered a passage leading to a small stream, which had an outlet about a hundred yards away in the school grounds.

The Head Master on being informed of this incident, at once held an inquiry, with the result that three or four of the senior boys pleaded guilty. It seems that it was originally a spirit of curiosity that prompted them to undertake what was really a perilous journey, and on finding themselves in such a paradise they were unable to resist the temptation of looting the orchard. It was when emerging from this stream, in a state of nudity, and carrying his clothes above his head, that the foremost of the adventurers perceived the watchman, who quite believed that he had seen some being from another world. The result of it all was that the boys visited the proprietor, made the most humble apologies to him, while he enjoyed the incident so much that he wrote a letter to the headmaster, requesting that the boys should not be punished.

The next incident to which I shall refer is a case of theft, the only one of the kind I remember during my seven years stay.

I have hesitated to introduce a matter of this kind to a school magazine, but I have no doubt, when I have told the story, it will be seen, that there is a very evident moral to be deduced.

Unofficial news came to the ears of the assistant masters that a boy was suspected of breaking the lock of one of his comrade's lockers, and pilfering therefrom a knife and some other small articles.

Vague rumours were floating about that the supposed culprit was to be tried, one night, after "lights-out," by a jury of his peers.

I was on duty this night, visited the dormitories at bedtime, and saw that all lights were extinguished. Soon afterwards on going to my room, which was not far away, I heard voices proceeding from the dormitory, and determined to investigate. On approaching the door I clearly perceived that the trial of the supposed thief had begun, so I made up my mind not to interrupt the proceedings, unless I observed that they were not being fairly conducted.

For at least two hours I listened, tired and sleepy, but none the less interested, to one of the most amusing trials it was ever my fortune to witness. Everything was done exactly as in a court of law. Counsel was appointed for plaintiff and defendant. The witnesses came forward and gave their testimony with the utmost gravity, while the cross-examiners raked them most mercilessly. The upshot of the trial was, that the defendant was convicted on the most unimpeachable evidence, and the punishment was inflicted in the usual manner. It was not till I thought the spanking was unduly prolonged, that I entered and put an end to the chastisement. I shall now briefly refer to a strange case of somnambulism, for the truth of which I can vouch.

One of our best pupils, who was equally good at sports and lessons, began to exhibit signs of great mental depression.

He slept in what was called the small dormitory, along with about half a dozen other boys.

One night one of them observed him going to the window of the dormitory, opening it, and attempting to make his way out. With difficulty was he rescued from his perilous position.

He was then transferred to another room, sharing the bed of his brother, who was the senior boy of the school, and on awaking one night he requested his brother to get him a drink of water from the lavatory.

Just as the elder brother was drawing the water, he noticed his brother stealthily pass by, and at once followed him. He only reached him as he had arrived at the window of his former dormitory.

For at least a month this went on, masters and boys being kept in a state of constant wakefulness, until at last it was found necessary to send him home, where one night he was missed from his bed, and discovered 100 yards away from the house in his night attire, making his way, as he said, back to the school. Perhaps the strangest part of the story remains to be told. In this trance-like condition he kept up a continuous conversation with a pet cat of his, called it by name, and conversed with it as with a rational human being.

Owing to want of space, I refrain from narrating several other strange and alarming circumstances in connection with this

affair, but I can assure my readers that everything I have told is literally true, and I could mention some other even more startling features of this remarkable case.

Now, a few general remarks as to my experience of an Irish Boarding School. A great deal of liberty was granted to the boys on half-holidays. They were allowed to roam through the country where they pleased, unaccompanied by masters. Some of course abused their privileges, but the greater part showed their appreciation by excellent behaviour.

Though the number of pupils never exceeded fifty, they could furnish a football team equal to any Dublin Day-School.

Above all, the senior boys possessed great influence. The Head Master relied on them to support the staff in preventing those petty vices which so often reflect discredit on a Boarding School, and they proved worthy of his confidence. In fine, there existed what ought to exist in every school whether Day or Boarding, an admirable *esprit de corps*.



Rifle Club Notes.



WE are glad to state that this club is in a very flourishing condition. The membership is twenty-three, a large increase on last year's, and considerable progress has been made, considering that very little knowledge of the use of a rifle prevailed among the members at first.

A junior section has been formed, which holds practices on Mondays, consisting of juvenile members who are not as yet well versed in the art of firing. Mr. Telfer has undertaken the management of this section, and under his able tuition the youngsters are making rapid headway. The Rifle Club also seems to have inspired patriotism into their hearts. For instance, recently one of the strikers went wrong. Their earnest and indisputable opinion was that the misfire was due to the foreign manufactured cartridges. English cartridges, they averred, were the genuine article.

Among the seniors we would especially commend the accurate shooting of Briscoe and Thomson. Mr. Telfer is not only a zealous worker, but also one of our crack shots. Some members, however, seem exceedingly desirous of not in any way spoiling the clean appearance of the target. We were only able to play off one match this season; as a matter of fact, most Rifle Clubs do not shoot during winter.

A word of thanks is due to the Sergeant for keeping the rifles, now four in number, two extra having been obtained for the juniors, in such excellent condition.

The following are the highest averages. Max. 50 :—

Sergeant ..	..	29	G. R. Thomson ..	..	21
J. M. Barron ..	..	28.8	R. S. Wayland ..	..	15
A. Briscoe ..	..	27.9	Mr. Annis ..	..	26.4
D. W. Carter ..	..	22	Mr. Telfer ..	..	22.7
T. M. McConkey ..	..	21.6			

Among the boys A. Briscoe obtained the highest total—43 out of a possible 50. The Sergeant, however, on one occasion scored 44.

MATCH—H. S. M. R. C., v. MR LE PETON'S M. R. C.

H. S. M. R. C.			LE PETON'S M. R. C.		
Max. 50.			Max 50.		
	1st Round.	2nd Round.		1st Round.	2nd Round.
Briscoe ..	43	39	H. C. Le Peton	31	25
Thomson ..	10	24	G. Dobbin ..	32	26
Barron ..	24	32	N. Waring ..	34	23
Carter ..	19	13	H. Backhouse	11	16
Moss ..	17	15	D. Le Peton	11	15
Page ..	29	5	G. Davies ..	8	3
	142	128		127	108
	270			235	

A win for H.S.M.R.C. by 35 points.

A match was also played between Masters and Boys, the latter winning by 20 points.

The following are the scores. Six shots and a sighter were fired, the maximum being 60 points.

MASTERS.			BOYS.		
Max. 60.			Max. 60.		
✓ Mr. Annis ..	..	30	A. Briscoe ..	..	10
✓ Mr. Gibson ..	..	14	J. M. Barron ..	..	37
✓ Mr. Gordon ..	..	23	G. R. Thomson ..	..	32
✓ Sergeant Millett ..	..	16	L. C. Page ..	..	9
✓ Mr. Timms ..	..	10	D. W. Carter ..	..	24
✓ Mr. Telfer ..	..	36	T. M. McConkey ..	..	37
		129			149



T. C. D. Letter.



SINCE our last letter most of us have passed through the ordeal of one of the usual Michaelmas Exams. with more or less success, and there is the usual outcry at the sins of the Board with regard to prizes.

This year they have surpassed themselves. Nineteen Senior Moderators in one of the strongest years that have been known for some time have received between them a little over £200. As T. C. D. says—"What sort of reward is this for four years hard work?"

One man who obtained a Gold Medal in Experimental Science and a Silver Medal in Mathematics received the beggarly sum of

£5. It is strange that the Board should act in this way at a time when Trinity is threatened with rivalry by the National University, and should be doing all in her power to attract students.

It seems to be forgotten that the University exists for the sake of the students, not in order to provide larger salaries for the Fellows.

Among the College successes of High School Old Boys we noticed that H. M. Daniel won a high Junior Exhibition, thus keeping up the long list of successes we have had in this exam.

E. M. Norton obtained second of the first Honours in Classics, and A. R. Rose first of the first Honours in History, while G. A. Small won first Junior Moderatorship in Classics.

The Football Club have had a very successful season so far, having only sustained one defeat, namely, by the United Services at Portsmouth, when the team can hardly have recovered from the hard match at Cambridge.

The back division especially is very strong, and several of the team should be in the running for International Caps this year, especially Lloyd, Read and M'Ivor.

Everyone is looking forward to the match with Oxford University on December 17th. Judging by the Cambridge match, Trinity have a good chance of winning, and if they do there will be great jubilation, for it is a long time since we won both the 'Varsity matches in one year.

The Harriers travelled to Edinburgh on November 27th and defeated the 'Varsity Cross-country team by 13 points to 26. H. Craig, who got first place, has improved greatly this year, and should have a good chance of getting in first against Oxford, whom we meet on January 28th, in England. G. G. Duggan hardly seems as good this year, as is not surprising considering he has been running since 1904.

We hear that H. M. Daniel and W. S. Worthington-Eyre intend to join the Harriers, and hope that this is true, for High School Boys have had several representatives in the club for many years.

In conclusion, we would like to offer our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Thompson and the School on the success of the Prize Distribution. All Old Boys are delighted to see the High School regaining her old place among the chief schools of Ireland, and recognise the great improvement in both numbers and tone as an omen of still greater success in the near future.



Football Notes.



1ST XV. NOTES.

INDIVIDUALLY the members of the 1st XV. are, for the most part, hard workers, but the matches have been lost through lack of combination, and this in turn is due to deplorable neglect of practice.

The forward line has held its own in all matches, and has had hard luck in being let down time after time by the backs.

The half-backs are certainly the weakest spot in the team. They treat the ball like a piece of live coal, and apparently think that they must get rid of it at all costs. Their wild passing has not tended to make the work of the three-quarters easy.

The three-quarters possess ability, but require practice, especially in handling the ball.

We venture to add a few general remarks, and to offer a few suggestions to the seniors. We should like to impress upon the members of the team the absolute futility of playing matches without any practices. A team may be composed of really brilliant players, and yet, if these players do not practice together, they will be beaten by an individually inferior, but practised, team.

We also venture to remind each player that there are fourteen other members of the team who are anxious to help their side if given the opportunity.

We suggest that one captain is sufficient for a XV. Wilson is, in every way, admirably fitted for this important position, and is quite capable of directing his men without outside help.

The team will do well to remember that the only sure way of bringing down an opponent is to tackle him *low*.

We wish the seniors success in their Cup Ties, but, unless they condescend to practice, they will inevitably be humiliated.

The opening match of the season was played on the 2nd Oct. against St. Mary's College at Belgrave Square. Our team showed a deplorable lack of training, and allowed the visitors to leave the field with the substantial margin of 16 points to their credit. Of the players O'Meara was good at full, and Kelly and Crotty as three-quarters. The latter had the misfortune to get his wrist badly dislocated early in the game, and had to leave the field. Wilson and the Tuites were the pick of the forwards.

The next match on the list was v. King's Hospital, and after a fast and fiery game the visitors won by 3 points. O'Meara again played a good game, Thomson was the best of the three-quarters, and the same forwards distinguished themselves.

On the occasion of the match v. St. Stephen's Green School, our team obtained an easy win by 13 points. Thomson, Kelly and J. Bell were the pick of the backs, and all the forwards played well, Wilson and the Tuites as usual being conspicuous.

Wesley beat us by 26 points, holding the upper hand during the whole game, a fact mainly attributable to their splendid training, which overcame the vigorous resistance of our whole team.

Our first senior third match was against Old Wesley. We had three masters to assist us and won by 9 points to 6. O'Meara, Thomson and Kelly were conspicuous among the backs, but it was entirely due to the splendid services rendered by Mr. Gibson

and Mr. Gordon that we won the match. The latter scored a splendid try which Thomson failed to convert.

Bective 3rd beat us by 11 points, but they had several 1st XV. men playing for them, including Garry, the international forward. Our whole team did their best, but were greatly handicapped by the weight of their opponents. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Gibson again rendered yeoman service.

We had heard so much about the St. Columba's team that we played three masters against them, having obtained their consent. On lining out they did not look so formidable, but we received a rude shock when they scored three times in the first ten minutes. However, our players exerted themselves, and play became more even; but in spite of all our efforts we were 20 points behind when the long whistle went.

We met Trinity 3rd A. on Wednesday, 3rd Nov., at the Square. The ground was a perfect quagmire, and spoiled any chance of good play. Notwithstanding the great weight of our opponents, we were only beaten by 9 points. O'Meara was good at full, Thomson and Kelly showed to advantage in the three-quarter line, as did Mr. Gordon, and Messrs. Wilson and N. Tuite in the forward line.

The team travelled to Sidney Parade on the 5th to play Monkstown 3rd, but suffered a defeat of 8 points to nil, owing to not being at full strength.

On the following Saturday we received Belvidere as visitors to the square, and after a hard game were victorious by 13 points to nil. Thomson, Moss and N. Tuite scored. O'Meara was sound at full, but had not much to do owing to the splendid work of the three's and halves. All the forwards played up to the top of their form, and the match was gained mainly by their efforts.

At Clonskea, on the 13th November, we were sorely disappointed by being beaten to the tune of 22 points. Crotty turned out as full, this being his first appearance since his accident. He played a good game, his splendid kicking giving great relief to his side, when hard pressed. Thomson and Moss did good work in defence, and Wilson ably led the forwards.

We put up a hard fight in our return match with Bective 3rd, but lacked the services of Mr. Gibson. The visitors won a hard game by 11 points to 3, Thomson being the scorer for the school.

The team undertook a long journey to Carlow to play Knockbeg College, on Monday, 29th November. We had a stiff tramp over muddy roads before reaching the College, but after a short rest we lined out. Wilson started the game, and the Carlow "three's" got going, but Eyre, intercepting in fine style, scored between the posts, Thomson failing with the kick.

After some fast play Carlow scored far out, but nevertheless the try was splendidly converted. High School worked hard, and Tomlinson got over for a try, but the kick failed. Thus at half time we led by 1 point. On resuming, most of the play was in

our 25, and in spite of all our efforts Carlow got over for an unconverted try. We had most of the play for the remainder of the match, and Eyre got over at the corner, but the verdict of the referee was against him, and when full time was called we were two points behind.

All the players did their utmost, and it is hardly fair to make distinctions. Crotty was sound at full, our three's were assisted by W. Eyre, who played up to his usual good form, Tomlinson and Moss were splendid at half, the latter coming in for great praise from our opponents for his plucky play throughout. Thomson and Wilson were the pick of a hardworking set of forwards.

CRITICISM OF HIGH SCHOOL 1ST XV.

W. H. Crotty early in season dislocated his wrist, but is now quite well, and plays a good game at full-back.

A. T. O'Meara, who has unfortunately left, played well at full-back during Crotty's disablement.

G. R. Thomson, one of the mainstays of the team, has been responsible for some good place-kicking and for a good many scores.

G. R. Kelly is a good defensive three-quarter.

R. Bell is a three-quarter, with good defensive capabilities, but should "drop" on the ball more than he does.

G. L. Worthington-Eyre destroys what would otherwise be a fair game by selfishness. His passes are often very wild.

J. Bell (half) is a very nimble player.

Moss (half), in spite of diminutive stature, is very effective. The forwards are this year rather heavier than last; they, however, do not possess the knack of packing tightly in scrum.

Our Capt., R. R. Wilson, can always be relied on to play a good game.

W. C. Bright is also a very consistent player, and is a good tackler.

N. E. M. Stratford-Tuite is strenuous though slow.

T. M. H. Stratford-Tuite plays very coolly.

J. M. Barron plays a little too much "soccer" on the football field.

Harriss plays well.

P. Bell plays a good game.

A. J. Beatty is a reliable forward.

J. R. Brennan is a promising beginner.

2ND XV. NOTES.

The junior football has been very encouraging.

The 2nd XV. has played seven matches, of which four have been won and three lost.

Our Junior Cup Team has played two matches, and has won both of them.

Our two worst defeats have been inflicted by Rathmines College (72 points —0), and Belvedere College (39 points —0). Our defeat by the former is not surprising, as only seven of the selected team turned out. Belvedere College were too heavy for us, but our men played a plucky game.

The forwards play a good game. They must remember to pack well in the scrum, and to mark their men at the line out. Alexander, Duggan, C. J. Dodds, Smyth, have all played well.

The half-backs are good, and their play is quite worthy of imitation by the seniors.

The three-quarters have played some excellent games. They are all so uniformly good, and work so well that individual praise is difficult.

The position of full-back has been filled—in the absence of O'Meara—by various boys with more or less success.

We have also a word of praise for the "under 14" XV., which beat St. Stephen's Green School by 14 points to nil, and St. Andrew's College by 16 points to nil. The whole team plays a thoroughly good game, and, perhaps, Worthington and H. C. Dodds deserve special mention.

The juniors have every reason to be proud of their play. They display great keenness in matches, and their practice games have been splendidly attended.

We think that the Junior Cup Team will make a good show in the Cup Tie although the members of the team are rather small.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MATCHES PLAYED:

DATE.			H.			D.			OPPONENTS		
			G.	T.	P.	G.	T.	P.			
Oct. 23	v.	St. Stephen's Green (under 14)	I	3	14	0	0	0			
27	v.	Diocesan School ...	...	1	0	5	0	1	3		
30	v.	Rathmines College ..	...	0	0	0	0	0	72		
Nov. 6	v.	Belvedere 2nd. ...	...	0	0	0	3	8	36		
10	v.	Cath. Univ. J. C. T.	...	2	2	16	1	1	8		
13	v.	Masonic Sch. 2nd.	...	0	0	0	3	3	24		
16	v.	Belvedere J. C. T.	...	0	2	6	0	0	0		
21	v.	Clontarf 4th ...	...	1	2	11	1	1	8		
Nov. 8	v.	Andrews College (under 14)	...	2	2	16	0	0	0		

NOTICES.

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