

THE ERASMIAN

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DECEMBER,
1918.

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THE MAGAZINE OF

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THE ERASMIAN.

DECEMBER, 1918.

Editorial.

THE wonderful year of 1918 has passed, and with it the Titanic struggle that has been waged for so long against our enemies has come to an end. We can now look forward, with no longer any doubt in our minds, to the time when the nations of the world will be at rest, and peace and prosperity will once more reign supreme.

* * *

Little did men think, at the beginning of the year, that in so short a time the mighty empires of Germany and Austria would collapse. For four years Britain has passed through periods of anxiety and distress, and she now emerges from the struggle victorious in the cause of freedom and civilisation.

* * *

So we rejoice and feel glad that we belong to a victorious nation. But in the midst of our rejoicings it is right that we should remember those of our Old Boys who have fought so bravely on the field of battle. And as we think of them, we feel proud and glad that the School has been represented so well in our Army and Navy, whose glorious deeds will ever be remembered.

* * *

So much for the War. Let us now turn our thoughts to matters concerning ourselves and the School. During the last term the School was forced to close down for three weeks owing to the terrible epidemic of influenza. It was a sad break in the term, and its effects were noticed in the Christmas Examinations, which were held just before the holidays commenced. Also, owing to the epidemic, we were unable to have our annual distribution of Prizes, which usually takes place in November, but we hope to have it shortly, in January or February.

* * *

In conclusion, now that the war is over, and paper is not so scarce, we would like a few articles from the boys, for the next *Erasmian*. Contributions will be received at any time by the Editor, but we would request the boys not to rush all at once.

School Notes.

THE School was closed last term on account of the influenza for three weeks, from Oct. 28th to Nov. 16th inclusive.

* * *

In consequence the whole term's work was disarranged. The prize distribution was postponed till after Christmas. The Christmas vacation was shortened by about a week, and the publication of the *Erasmian* has become erratic. However, after this number we hope to get back to our regular orbit.

* * *

The Scripture Examinations were held as usual on the second Friday in December—with, we fear, all too inadequate preparation—and the results will be issued on the second Friday in January, too late for publication in this number.

* * *

Unlike some other schools, we held our usual Christmas examinations, and although the results suffered from the break in the term, we were glad to get them over, and we must "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" all that they revealed.

* * *

The School War Savings Association did well last term, and up to Christmas our investments amounted to over £420, and we just doubled the number of War Savings Certificates that we had bought previous to the summer, bringing our total up to 536. The authorities are most anxious that contributions shall continue, and as this is an excellent means of saving we hope the subscribers will increase in number. The Committee are presenting to every subscriber a war picture for every 6d. contributed.

* * *

The Lansdowne Football Club have very generously made every High School boy an honorary member, so that our boys can obtain free entrance to the Lansdowne ground by wearing the School cap. The Hon. Sec. of the Club, Mr. Francis C. D. Joynt, who has held that position now for twenty-one years, is an old High School boy.

Mr. Watson delivered two public lectures for a juvenile audience in the Lecture Theatre of the Royal Dublin Society during the Christmas holidays. The lectures were on Wednesday and Friday, January 1st and 3rd, and the subject was "Sea Salt as Viewed by the Chemist."

* * *

Mr. Ellwood, Capt., Loyal North Lancashires, who was a prisoner in Germany, has returned to England, and Mr. Slade, Capt., Essex Regiment, after serving in Gallipoli, Egypt, and Palestine has come back on leave to England.



Examination Results.



THE High School Exhibition (£25 a year for four years with privileges as to rooms in Trinity College) was won last term by E. W. Scales.

A. R. Ellis won a Junior Exhibition, and was also awarded by the Governors an Erasmus Smith Exhibition. He obtained First Entrance Prize for Latin Prose Composition.

H. J. L. Armstrong was awarded by the Governors an Erasmus Smith Exhibition.

G. K. Carpenter (Scholar) (1908-1914) has obtained First Senior Moderatorship and Gold Medal in Experimental Science.



Christmas Examination.



FORM VI.—English, C. T. A. Harper; Latin, P. Coleman; Greek, P. Coleman; French, R. E. McGuire; Mathematics, P. Coleman; Experimental Science, P. Coleman, C. T. A. Harper; History and Geography, P. Coleman; Drawing, H. E. Child.

FORM V.—English, W. C. G. Proctor; Latin, W. C. G. Proctor; Greek, W. C. G. Proctor; French, W. C. G. Proctor; German, A. G. Cowan; Mathematics, W. C. G. Proctor; Experimental Science, W. C. G. Proctor; Drawing, D. C. Russell; History and Geography, C. E. G. Digges.

- FORM IV. (Upper)—English, R. H. Colwill ; Latin, G. I. Rush ; Greek, H. Montgomery ; French, G. I. Rush ; German, M. Cowan ; Mathematics, G. I. Rush ; Experimental Science, E. J. Montgomery ; Drawing, W. R. M. Hewitt ; History and Geography, T. G. Squires.
- FORM IV. (Lower)—English, E. N. Bardon ; Latin, G. E. Taylor ; French, M. Cowan, R. G. Cunningham ; Mathematics, W. K. Gibson ; Experimental Science, J. H. Hanan ; History and Geography, E. N. Bardon.
- FORM IIIA.—English, D. B. W. Good ; Latin, B. T. Warren ; Greek, B. T. Warren ; French, D. B. W. Good, G. S. Sloan ; Mathematics, P. F. Rowe ; Experimental Science, G. S. Sloan ; Drawing, H. V. T. Henchy ; History and Geography, D. B. W. Good, H. C. Thompson ; Commercial Subjects, G. W. Buchanan.
- FORM IIIB.—English, W. E. Lewis ; Latin, L. Golding ; French, G. E. Abbott ; Mathematics, T. A. Costello ; Manual Instruction, W. H. Jolley ; Drawing, J. W. Duggan ; History and Geography, T. A. Costello.
- FORM IIIC.—English, M. F. E. Dobbin ; Latin, W. S. Glover ; French, D. F. G. Eyles ; Mathematics, D. F. G. Eyles ; Writing and Drawing, M. F. E. Dobbin ; History and Geography, W. S. Glover, A. L. Riley.
- FORM IIL.—Scripture, M. E. Bardon ; English, G. B. Thrift ; Latin, H. W. Dalton ; French, H. W. Dalton ; Mathematics, L. B. Harris ; Writing and Drawing, A. C. Rylands ; History and Geography, M. E. Bardon.
- FORM IA.—Scripture, C. G. Monson ; English, E. S. W. Forsythe ; French, E. R. Batt ; Arithmetic, P. R. J. Toplis ; Writing and Drawing, D. G. M'Cauly, J. H. Morton ; History and Geography, P. R. J. Toplis.
- FORM IB.—Scripture, H. Burchill ; English, H. Burchill ; French, H. Burchill ; Arithmetic, H. Burchill ; Writing and Drawing, H. Burchill ; History and Geography, W. S. A. Heard.



Fragments from Cæsar's Commentaries of the Great War.

CÆSAR, being allowed to be a spectator of that great drama which has just been enacted, the chief characters in it being two nations very well-known to him, determined to set down all the wonderful and strange things which he saw and heard.

When he arrived at the battle region, he saw around him a country which had been tortured by all the horrors of war. All the buildings were in ruins, nor were any trees or green things to be seen in any place whatever.

Now the methods by which this war is waged are exceedingly strange and unearthly, the generals relying more on engines of war than on men; also the engines of war are like what were never seen before on earth, surpassing by far those of Archimedes. The armies are not drawn up in regular lines of battle, but dig trenches of great depth and length, and discharge at each other their missile weapons from the shelter of these. Also they burrow in the ground like moles, making tunnels and chambers to protect themselves from the thunderbolts. These latter are discharged from metal tubes with great noise, and in their passage through the heavens, the whole air groans beneath their weight, and when they burst they do so with an intolerable din, killing or grievously maiming any who may be near. Likewise is the sky darkened with bird-like shapes innumerable; as many as the stars of heaven are they, moving with great speed and noise through the air, and when they fight, the conquered generally crashes to the earth in flames.

At night, a battle being begun, a most terrifying and tremendous spectacle is to be seen, for all the metal tubes are discharging their thunderbolts on the enemy's lines. The sky is as if on fire, while the din and odours are intolerable, and the fortifications collapse like reeds before a storm. How men existed in this inferno passes all comprehension, but they did, for at a signal the Britons leaped from their trenches, and charged towards the enemy, hurling egg shaped objects, which act like the thunderbolts. They also fix on the end of their metal tubes a long knife, which is a very effective weapon in hand-to-hand fighting.

The Britons were preceded by a number of huge squat shapes, like unto huge bears, which were armed with the thunderbolt tubes, and other kinds, which can mow down men like wet grass before a scythe. For, being made of steel, they can overcome all impediments whatever, nothing being able to resist them.

The "naves longæ" are of immense size and strength, and tower above the waves like unto mighty floating forts. They are armed with numbers of the foresaid deadly tubes, which are of great length. They move through the water with great rapidity, without sails or oars, and vomit smoke and fire from two towers in the centre; and, what passes all belief, although being of iron, they do not sink, and the stormiest seas will not keep them in harbour. The Britons excel every nation in the working of these leviathans, and of their arms.

The land of the Belgæ was laid waste, plundered, and harried to such an extent, that was never before recorded in history, every building being in ruins—a sight most terrible to behold—and the people carried away into captivity. All the arsenals and factories were dismantled, the clever workmen being forced to work for their enemies.

In Britain, none of these terrible sights are to be seen. No enemies having entered her except as captives, which they do in large numbers. Sometimes, on dark nights, do the bird-machines of the enemy drop those deadly egg-shaped objects on the huge city of Londinium, which is of an enormous extent that passes all imagination. Everywhere are to be seen great camps and workshops, in which men toil night and day to furnish the strange engines of war for their armies, this being a war of engines, so that those who are skilled in the forging of the same, and those who can make those deadly powders and airs, are held in high honour.

While crossing the channel a mighty swirling of the water near the ship was seen, like unto Charybdis itself, and from the depths there arose a monster like unto a whale with a tower on its back. Then, what is most to be wondered at, men emerged from the interior and ordered the vessel to be abandoned, which was done in small boats. These were afterwards picked up by another vessel. The strange, whale-like object mentioned, is called a submarine, in which men may traverse the depths in safety, and deal destruction to the vessels of the foe on the surface.

The chief of the Germans is a rash and most arrogant man, much given to boasting, who thought himself equal to the gods, but was driven out into exile by his people. He hated with an exceeding great hate, but the Britons who were once barbarians now rule half the world, the Druid's prophecy being fulfilled, which saith:—

"Regions Cæsar never knew,
Thy posterity shall sway;
Where his eagles never flew,
None invincible as they."

Caius Julius Cæsar.

JEU D'ESPRIT.

Polyphloisboio Homer of old
 Threw all his augments into the sea ;
 And when by a friend he politely was told
 That perfect imperfects begin with an e,
 The poet replied with a dignified air
 "What the digamma does anyone care."



Notes on Old Boys.



THE following Old Boys have lately obtained war distinctions :—

Bernard D'Olier Darley (1890-98) Executive Engineer, Tarai, United Provinces, India, has been awarded the C.I.E. (Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire).

* * *

Charles F. Draper (1891-95), Territorial Captain, Acting Major Royal Engineers, has been awarded the O.B.E. (Officer of the Order of the British Empire), Military Division, for services in Egypt.

* * *

Lt-Col. R. G. D. Small (1902-05), Royal Air Force, has again been specially mentioned for services in connection with the Air Force in France.

* * *

L. M. Bayly (1895-1902), Captain, Royal Irish Rifles, G. H. McElnay (1910-12), Lieut., Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and G. H. Noblett (1912-13), Captain, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, have all won the Military Cross.

* * *

D. M. Killingley (1914-17), left in December for Wellington in India, having obtained a Commission in the Indian Army.

* * *

A. S. Larkin (1902-13), Captain, A.S.C., has been successful in his application for a Commission in the Indian Army.

* * *

G. E. Larkin (1905-15), Lieut., Royal Dublin Fusiliers, expects to get a Commission in the Regular Army.

* * *

E. W. Scales (1912-15), after winning the High School Exhibition, joined the North Irish Horse.

John Bell (1909-15), Lt., R.D.F. ; T. E. Flewett (1911-16), Lt., R.F.A. ; H. T. Bird (1909-16), Lt., R.F.A., have all been wounded.

* * *

H. R. Ardill (1896-1904), Lt., R.F.A. ; R. J. Charters (1910-15), Lt., R.I.R. ; F. S. Marchant (1911-15), Lt., R. Inniskillings ; D. G. Lawson (1908-12), S.I. Horse ; R. N. Montgomery (1893-99), R.A.M C., have all returned home safe from Germany.

* * *

Prof. H. H. Jeffcott (1892-95), of the Royal College of Science, has been appointed Hon. Sec. to the Scientific Committee of Reconstruction for Ireland.

* * *

W. R. M'Caw (1890-99) has been appointed a member of the Dublin Stock Exchange.

* * *

Sir A. Callaghan (1876-79) stood as Liberal candidate for the Eastbourne Division of Sussex at the recent General Election, but was not successful.

* * *

There was some mention of Mr. S. W. Maddock, D.L. (1879-1885) standing for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin in the Unionist interest, but it did not mature.

* * *

T. V. Harris (1912-17) obtained his Rugby colours at Sandhurst last term, playing centre threequarter against Woolwich.



OBITUARY.

We have unfortunately to record in this number an unusually long obituary list.

It is seldom that we have to announce the death of one who is taken from us while still at school. Handel John Phillips Rogers (Jack) died as the result of influenza on Friday, Nov. 1st, barely a month after his sixteenth birthday. He was always rather a delicate boy, and he had grown rapidly, but he was fond of games—cricket, swimming, gymnastics, and he seemed to have become stronger. He was always a good worker, conscientious, high-minded and determined, and he was looking forward with good hopes to a very successful life. But it was not to be. He had, however, done something. He won a School Scholarship and passed the

Junior Grade twice, last summer with honours, and the high distinction of a prize for Classics. He leaves behind a bright example as a help to us all.

Next we have to regret five more old boys who have given their lives in the war.

Capt. Lancelot M. Bayly, M.C., R.I.R. (1895-1902) died of wounds in France on October 22nd, having been shot through the body by a sniper. He was the second son of the late E. F. Bayly and Mrs. Bayly, Killough Castle, Thurles. Every one who knew him, whether at school or at Lansdowne Road, where he played for the 1st XV. of the Lansdowne Club in the Cup Matches of 1904 and 1905, will remember him for his kindly, unassuming, straightforward character, one of the best type of men. When the war broke out he was in India, but at once came home and joined up. The last time we saw him was when he called at the School in the spring of 1917 after being wounded. On his return to France he gained the Military Cross in March last for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He commanded a company through a week's heavy fighting, taking part in rearguard actions and counter attacks, in which he set a fine example. On one occasion he carried a Lewis gun during the whole of a long march.

Trooper Wm. Buckley of the Irish Horse (1903-04) died in hospital, aged 29, whilst a prisoner of war in Germany on August 6th last. He was the eldest son of the late Francis Buckley of Enniskerry.

Wm. Francis Benson, Sub-Lieut., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (1907-12), was killed in action while leading his platoon on October 8th, aged 23. He was the eldest son of the late Wm. Benson and Mrs. Benson, 46 Reuben Avenue, S.C.R. He was a scholar of the School, and distinguished himself in the Intermediate. When the war broke out he joined the R.A.M.C., but later transferred to the Royal Naval Reserve when his good services won him a Commission.

Capt. Hill Wilson White, R.A.M.C. (1895-1903) was reported missing last spring, but has now officially been announced as presumed to have been killed on April 12th last. He will be remembered by many boys for his charming personality, and his keen interest in everything concerning the School. He joined the army in August, 1914, and served in France and Flanders. He was wounded at Ypres in December, 1915. In March last he was in medical charge of a reinforcement camp, and was despatched with a battalion to meet an almost overwhelming advance by the enemy. In the ensuing fight he acquitted himself with great gallantry, attending to the wounded under heavy shell fire. He was the

fourth son of the Dean of Christ Church and Mrs. White, and was born June 12th, 1885.

Hector A. Young, R.A.S.C. (1910-11) died on December 30th of pneumonia at the Military Hospital, Tidworth. He was born 10th November, 1895, and was the fourth son of the late Dr. Poyntz Young and Mrs. Young, of 17 Sandymount Road.

Rev. Richard Arthur Oulton, M.A. (1900-03), who died on November 4th of pneumonia, was, perhaps, the most lovable, attractive, and gifted boy ever at the School. We give below an appreciation of him by one of his class fellows. There were two striking things about Arthur Oulton—a generous and charming personality which made everyone like him both at School and afterwards, and a genius for music. His end was a tragedy. He had just resigned his living at Aghade, Co. Carlow, having obtained a post for which he was eminently fitted and which had been his ambition, the Clerical Vicarship Choral of York Minster. He died on a Monday, and his wife and son, who was born after his death, died the same week. He was the eldest son of Mr. G. N. Oulton, K.C., and was born December 16th, 1883.

Though the muse be gone away,
Though she move not earth to-day,
Souls erewhile who caught her word,
Ah! still harp on what they heard.

The following appreciation has been sent us by a former schoolfellow:—

“To many people in Dublin and in the provinces the news of Arthur Oulton's early death from pneumonia following influenza will come as a great shock. He had by his gifts won for himself a foremost place in musical circles in Dublin. He will be remembered by most people as a solo pianist and accompanist; but he also played the viola in the College orchestra, while as an undergraduate he was organist of the Magdalen Asylum Chapel. He was no niggard in the giving of his services when called on. No request for help in a good cause ever failed to enlist his whole-hearted sympathy, and he gave of his best whether he was entertaining a few friends in a private house or was appearing before the larger, but not more appreciative, audience of the concert hall.

“But it was not only his musical ability that attracted. He had a charming personality, and the gift of interesting himself in any matter that came under his notice. All his friends will remember the impulsive hastening to greet, the close hand shake, the lighting up of the kindly eyes—he made you feel that his joy was real in coming across you once again. It was so on the Monday morning before he died when the

writer met him, seemingly in perfect health, in Westmoreland Street, just the same happiness in meeting one he knew, the same kindly smile that he had in the old school days. The picture that rose in my mind when I heard the news of his death was connected with those days, when we used to take a delight in watching him as he walked up and down the playground interestedly discussing the subject he loved—and so absorbed in the discussion that he never noticed that his books (which he always carried loose and never fastened together with a strap) were dropping one by one from under his arm, until the fall of the last one recalled him to the fact that his volumes of learning lay marking his path across the gravel.

"He has gone from us after a few years of life, and in all probability standing on the threshold of a great career. Yet those who knew him at school or college will feel that his short life was not an ineffective one. The school of his day was the better for his being in it—and that is a great thing to say of any schoolboy."

C.C.W.D.

Professor C. C. W. Stronge, M.A. (1896-97), who was born on 29th October, 1879, was the youngest son of Mr. S. E. Stronge, of Dromartin Castle, Dundrum, one of the Head Inspectors of National Education. He obtained many distinctions in Classics, English, and German in Trinity, among others winning the Stewart Scholarship, and graduated in 1902 with First Senior Moderatorship and Gold Medal in Modern Literature. When the Chair of Modern Languages was founded in Magee College, Londonderry, he became its first occupant, and held it till his early death. He also took an active part in bringing about the existing relations between Magee College and Dublin University.

Among the victims of the "Leinster" outrage was a former master of the School, Mr. H. E. Taaffe, who taught modern languages here from 1906-08. He was a very capable scholar, and after leaving the High School held appointments in the Bermudas and in England.



Annus Tremendus, 1918.



"THE Departing Year." We have all seen pictures of them, the departing years. Something like a Father Christmas, an old man, casting a stealthy look behind and shuffling off as it were the mortal coil. We know them by the figures on their backs, and we feel like helping them on their way with a final

kick, as the new year, all gay and spry, comes hurrying along, shouting "make way for me," and we all feel anxious to do what we can to help him.

But this time there is a different note about the old year which fills us with a little awe and some dread. We don't feel exactly as if he should be kicked into limbo like many of his predecessors and forgotten. He seems somewhat bigger than any of those 1917 who have gone before, and all the other thousands before them. As we look along the file we descry some outstanding fellows whose numbers and deeds we still remember, and as the books say, will not willingly let die, such as 1066, 1415, 1588, 1688, 1815. Fine noble figures these in every sense. But 1918 doesn't seem to mind comparison with any of them, and stalks boldly and proudly along as if he could overshadow them all together. "What of 1066 and the Battle of Hastings or 1815 and Waterloo!" he seems to say, "They were one day battles, and I had a battle that went on for eight months in which each day was as fiercely contested as Harold or Napoleon could have wished, and what are they to the Kaisers, Kings, Emperors, aye and Empires too that I have overthrown!" Indeed, when 1918 begins to speak, we really get a little frightened, forgetting that his day is over, and we pray that he won't come back again. However, let us pluck up courage. He is gone at last and we can take a good look at his retiring figure. Let us tell over to ourselves what he did. First of all, he brought to an end the greatest of all the wars ever waged, a war which killed or wounded 30,000,000 men. His four predecessors tried hard to do it, but he did it after eight months desperate fighting, at the beginning of which he gave us an awful shock, but in the end he gave us a crushing victory. The Empires of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey all collapsed and their rulers, except the Sultan, went fleeing for their lives. Never did so many kings and princes disappear all at once. The British recovered the Holy Land and the Garden of Eden. All the German fleet came sailing, like dogs with their tails between their legs (if the simile can be allowed) into British harbours. Never did British arms by land and sea gain such transcendent triumphs.

1918 did another thing. He brought the Americans over to fight in Europe and to help us and the French and the Anzacs in overthrowing the Kaiser, and he brought the President himself over to France and England to establish, if possible, a "League of Nations." In fact he has given such a shock to the whole world that it will take many of his successors all their time to put it right again.

And then 1918 is remarkable for some other things. Women were given the Parliamentary vote, and the longest

Parliament of modern times having come to an end, they helped in electing the new Parliament which, with Lloyd George as Premier, is to establish the World Peace. That is one of the greatest of modern political reforms, and in Great Britain an Act of Parliament has been passed which will make it remarkable as the year also of great educational reform to which future generations will look back with admiration. One other thing would give 1918, a conspicuous if unenviable place in history, for it was not all heroism and glory and progress. It brought us the "plague." We called it the "flue," perhaps with the vague idea of appeasing its anger. But it was the most terrible curse of modern times, more fatal during its progress than the war, for in six months it took a toll of 6,000,000 lives. So 1918 was *annus tremendus*, "the most fateful," it has been called, "in the records of the human race." It marked humanity's greatest triumph over the powers that opposed its progress, the triumph of freedom over repression, of the people over the tyrant, and in the desperate conflict which led to this triumph never did mankind reach such noble heights of heroism and self sacrifice. A titanic year, it revealed titanic virtues. Amid all its bloodshed and horrors, it showed the greatness of the human race. Let us take off our hats to 1918 with reverence and admiration.

X. Y. Z.



Football Notes.



OUR Senior Team has been much handicapped owing to accidents and other causes. In fact, some of our best players have been unable to play for a good part of the season before the holidays. We hope, however, to have better luck after the Christmas vacation, and to make a good show in our subsequent matches.

NOTES ON PLAYERS.

BELL. Of our Captain, there is much to be said for him and little against him. He is the mainstay of the forward line, and time and again he has greatly benefited our team.

C. MAY. One of our strong backs; good at passing and tackling, but should learn to get his opponents low.

MATTHEWS. Our scrum-half. Plucky in defence, and never hesitates to go down on the ball; he should feed his backs more, however.

- MCGUIRE. Steady centre three-quarter. Kicks and tackles well, and is equally strong in defence and attack.
- CHILD. One of our best forwards, though rather unfortunate in getting injured early in the season; he has good weight, and plays a steady game throughout.
- FIELDING. Has a good kick and fields well; though rather weak in defence. He has improved in passing.
- FOSTER. Good kick; has not had very many chances so far, but has improved considerably since last year.
- J. BALLAGH. Our full back. At tackling he is rather small, but he fields well and has a good kick.
- ROONEY. Plays hard throughout the game; though only been here a short time, he has shown up very well.
- HEMPENSTALL. A fairly heavy forward and a good scrimmager, and uses his feet well.
- COLWILL. One of our steady forwards, and good in the pack. Should learn not to run back, and to dribble more.
- BRUNNER. Should drop the ball more quickly instead of trying to struggle on a few yards. He is a good dribbler, however, and is strong in the scrum.
- DODDS. Has not had much chance this season. Quite good all round, though small.
- FREEMAN. A fast wing three-quarter, but weak at tackling and fielding.
- P. HANAN. A light forward; plays a steady game, and has improved all round.
- DIGGES. Good worker in the scrum, for his weight, and heels well.

MATCHES PLAYED.

October 2nd *v.* KING'S HOSPITAL, at Blackhall Place.

In this match we lost by 14 points to nil. Our backs seemed slow in comparison with our opponents, though May and McGuire played well. Among the forwards the best were Child and Hempenstall. As it was the first match of the season, our lack of combination may perhaps be excused, but the forwards should get the ball out more frequently, and the backs should have constant practice in passing.

October 12th *v.* MR. LEHANE'S ARMY SCHOOL, at Belgrave Square.

This was a very exciting game, ending in a draw of 6 points each. In the first half McGuire dropped a good penalty goal,

and later on scored a try, which gave High School a good lead. Lehané's team, however, managed to score twice during the second period, and thus made matters level.

We were unfortunate in losing Child in the second half, as his collar-bone was broken. He is unable to play rugby till after Christmas, when we hope to see him once more in the field.

As regards the players, McGuire, Matthews, and May were the best of the backs, while Child, Brunner, and Isaacson were prominent forwards.

November 6th *v.* MOUNTJOY SCHOOL, at Lawnsdowne Road.

This was to have been a league match, but owing to the non-appearance of the Union referee it was changed to a friendly.

The epidemic of influenza had laid up several members of the team, consequently we turned up to play the match with eight substitutes and were beaten by a large score.

November 23rd *v.* MASONIC SCHOOL, at Belgrave Square.

This was quite a good match, but our opponents proved to be too strong for us. We played very well, however, though it was evident that we had not had sufficient training, in which our opponents were by far superior.

Hempenstall and Brunner scored for High School, and were the best forwards, while Matthews, May, McGuire, were good behind the pack.

Result. Masonic School, 17 pts; High School, 6 pts.

November 30th *v.* MERRION 2ND XV., at Belgrave Square.

This was a very scrappy match, and the School were most unlucky to lose McGuire through accident. There is not very much to say about the players, though each did his best, for, as is generally the case in scratch matches, there was plenty of forward passing, and players were off-side continuously.

Result. Merrion 2nd 16 pts.; High School nil.

December 16th *v.* MOUNTJOY SCHOOL at the Square.

Although up against a considerably stronger side, High School played, on the whole, a very plucky game, and showed a good improvement on its previous match, for the players combined better, and though the forwards were rather inclined to be off-side, and to fumble with the ball in the scrum, they rallied more and packed closer. Bell and Brunner in the forward line, and Matthews, May, and Ballagh in the backs, were the pick of the team.

Result. Mountjoy School 18 pts.; High School nil.

JUNIOR CUP TEAM.

The Junior Team have been more fortunate than the Senior this season. They have so far won three matches, drawn one, and lost three ; and indeed it is hoped that they will do well in the Cup matches. There are very few of last year's team left, consequently there are plenty of chances for the Junior members of the school, and with the help of players such as R. May, J. Ballagh, Wright, McGarrigle, Jolley, Campbell, we ought to do as well as last year, if not better.

MATCHES PLAYED.

October 2nd *v.* KING'S HOSPITAL, at Belgrave Square.

This was a very good match to watch, and resulted in a win for High School by 16 points to 8. In the first half J. Ballagh dropped a fine goal. Later on in the game Golding scored, and also McGarrigle.

Golding was the best forward, scoring three times, and Ballagh was the pick of the backs.

October 12th *v.* EARLSFORT HOUSE SCHOOL, on their ground.

In this match we lost by one goal to one try. Campbell scored for High School.

Two or three of the players should practice place-kicking, for a converted try might win a match. Also, the backs should not forget to go for the man low, and to pass more frequently.

For High School, Wheeler and Rooney, in the forwards and May and Campbell in the backs, were prominent.

October 16th *v.* EARLSFORT, on their ground.

This was the return match, and proved to be a more successful game than the former. The only score of the match was a try for High School per Campbell. The forwards had a tendency to fumble with the ball in the scrum, though they kept together more.

For the backs, May and Campbell, and for the forwards Wheeler and Rooney, played well.

November 23rd *v.* MASONIC SCHOOL, at Clonskeagh.

This was a most exciting match, the sides being very even ; perhaps if the forwards had combined more with the backs we might have won. As it was, when we pressed hotly on our opponents' line, there was too much confusion and fumbling with the ball.

In the first half, Jolley got over the line for a try, which was not converted ; Masonic however, equalised in the second half.

For High School, Jolley, May, Campbell, and Wheeler played well.

November 27th *v.* ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, at Donnybrook.

In this match, High School proved to be the superior team, and had a very easy win by 28 points to nil. Wright (who scored four times), Jolley and May in the backs showed good form, while forward Golding, Wheeler, and Hanan were prominent. The backs had a tendency to pass too quickly, before running forward a short distance, though in this match they credited themselves well.

December 7th *v.* ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN SCHOOL,
at Belgrave Square.

We had very hard luck in this match, which was one of the most exciting played this season. In the first half, May got through in fine style for a very good try, which, however, was not converted, owing to faulty place kicking. Later on, however, St. Stephen's Green equalised, and by a good kick won the match. For High School, Ballagh, May and Jolley behind, and Hanan, Colwill and Wheeler, in the forwards, played best.

December 11th *v.* MOUNTJOY SCHOOL, on their ground.

Mountjoy were by far the heavier team, though we played very well, and showed a good improvement on our previous matches. There is nothing of importance to say about each individual player, for every man did his best. The result was:—Mountjoy 31 points; High School nil.



Letters from the Front.



BEFORE THE END

BY H. S. SCALES

B. E. F. FRANCE,

12/10/18.

"THINGS are going well at present and if luck is on our side we may yet have the worst part of the war over by Christmas, although I suppose it will be well into 1919 before we see the last of this country. 'La Belle' is rather a misnomer for the country at present, but I think were it not for the war it would be really picturesque. As it is, however, the train of

war seems to act as a camouflage for the picturesque, and it is difficult where I now am to find any place which is free from shell-holes. From this you will guess that I have had my first dose of the real stuff since coming out this time, and, although the stunt proved rather disastrous for the battalion I came through safely and quite enjoyed the show. On coming out of the stunt we knocked into the 2nd Battalion and there I met a number of old pals.

"I may remark without fear of the censor that in the stunt which I have previously mentioned we did well and earned a lot of *Kudos* for our division. The Huns put up a bit of a fight, but when they found that they were up against Irish blood they soon put their hands up."

B. E. F. FRANCE,

15/10/18.

"During the advance we naturally touch on, and occasionally stay in, some villages which have been under German rule since the early days of the war, and it is both a gladdening and a pitiful sight to see the villagers who were unfortunate in not being able to leave the town before the occupation—gladdening, because they all look so pleased to see the khaki swinging along the streets instead of the usual German swing, and pitiful because they all look so pinched and starved. I suppose it is hardly necessary to state that before their withdrawal the Boches took everything which they thought would be of value—even the clothes belonging to the unfortunate people, and all left behind was systematically smashed up so as to be of no further use to anybody. The destruction is terrible to see, that is *inside* the houses, as the Huns were not able to destroy the actual buildings. In several cases, however, he has shelled villages just evacuated with incendiary shells and thus has completed the foul work.

"The villagers are happy enough now. I have had some talks with a few of them, and everywhere they tell the same tale of woe and ill-treatment. As you may know, the American Mission was feeding these people, but the Germans used to commandeer the food and give their own meagre and ill-nourishing rations in exchange. The bread particularly was rotten, real black rye bread.

"The house in which we have our Mess at present is quite decent. The old chap has told me that we are to consider ourselves at home and they do everything to make us comfortable.

"You may be interested to know that my friend Jack accounted for three Boches with his revolver and to my own knowledge I got one—that makes up for an Australian pal

who was killed some time ago. He was at Cambridge with me. One night on patrol he was challenged in English "who are you," "Aussie" he replied, but on going forward to find out who his challenger was a machine gun opened fire on him, and thus died a very fine chap and as good as pal as ever I hope to come across.

"The news recently is quite good. There is no getting away from the fact that Peace is in the air, but I doubt if the present offer by Germany will be accepted. The main thing is that the bud, as it were, has commenced to grow, and I wouldn't be surprised if it blossomed shortly—in fact, I quite hope to have my Christmas dinner at home, or at least in comfort, without the expectation of a 9'2 bursting over one just as one is ready to start."

B. E. F. FRANCE,

5/11/18.

"I am now on a G.H.Q. Lewis Gun Course, and I find the change from the line appreciable. It is a grand thing to be able to have a decent sleep and meals in proper comfort and not the least part of the enjoyment is the cleanliness which is possible here—not that I have been troubled very much with 'uninvited guests' this time—the change of clothing, etc., prevents that to a great extent, but it is a good thing to be able to change and have a clean up for dinner without the fear of being called on at a moment's notice. In a way, however, it is not nice leaving the Battalion especially when one knows that one's best pals are going into action again shortly.

"This is a jolly good school. Apart from the work part of it, there are many things which one can find to pass away the time. To-night there is a 'Lena Ashwell' Concert, and we are all looking forward to it as the artistes have a good reputation. The camp, by the way, is on Le Touquet Golf Links; this is one of the finest in France, and in pre-war days it was a favourite spot for trippers from Blighty. As there are several spare sets of clubs here I have taken advantage of the opportunity and found that, in spite of the fact that I had not played for a long time, I was able to hit a ball fairly well, and I didn't lose any balls, although the course is very difficult.

The 'Flu' has been pretty rampant out here too. Our Lewis Gun Class started with eight and we have now only three, all the others having gone to hospital with it (the Flu, I mean, not the Lewis Gun!)

"The war is going on, and I shall not be surprised if old Fritz gives up the shoot shortly. With both Austria and Turkey out of it I can't see how Germany hopes to fight much longer but of course he's an artful old dodger, and will need a bit of watching."

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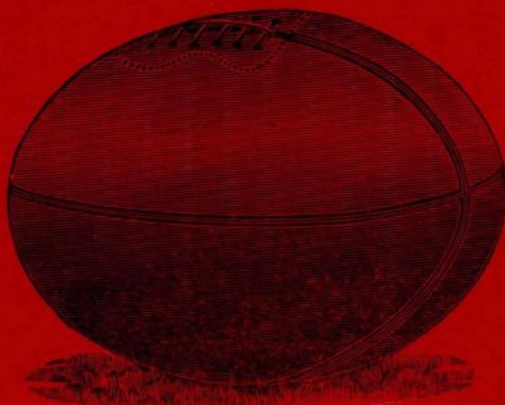
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