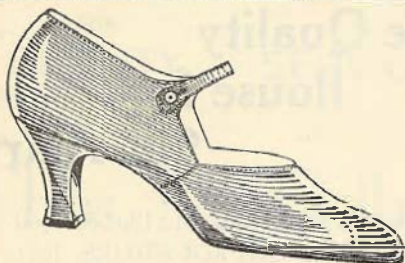


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EDITORIAL.

HAVING for two years in succession addressed our patrons in these columns, we wish, in this issue, to direct our attention to the contributors to the G.G.'s Magazine.

Now, it is clearly the duty of everybody in the Grammar School who can, to exert himself or herself in some measure towards rendering each successive Magazine better than its predecessor. Enthusiasm in such a cause ought to be unbounded, and surely nobody, least of all a pupil, ought to be shy of seeing a personal product in printer's ink.

Think of those who struggle to gain a meagre living by the pen! What are their feelings when their articles are accepted? Do they immediately rush to the editor, and beg of him, on bended knee, to reconsider his decision and return the article in question, as they (the authors) are afraid of public opinion? Do they reject a chance to rise in the literary world? Certainly not—therefore why should pupils wish to hide their candle under a bushel, away from the gaze of the public eye?

No one need necessarily reveal his or her identity in the Magazine (although, on looking over the 1930 issue, we find only three or four *noms de guerre*). It is always a source of interest to others to guess the names of the writers of the anonymous or

pseudonymous articles, having as clues the style and diction of the piece.

Furthermore, the greater variety of articles submitted for publication, the readier will be the sale of the Magazine.

Nobody whose writings have been rejected need be discouraged. Nothing is worth attaining unless it has necessitated some effort, thus the refusal of an article should serve not as a humiliation, but as an incentive to further attempts.

That he

Who casts to write a living line must sweat.

Brilliant "living lines" may occur to budding poets at most inconvenient moments, for instance, when splashing in the early morning cold bath! In such cases, the correct course to adopt is to rush blindly to the nearest writing material, muttering the lines over, lest they should escape the memory, and to set them down in black and white to be preserved "unto a life beyond a life."

Should such circumstances arise, the written copy of the piece, be it verse or prose, should be jealously guarded until the Summer term, when it should be dropped with confidence into the spacious maw of the Magazine Box in the hall of the Grammar School, or handed (with still greater confidence) to the Editor.

—:O:—

WITHIN THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, ENGLAND.

(WITH APOLOGIES TO WORDSWORTH AND
SHAKESPEARE).

Tax not the Yorkshire saint with vain expense,

With ill-matched aims the Chancellor who planned

(Albeit labouring for a scanty band
Of motor cyclists only), this immense

Display of superfine intelligence.

"Give all thou canst, give all thy worldly
store,

And only cease when thou canst give no
more."

So spoke the man who fashioned for our
pence

This mighty Budget, oped the grasping
hand

Of income taxes wider than before.

Increasing store with loss, and loss with
more

He budgets, gath'ring "dimes" as loth to
cease,

Like one whose very toughness yieldeth
proof

That he was born us mortals here to fleece.

J. M.

SCHOOL NOTES.

THE session which is about to close has not been marked by any outstanding incident. It can compare very favourably, however, with any of its predecessors in the matter of interest and progress.

Excepting an epidemic of whooping cough among the Juniors and its accompanying absences, the health and attendance of pupils have been excellent.

The production of "Princess Ju-Ju" last June was voted an unqualified success, and the School funds had a substantial uplift. Owing to the amount of preparation involved, however, we cannot expect to stage an operetta every year.

So much has been asked of the School funds during the present session that something has to be done to improve our financial position.

For this purpose, a Japanese Bazaar will be held on the closing day, 3rd July, immediately after the Distribution of Prizes, and Mrs Fawcett, London, has been asked to perform the opening ceremony.

Dr Fawcett, Wimpole Street, London, has long been a benefactor of the Grammar School. He is the donor of the beautiful silver medal which for many years has been awarded annually to the best Science pupil.

We are in the happy position of being able to announce that both Dr and Mrs Fawcett expect to be with us on Prize Day, the former to present the prizes and the latter to open the Bazaar.

The playing-ground problem is still unsolved, but several members of the local educational body are interested in the matter, and we hope something will be done in the near future.

Meanwhile the Golf Club committee continue their hospitality to us, and we are able to carry out the usual programme of organised games.

A Boys' Choir under Mr Edward's conductorship sang at the Elgin Musical Festival this year. They acquitted themselves with great credit, receiving the adjudicator's praise—and high marks.

Armistice Day was observed by the School in the customary way, a wreath being placed on the public War Memorial and another, in the shape of a cross, on the School Memorial.

A branch of the Scottish Scripture Union was formed early in the year, with Miss Lawson as secretary.

Mr Alexander Jack, who had faithfully performed the duties of Janitor and Attendance Officer for many years, retired at the end of the Christmas term. He and Mrs Jack were the recipients of presents from pupils and staff. Mr Donald Macpherson was appointed to the vacancy.

Major Sir George Dunbar visited the School in January, and addressed the senior pupils on aspects of the League of Nations.

The senior pupils have again shown their aptitude for collecting in aid of good causes. The Poppy Day and British Sailors' Society collections were organised in school, the former realising over £22 and the latter over £19.

Examination results come at the end of the session. It can only be stated here, therefore, that 30 pupils sat the "Qualifying" Examination, four were candidates for the Higher Day School Certificate, and nine for the Leaving Certificate.

Last year, three out of four candidates for the Leaving Certificate were awarded their group certificates, while out of eighteen individual entries there were sixteen passes.

Two senior pupils, John Laing and John Milne, who obtained their Leaving Certificates last year, proceed to Edinburgh University next session.

INTERESTS OF ABERNETHY.

It may be said with truth that Abernethy is one of the richest parishes in Scotland, in natural as well as in historical interest.

Castle Roy, a feature of local interest, is one of the first castles built in Scotland, and at one time it was a very fine building. It is now in ruins, but its thick solid walls can still be seen about two hundred yards past Abernethy church. It is situated on the top of a steep incline, and from the top of the walls a fine view of the extensive parish of Abernethy can be obtained. The older inhabitants of this parish tell many tales about this old castle. It is commonly supposed that it was one of the Wolf of Badenoch's strongholds. There are underground passages which extend as far as Milton; but unfortunately these passages are rather dangerous, as the entrances are now covered over with grass, and no one knows exactly where they are.

Perhaps a more frequented place of interest is the Green Loch, the water of which, according to tradition, is supposed to have turned green, because the fairies used to wash their clothes in it. It is situated in the pass between Revoan and Glenmore, and is usually visited by mountaineers bound for Cairngorm, and by hunting parties. Close to it is a conical hill called Sithean dubh-da-choimhead, the Black Abode of the Fairies with the Double Outlook.

Another attraction is the remains of the old iron mill on the bank of the Nethy. It is quite near the Causer. Two hundred years ago, Abernethy was a very busy, prosperous parish. Iron ore was found in the Lecht, near Tomintoul, and enterprising people came from the south, and erected an iron mill on the east bank of the Nethy. Their fame soon spread over the country, and the iron ore was carted from the Lecht to the mill for casting. The industry flourished, and for a few years everything went well.

Owing to mismanagement (chiefly through drunkenness) this flourishing company failed, and the industry died away, and has never been revived.

WYLFA CAMERON, Class IV. H.G.

SCHOOL. MYTHOLOGY.

JASON and his youthful colleagues,
Argonauts, the ancient heroes,
Still remain as famed as ever;
But there are more famous heroes,
Heroes of our well-known cloakroom,
And I wish to tell you of them.

Have you ever heard of Barwig,
Mighty Wiggy, strong in battle?
Have you heard of Angus Bullock,
Fearsome Bull, a valiant hero?

Minstrels, mayhap, will have told you
Of the deeds of one called Bourgeth;
How he made a wondrous wild bird
With some willow and some leather;
But the name of that wild creature
Comes not to my mind—nay, stay you,
I recall it—was it mallard?

No, I think it was the wild duck,
Wild duck of the bog and heather;
Willow, leather, three short stumps—
these

Make a wild duck, wondrous wild duck.
Other heroes were there, great ones;
Mighty deeds they did and famous.
One of them was Scareful Scarecrow,
Who did make a rod so slender,
Slender fishing rod of greenheart,
And he caught a mile-long sperm whale,
Finny monster, king of oceans.
Who could fish so well and strongly
As the famous Scary Scarecrow?

If I told you all his doings,
All his greatest deeds and fishings,
I would need ten thousand jotters,
So, unwilling, I must stop it.

But remember all these heroes,
Who have made our cloakroom famous,
Do them honour and revere them
For they are immortal heroes.

SHORTFELLA.

The decision of the Former Pupils' Club to institute next session an Essay Prize of two guineas' worth of books must be a very gratifying one to all who are interested in the welfare of the School.

BIRDS.

ALTHOUGH Britain has few species of wild quadrupeds compared with other countries, it is well stocked with birds. British birds may be divided into two sets; those which migrate and those which do not. Large numbers of the birds go to warmer countries in the autumn, but fortunately some always remain to take away from winter's dullness.

"There is always some fly in the ointment" however, for some birds do far more harm than good. Most of the birds which inhabit the sea and rivers, have, as it might be said, a price on their heads, for fishing associations are usually willing to reward anyone who happens to kill one of these destructive fish-feeding birds. Ducks, such as the mallard and the teal, do comparatively little harm, except that they may eat the fishes' eggs, but divers like the goosander and the cormorant kill enormous quantities of fish. The beautiful little kingfisher too has been known to devour his own weight of fish several times daily.

Every autumn a one-sided war is waged with certain birds. In the marshes and rivers sportsmen are after the snipe and duck. The partridges and the lordly pheasants are hunted in the meadows and cornfields. Good shooting is to be had in the forests, for there black game, capercaillies and woodcock abound. The most popular of the game birds, however, is the grouse, and sportsmen pay large rents for good grouse moors. Another game bird is the ptarmigan, but it is very difficult to shoot this bird, as it rarely comes below an altitude of 2000 feet.

All these birds are common to the sportsman, and may be seen if one cares to go out to the moors and forests, but smaller birds flock every day about the houses, hedges, and farmyards. Perhaps the most common are the robins, sparrows, chaffinches, yellow-hammers and the cheeky little tits. These small birds do a great deal of good, for they keep down the insects; in fact, wagtails and swallows practically live on insects.

The mavis, the blackbird, and the lark

usually get credit for being the best singers. Still, no gardener likes the first two, because if they get the chance they will make havoc among his fruit. No one, however, has anything to say against the lark, and his song is always welcome.

The most usual sounds heard in the fields and meadows in Spring are the shrill scream of the lapwing and the plaintive wail of the golden plover. These two are included in a list of birds called the farmers' friends, and most people will agree that they well deserve that name. The common crow and the black-headed gull are sometimes classed with the plovers, but it is usually ascertained that any good the crow may do in spring and summer is easily surpassed by the damage it does to the crops in autumn.

As the structure of the country changes one finds different species of birds. Waterhens and red-shanks are found in the marshes, where green-shanks are also sometimes seen, but they are very rare and inhabit only the marshes near the hills. In the forests the smallest of the birds lives, namely, the wren. An old fable is told about this bird. When the birds were supposed to have chosen their king they decided that the palm should be given to the one which could fly highest. The eagle soared up into the air and seemed to be an easy winner, but, when it had reached its limit, a small bird flew from its back and went a few yards higher. This is how the gold-crested wren is supposed to have got its crest.

These small birds may not be troubled by sportsmen, but they have other dangers to contend with, because numerous hawks prey upon them. Sparrow-hawks, kestrels, buzzards and merlins are their most troublesome enemies. The largest of the hawk family, of course, is the eagle, but he does not bother with small birds; instead he lives chiefly on rabbits, hares and large birds.

In this way nature balances. The insects are killed by the small birds. The small birds are destroyed by the hawks; while they in their turn are shot and trapped by gamekeepers.

JOHN GRANT, Class III.

THE PINE TREE

Strasburg has long been noted for its vast pine woods, which stretched for miles and provide a home for the deer. These woods were extensively cut down during the Great War, but foresters are now endeavoring to have them replanted.

Before this can be accomplished, however, a great deal of work has to be undertaken. The brushwood and dead branches, which had lain on the hillside since the trees were cut, are gathered into huge piles and burned. Then the cleared area is fenced, and it is ready for planting.

These operations are carried out in the spring, and the ground is left ready to receive the young plants during the planting season from October to May.

The cones, when ripe, are gathered from the trees at the beginning of the year, and taken to a shed, where they are either left to lie for a time or made use of immediately. From this shed they are transferred to the kiln where they are put on wooden trays with wire netting bottoms which are placed over the fire. The kiln has to be kept at a temperature of 125 degrees F. in the course of a day or two, when fully opened, they are removed to the shed where they are shuffled about until the seeds fall out. Then the cones and seeds are riddled, the seeds being collected in a large box and the cones used as fuel for the kiln. The seeds are now placed in a very fine riddle, and rubbed with a brush to remove the wings. They are next passed through a sifter which grades them. Now ready for sowing, they are mixed with red lead and sown in a nursery, in long beds four feet wide and a quarter of an inch deep.

They grow into small plants and remain there for two years. At the end of that time the plants are lifted, large and small, separated and run in lines ten inches apart, and one and a half inches between the plants. They are left for other two years, during which time they are kept clear of weeds. After being two years in the lines they are lifted, made up into bundles and taken to the hillside where they are planted

five feet apart. They take many years to mature.

The trees are sometimes left to grow to a great age, but are more often cut down when about eight inches in diameter. The pine grows to a height of thirty to forty feet, and the twigs on its branches are covered with green "needles."

Districts where the pine trees grow are very popular as health resorts, for the ozone from the pine woods is very beneficial to health.

A. C. G. McG.

NATURE

Give me the side of the rushing brook,
There to lie and read a book,
There on some day to lay me down,
Far from the turmoil of the town.
Give me the clear, blue sky above,
The purple hills I dearly love,
The pale green aspen and the pine,
The glossy aspen leaves that shine,
These are the only things I'd crave,
Even from my cradle to my grave;
I have no wish for wealth or power,
Nature gives me a happy hour.
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B A D V E R S E.

CLASS III. boys are eight in all,
 Love their work and hate football,
 But when it comes to Saturday,
 They hide their books and go to play.
 There are two funny fellows,
 Whose names are Pip and Squeak;
 The first known by his bellow,
 The second by his creak.
 The third is just as funny,
 And gets his nickname Bunny.
 The fourth is just a scream,
 And he is called Moonbeam.
 The fifth he likes Bananas
 So he gets his name "Mananas,"
 The sixth responds to Brasso,
 And lives in his big chateau.
 The seventh is one great flip,
 And so we call him Chip.
 The eighth and last is sinister,
 And gets his nickname Minister.

CLASS III. BOYS.

T H E S T O R M.

The sky hung dark and overcast,
 The trees were quivering in the blast;
 The sea, as if of restless mind,
 Was tossing fretful in the wind.
 The wind sweeps over hill and wood,
 The sea rolls on in stormier mood,
 The rain bursts from the laden sky.
 The foam-tipped waves are dashed on
 high.
 Still louder, louder roars the blast,
 The swollen torrent rushes past;
 Its turbid waters, dark and brown,
 Neath the wild crag's forbidding frown.
 'Tis morn—a mist o'erhangs the wood,
 O'er all a mystic silence broods;
 A sad wind sighs among the trees,
 The storm is past, the rain-cloud flees.

E. MAC., Form IIB.

We believe—That Henry VII. married
 Catherine of Aragon, and after he was dead
 Henry VIII. married her in order to keep
 her dowry.

T H E S H O P P I N G W E E K.

It fell about the summer-time
 When visitors draw near,
 That they maun hold a shopping week,
 To boost their Grantown dear.
 The drapers cam' in braw new claiiths
 And hats in Paris made,
 And lo! to gae the show some kick,
 A maunnequin parade.
 And all for bread and golden shred
 A bogle craitur came,
 And scooted out and in the throng
 To spread the bakers' fame.
 The ironmonger showed his goods
 To the guid folk o' the toon,
 And man, 'twas sic a fine display,
 They clustered close aroon'.
 And in the Square there did appear
 The Council, Provost and a';
 But as the Provost rose to speak,
 Then doon the rain did fa'.
 And there was hastenin' doon the street,
 And poorin' into porches,
 And seeking shelter from the storm
 In cinemas and churches.
 And wat was mony a costly goon
 And shopping week creation,
 And few the slender high-heeled shoon
 Survived the inundation.
 So pey ye heed, ilk neebor toon,
 That wants a shopping week;
 For though the heavens be brass aboon,
 There aye may be a leak.

A. & K., Class III.

(With three apocryphal verses).

T H E N I G H T I N G A L E.

SOME love the lark's uprising song,
 And some the blackbird's tune,
 But give to me the lovely strain
 Of nightingales in June!
 The blackbird pipes at morning light,
 The lark salutes the sun,
 The nightingale sings best of all
 When gladsome day is done.
 I kneel beside my window-pane,
 The round moon shining bright,
 And, oh, what floods of melody
 He pours into the night!

JAMES CALDER, Form IV. H.G.

SPORTS NOTES.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS.

RUGBY XV.—F. ROBERTS.

ASSOCIATION XI.—E. MACKINTOSH.

CRICKET XI.—J. COOKE.

AFTER an experimental season of Rugby in 1929-1930, it was found that a term of Rugby, followed by a term of Association football, best suited Grantown conditions. The lack of a Rugby ground, however, curtailed the development of the game. Bar one match with Elgin Academy, where the School performed quite creditably to be beaten by 15 points to 3, interest was confined to inter-house and inter-form seven-a-sides. The position of the houses are indicated by the following table:—

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | Pts. | Pts. F. | Pts. A. |
|---------|----|----|----|----|------|---------|---------|
| Revonan | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 53 | 17 |
| Revack | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 32 | 18 |
| Roy | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 56 |

The champion "seven" were:—F. Roberts (captain), J. Milne, E. Mackintosh (III.), J. Ross, A. MacIntyre, C. Bisset, J. Silver.

Two boys, F. Roberts and E. Mackintosh, were selected to play for the Highland Schools XV. at Aberdeen Grammar School at Elgin in December.

Association provided a wider field of competition, and the School was able to field a very fine side, which, however, did not do itself justice. Matches were played against higher grade schools in Forres, Aberlour, and Kingussie. Of these, three were lost and three won. The outstanding feature was a sense of position and combination much superior to that of previous seasons.

The details of the inter-school matches are these:—

| P. | W. | L. | D. | G. F. | G. A. |
|----|----|----|----|-------|-------|
| 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 15 |

House "sevens" in Association football were started as an experiment; their complete success has solved the tail-end of the season problem. Together with the Rugby "sevens," they go far towards inspiring a house spirit, and giving the system a sense of reality. As the table indicates, the championship went to Revack.

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | G. F. | G. A. | Pts. |
|---------|----|----|----|----|-------|-------|------|
| Revack | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| Revonan | 4 | 2 | 2 | - | 9 | 9 | 4 |
| Roy | 4 | 1 | 3 | - | 7 | 7 | 2 |

The Revack "seven" were:—E. Mackintosh (captain), J. Calder, R. Ross, E. Munro, G. Templeton, W. Macaulay.

The summer term is rather a problem from the sports point of view. At least three weeks have to be reserved for preparation for the annual sports. Consequently, cricket, which is steadily growing in popularity, does not receive its due share of time and coaching. In spite of this, two matches have been played and four are in prospect. An especially strong side of Past Primes defeated the School by 85 runs to 65. A return match will be played on June 25th. Compensation for this defeat was exacted at the expense of the Black-and-Tans, an XI. of engineers from the bridge. The School won by 49 runs to 26. Two matches with the F.P.s and the return match with the Black-and-Tans are to be played in the last two weeks of June. The one inter-house match so far played resulted in a win for Roy over Revack.

The School's athletic talent will be on view at the annual sports on June 18th. Principal interest lies in the relay race with Elgin Academy, and in the events open to the Academy representatives. It is hoped that the School will repeat its last year's successes.

THE CRICKET AT THE GRANT TOWN
(HYPOTHETICAL).

WHAN that Aprille with his shoures soote
Did turn our cricket pitche into a moate,
We perced the boggy groundes with cricket
stumpes,
And with our bates flattened out the
bumpes;
Then one of us did bowle the balle aboute
Till it was lost, and alle of us were oute.
Anon we sadly picked our stumpes uppe,
And wearily we hied us home to suppe.
'Twas thus the Grantown cricket sesoun
ended,
Why! we our homeward weye slowly
wended.

N. O. T. CHAUCER, V.

A STOWAWAY AT SEA.

JIMMY WELLS was an orphan who frequented the West End of London. His father and mother had died when he was very small, and he managed to get money for food by selling kindling sticks which he found and spliced on the wharf-sides, where the ships were busy loading and unloading goods for other ports.

One night as Jimmy was walking along the road to his temporary home on the wharf-side, which was a large unused packing-case with straw on the bottom of it, where he slept at night, he heard two men talking in low tones as they came out of an inn door. "Come on, Jim, almost time we were there, the stuff will all be on board by now," said one of the men, and quickened his step. The other did likewise, and they were soon out of sight round the corner. Jimmy, full of curiosity, shadowed them until he saw them go up the gangway of a ship in the harbour.

Immediately they were out of sight he crept quietly up after them and hid behind a huge coil of rope. Watching his chance, he slipped down to the hold, where he saw a great many boxes, and the smell of opium was terrible. At length he came to the conclusion that he was a stowaway on a boat trying to smuggle opium. He took stock of the situation and saw, lying on the floor, a bottle, that had once been used for champagne. He also discovered a lump of charcoal and a label. He scribbled a message on the label with the charcoal, saying that he was a stowaway on a boat of smugglers, and requested the finder to deliver the note to the nearest coastguard station. He then gave the name of the boat, which he saw written on a lifebelt. The coastguards would have a record of where the boat was going, and would inform the police at its destination. He crept up to the deck, and threw the bottle with the message into the sea. He slept that night in the hold and awakened the following morning very hungry. The ship, he heard a man say, was due in Hull in 4 hours. He crept up out of the hold in search of food. On a tray near the galley door he saw a glass of tongue and a

slice of bread. He stole them, and ran back to the hold. As he ate, he wondered if anyone would discover the loss and report to the captain that there was a stowaway on board, and he also wondered if the bottle had been found by anyone and given to the coastguards.

All at once he heard a man shout, "Search the hold, there is a stowaway on board." He had been seen, he was afterwards told, by the captain, from the bridge. He climbed inside a barrel and closed the lid. Men searched the hold for half-an-hour, passing within touching distance of Jimmy, but no one thought of looking into the barrel.

The siren was tooting as they entered Hull harbour, with a supposed cargo of salt. But imagine the captain's surprise when the first greeting he received was a pair of handcuffs over his wrists, placed there by a coastguard sergeant!

Jimmy was rewarded for his capture, and soon he became a cabin-boy on a big ocean liner.

JOHN RICHARD SURTEES, Form 11B H.G.

SUPPLICATION TO A WAYWARD YOUTH.

AN MacNab you little know
What a wanton boy you grow!
Will you never realize
What is staring in your eyes?

Do you think a ship that goes
Whatever way Aeolus blows,
While the pilot's bent in sport,
Will ever make that distant port?

Though she be a splendid craft,
Snuggly rigged both fore and aft,
Without the pilot's guiding hand
She is one day bound to strand.

Do the qualms of conscience never
Bid you from buffoon'ry sever?
Don't despise what they dictate
Or you may find the truth too late.

ANON.

SPORTS NOTES.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS.

RUGBY XV.—F. ROBERTS.

ASSOCIATION XI.—E. MACKINTOSH.

CRICKET XI.—J. COOKE.

AFTER an experimental season of Rugby in 1929-1930, it was found that a term of Rugby, followed by a term of Association football, best suited Grantown conditions. The lack of a Rugby ground, however, curtailed the development of the game. Bar one match with Elgin Academy, where the School performed quite creditably to be beaten by 15 points to 3, interest was confined to inter-house and inter-form seven-a-sides. The position of the houses are indicated by the following table:—

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | Pts. | Pts. F. | Pts. A. |
|--------|----|----|----|----|------|---------|---------|
| Revoan | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 53 | 17 |
| Revack | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 32 | 18 |
| Roy | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |

The champion "seven" were:—F. Roberts (captain), J. Milne, E. Mackintosh (III.), J. Ross, A. MacIntyre, C. Bisset, J. Silver.

Two boys, F. Roberts and E. Mackintosh, were selected to play for the Highland Schools XV. at Aberdeen Grammar School at Elgin in December.

Association provided a wider field of competition, and the School was able to field a very fine side, which, however, did not do itself justice. Matches were played against higher grade schools in Forres, Aberlour, and Kingussie. Of these, three were lost and three won. The outstanding feature was a sense of position and combination much superior to that of previous seasons.

The details of the inter-school matches are these:—

| P. | W. | L. | D. | G. F. | G. A. |
|----|----|----|----|-------|-------|
| 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 15 |

House "sevans" in Association football were started as an experiment; their complete success has solved the tail-end of the season problem. Together with the Rugby "sevans," they go far towards inspiring a house spirit, and giving the system a sense of reality. As the table indicates, the championship went to Revack.

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | G. F. | G. A. | Pts. |
|--------|----|----|----|----|-------|-------|------|
| Revack | 4 | 3 | 1 | — | 8 | 8 | 6 |
| Revoan | 4 | 2 | 2 | — | 9 | 9 | 4 |
| Roy | 4 | 1 | 3 | — | 7 | 7 | 2 |

The Revack "seven" were:—E. Mackintosh (captain), J. Calder, R. Ross, E. Munro, G. Templeton, W. Macaulay.

The summer term is rather a problem from the sports point of view. At least three weeks have to be reserved for preparation for the annual sports. Consequently, cricket, which is steadily growing in popularity, does not receive its due share of time and coaching. In spite of this, two matches have been played and four are in prospect. An especially strong side of Past Primes defeated the School by 85 runs to 65. A return match will be played on June 25th. Compensation for this defeat was exacted at the expense of the Black-and-Tans, an XI. of engineers from the bridge. The School won by 49 runs to 26. Two matches with the F.P.s and the return match with the Black-and-Tans are to be played in the last two weeks of June. The one inter-house match so far played resulted in a win for Roy over Revack.

The School's athletic talent will be on view at the annual sports on June 18th. Principal interest lies in the relay race with Elgin Academy, and in the events open to the Academy representatives. It is hoped that the School will repeat its last year's successes.

THE CRICKET AT THE GRANT - TOWN
(HYPOTHETICAL).

WHAN that Aprille with his shoures soote
Did turn our cricket pitche into a moate,
We perced the boggy groundes with cricket
stumpes,
And with our battes flattered out the
bumpes;
Then one of us did bowle the balle aboute
Till it was lost, and alle of us were oute.
Anon we sadly picked our stumpes uppe,
And wearily we hied us home to suppe.
'Twas thus the Grantown cricket sesoun
ended,
Why! we our homeward weye slowly
wended.

N. O. T. CHAUCER, V.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM F.P.'s.

—: o: —

EDITOR—Miss Ann Grant, 10 The Square.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER—Iain Davidson, Bank of Scotland House.

—: o: —

This Magazine is an annual publication issued in June. Contributions are invited from F.P.s dealing with the school, the town, and old friends. Reminiscences, letters, questions, and suggestions gladly accepted.

All communications should be addressed to the Editor, F.P.'s section.

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LOST, STOLEN OR STRAYED.

If you wish to tell friends with whom you have lost touch where you are, send us your name and address for insertion in this column. And anyone wanting to know where a F.P. is, please send name to us for insertion in this column.

* * *

Can any Former Pupil let me know where Douglas Mackie, and Johnnie Grant (Dyer) are?

H. G. C.

G O S S I P.

Bandsman P. S. Duff, in an interesting letter to a school pal, writes:—"I was rather amused at the photo in the 'Northern Scot' entitled 'Fashions and the Fair,' but I cannot remember the girls, although one seems familiar. Gee! Walter, I guess Grantown is sure trying to live up to the 20th century." He goes on to describe his life as a soldier in the 2nd Seaforths in India. "At present," he writes, "we are engaged in a strenuous conflict with native tribesmen up on the North frontier, and only experience could describe the hardships we have to endure. The Band is expecting to go to Simla in March, so I hope to have a glorious time. We leave India in October, so I shall soon be home again. Give my salaams to Hauish Hastings. Do you re-

member the clear gums we used to eat at school? Cheerio, old bean."

Your old school chum, PATTIE DUFF.

P.S.—I play the clarinet, so look out for some fun when I come home.

* * *

Six and a-half years ago Ian Goulder left Grantown for Australia. A year later his father (Alick Goulder) followed, and now they have set up in business in Sydney. Ian has been spending his holidays this year at Katoomba, and he says the Grand Canyon there can beat the American. He does not know when he will take a trip home. Although business is not too grand in Australia yet they are doing well.

* * *

Last year Robbie Mackenzie was home from Chicago for a month. He is doing well in that gay city and looks it.

* * *

At a meeting of the Club held in the school on May 20th, with Mr Hunter (the Rector) in the chair, it was agreed that the Club give a special Essay Prize to pupils of the secondary department. The value of the prize to be 2 guineas.

* * *

The date of the annual Re-union was fixed for December 29th, further arrangements to be left in the hands of the committee.

It was suggested and carried that the Magazine be made a Christmas Number, as the reports of the school year, prizelists and sporting news for the F.P. section would be included, and therefore up-to-date. There will be no Magazine until December, 1932.

In December, 1930, James Lawrence died in Africa. He is remembered as one of the old Shinty Players along with his brother, Willie (Colonel).

Alick Macdougall has been appointed secretary and treasurer of the Gaelic Society here. In this flourishing school 75 per cent. of its members are Former Pupils, from the age of 16 to 60. All of them hope to become expert Gaelic speakers.

HONOURS TO FORMER PUPILS.

Major J. G. Macdougall has been appointed Officer of the British Empire.

Sydney Grant MacGregor, M.A., youngest son of ex-Provost MacGregor, has been appointed English and Classical Master in the Scots College, Palestine. He took up his duties early in April. We congratulate Sydney on this promising start in his profession.

Reg. Hastilow (Lieut. R. G. Hastilow), commanding the Strathspey company of Territorials, has been promoted to Captain.

Mr Percy Williams, C.A., has been appointed supervisor of the accounting staff of Messrs Duff & Co., joint agents, Calcutta.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 29th NOVEMBER, 1930.

| INCOME. | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Subscriptions (72 @ 2/-) | £7 4 0 |
| Donations | 0 10 0 |
| Interest | 0 0 5 |
| | £7 14 5 |
| EXPENDITURE. | |
| Advertising (A. Tulloch) | £0 17 0 |
| Advertising & Printing (A. Stuart) .. | 2 0 6 |
| Stationery and Sundry expenses ... | 0 4 4 |

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Re-union—Deficit | 2 8 9 |
| Balance— | |
| In Bank | £2 3 7 |
| In hand | 0 0 3 |
| | 2 3 10 |
| | £7 14 5 |

HON. PRESIDENT—Lieut.-Col. J. Grant Smith.
 PRESIDENT—Mr Hunter.
 VICE-PRESIDENT—Miss M. Scott McGregor.
 SECRETARY & TREASURER—Iain C. Davidson.
 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT—Miss E. M. Lawson, Miss Agnes Cumming, Miss Daisy Macpherson, Mr J. K. Robertson, Mr James S. Mackenzie and Mr H. W. Dixon.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES.

1.—The Club shall be known as the "Grantown Grammar School Former Pupils' Club."

2.—The object of the Club shall be (1) to promote intercourse and friendship amongst former pupils and teachers of the School by occasional social gatherings, and (2) to provide annually prizes to the School.

3.—All former pupils of the School shall be eligible for membership.

Teachers of the School, present and past, and wives of same, shall also be eligible for membership.

4.—The Officebearers of the Club shall be:—President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a Committee of six Members.

5.—The Committee shall meet when necessary for the conduct of the Club and shall have the power of appointing Sub-Committees when required.

6.—One Business Meeting of the Club shall be held in December when the Secretary and Treasurer shall make his report for the past year ending 30th November.

7.—The Annual Subscription shall be 2/-, payable on or before 30 November for year to that date.

Life Membership 12/6, which ensures a copy of the Magazine sent Post Free.

8.—At any General Business Meeting of the Club the Constitution and Rules may be added to or altered by a majority of votes.

SOCIETIES AND CLUBS.

It is characteristic of our race to form clubs and societies consisting of people who have something in common, and it is characteristic of these clubs and societies to publish magazines or periodicals of some sort, and in this way much information of interest and importance is collected and preserved. There are National societies whose members come together in many parts of the world such as the Caledonian Societies abroad who celebrate St Andrew's Day with a fervour unknown in Scotland. There are the societies formed by men who served together in the Great War, and who meet in Divisional, Regimental or local societies to recall the stirring times of 1914-18.

All these societies fulfil some useful purpose, and their activities, whether social, literary, or scientific enlarge the minds of their members.

A School society is on a somewhat different footing. All its members acquired knowledge in a greater or less degree at the same seat of learning, and there is no limit to the variety of subjects which may appear in a School magazine.

The success of a magazine depends on its contributors, and as it is conceivable that the ideas of local writers may not be inexhaustible it is important that former pupils in all parts of the world should send contributions, giving their impressions of the country in which they live, and the qualifications which make for success in that country—such articles might be of real value to a boy leaving school.

A School society is in a favourable position as regards membership, as each year a number of potential members are released from school, and can tell the older members how much better things are done nowadays.

A Former Pupils' Club should keep a benevolent eye on the school, and it is suggested that as a commencement the club should offer a prize annually for an essay on a subject to be selected by the Rector, and that the essays be judged by a small committee appointed by the club.

The Grammar School Club is to be congratulated on its enterprise in founding the

magazine, and it is hoped it will receive the encouragement and support it deserves.

LIEUT.-COLONEL GRANT SMITH, D.S.O.,
Inverallan House,
Grantown-on-Spey.

JIMMIE BELL.

SOMEWHERE along the Arctic coast a man is saying to an Indian—"You can't have it." And the red man is realizing that he can't have it, and is going back and beating his wife because of the ways of the pale-faces.

If this man is not saying—"You can't have it," I am going to be gravely disappointed.

Somehow the phrase "Pale hands I loved . . . where are you now?" does not quite fit my feelings with regard to Jimmie Bell. Rather, I would like to say in a big, gruff voice—"Whar are ye noo, Jeemie?" But that does not matter. Some night when the sky is very clear and the snow worms are croaking their loudest and the Northern lights are romping in the sky, I am going to fix up a radio set and send a call waving over the cold prairie lands, the lonely barrens and away up into the North country.

And my call is going to say—"Jeemie! Hoo wid ye like tae go lookin' for pearls?" And if Jimmie Bell is anywhere in the North country I will see something looming through the mists of the plains and saying—"Where would we be finding them?"

I have not seen Jimmie Bell since he told me that he was "trying to get a job with the Hudson's Bay" because he wanted to study the life and habits of pelicans." The next I heard was a story in some newspaper that he had been wrecked somewhere along the Labrador coast—at least, his ship had been wrecked. I can't imagine a mere iceberg wrecking Jimmie. Then again someone said he was having a lot of fun shooting whatever fur-bearing animals are

H. MACPHAIL,
* * *
HIGH-CLASS PAINTER & DECORATOR.
* * *
High Street, Grantown.

foolish enough to run loose around the Arctic regions. And there all I have ever heard of Jimmie Bell ended.

But in my dreams I have seen him presiding gravely over the destinies of some outpost of Empire, so far North that his neighbours will hang out their clothing to dry on the North Pole after the weekly washing day. And I have imagined Jimmie saying nasty things when men flying over the North Pole have awakened him by purposely sending their noisy aeroplanes through the sky over his home. I have been entirely unable to imagine Jimmie rising from his bed to see what all the noise was about. But it would cause him much annoyance.

Speaking about annoyance, I have not the slightest doubt but that this will cause him much grievous heart-burnings. There is the consolation that, according to the most reliable statistics at my disposal, it will take him at least two years to receive a copy of the school magazine, and by that time I may have reached the "There is a Happy Land" stage on a heavenly harp or be reasonably proficient in swinging a sulphur ladle in some other place. And if this is not the case I will throw myself to the sharks or into the arms of a Western Canadian politician.

Jimmie, when I saw him last, was a growing lad. He gave great promise of physical development, but his prowess in Latin was limited—usually 7 per cent., or thereabouts. To avoid any odious comparisons which may be raised, my own average was 5 per cent., and Alfie Gray's 4 per cent. (Note to Editor:—Please do something about it if any of the people mentioned herein are liable to sue for libel. I have no blanked permission to use these names in vain).

James was usually in good spirits. When he was not in good spirits he was in bad spirits, which is the way of all flesh. I imagine that Indians would be very much afraid of him. They would probably call him "Great-White-Chief-Who-Whistles-When-He-Talks," the noble red man not being sufficiently versed in the great

languages of the world to appreciate the beauties of English spoken with a strong Highland accent.

Now that you know what Jimmie Bell looks like (or you should know), I will tell you of the conditions under which he works. I have never been at the North Pole, but I have read "Rambles in the South Seas" and "Days in South Africa," and am therefore qualified to speak of what I write.

To get the atmosphere, it is necessary to pinch the youngest child within reach. His howling will represent the wind that rips across the North Pole ice, day in and day out. A red cloth should be stuck in the window, arranged so that it is always waving. This represents the Royal North West Mounted policeman looking for the man, whom he always gets. A candle will do to represent the North Pole. Do not light it. This spoils the effect. A few rotten potatoes laid artistically about the room will represent the Eskimos. The leg of a rabbit and a human hand suffice as far as the Indian element goes.

Now that we have reached the far Northern Hudson's Bay post, let us get down to business.

We are Indians. We have two zebra skins, an elephant tusk and an emu that we want to trade. We earnestly desire five safety pins, a sun helmet, a gallon of ice cream and a parrot. Let us enter the store.

"Salaams, Great-White-Chief-Who-Whistles-When-He-Talks. How are the sun-burns this morning? We are grieved to hear your banana crop was poor this year." "What do you want?" says G.W.C.W.W. W.H.T.

We tell him. He says—"No. You have not enough skins." And then we go away.

We go back to our humble snow palaces. We find the children eating a pineapple which we take for ourselves to give us comfort.

Then we find young Chief Sniffles-in-the-Nose-in-November. We tell him to go and see the man in the post. We tell him either to bring the safety pins and the ice cream or the white chief's scalp.

Chief Sniffles-in-the-Nose-in-November does not return. We are very cold. The sun goes down. We ask the great White Spirit to send us some ham and eggs and a B.S.A. motor cycle. He doesn't. We go on being very cold.

And the cold, freezing wind whirls about the North Pole — going "who-oooo-oooo-oooo."

We die among the roses.

IGNORAMUS.

JAMES MACCOCK,
Telegraph Editor,
c/o "Calgary Albertan,"
Calgary, Alta,
Canada.

GRANTOWN - ON - SPEY.

[BY WM. M'CREGOR].

THE town of Grantown-on-Spey was begun in 1766 by the Laird of Grant of that time, Sir Ludovick. He introduced to his village, bakers, weavers, dyers, wool-combers and brewers and encouraged these industries among the 300 souls of the population. The townspeople gradually increased to about 1500 in number without any striking change in their rural life.

In 1863 the advent of the Highland and the Great North of Scotland railways marked a new era for this quiet village of central Strathspey. The old industries of the preceding century were dying or already extinct. Visitors were becoming more numerous, and the charms of the capital of Strathspey were being bruited abroad. The people themselves were catering for the newcomers, and Grantown was at the beginning of its evolution as a health resort.

At that time education was provided, only up to the elementary standard, in three schools. The Free Church school was situated at the west end of the town, the Female School at the east end, and the Grammar School on the south side. The last named superseded the others under the regime of the school boards, and, about 1895, became a secondary education centre.

The religious life of the community was an active and living thing. There were the Established Church, the Free Church, the Baptist Church, and later the Scottish Episcopal Church and the "Wee Free" Church. All these had their adherents, and if there was not unity of religious belief there was at least an absorbing interest.

Like all other Highland villages, Grantown had its local worthies. Some of the older inhabitants may remember "The Carn," "Crisp," "Shen-a-Rottan" and "Snackum." The last mentioned deeply resented his nickname of "Snackum," a fact which was joyfully discovered by the school children, and many were the visits of wrath and complaint which he made to the local dominies. The agent of the Royal Bank had a parrot—a bird of rude manners and foul vocabulary. This parrot knew "Snackum" and his nickname, and it was no uncommon sight to see this eccentric, clad in frock coat, and tall hat, pursuing the offensive bird with his umbrella, along the railings in front of the bank, to the accompaniment of a loud "Snack, snack, snackum —!—!—!"

The town reached the status of a burgh in 1898. By this time there were three hotels and branches of three banking companies, the Royal, the Caledonian, and the National. The wide and well kept street with its attractive shops ended in an ornamental square of the old type, which originally was the market place. Under successive Town Councils various improvements were made.

In the early days of electricity in the north, the lighting system was changed from gas and oil lamps to electricity, under the management of an enterprising local firm. This same firm some years ago added a picture house to the facilities for evening amusement, and has now introduced "Talkies," a truly pioneer venture in a town of this size.

There came into being a Curling Club, whose members last year won the Carsebreck Trophy; also a golf course, now a most attractive inland course of 18 holes. A bowling green followed. Then came tennis

courts, where one of the principal tournaments in the north of Scotland is played in August. Fishing rights were granted to the town and district by the House of Grant, which had already been so generous in giving free access to the woods, hills and glens. A recent description of the town by a visitor, shows that its evolution as a health resort is complete.

"Grantown-on-Spey stands unrivalled in the Highlands as an almost inexhaustible wonderland of river scenery, seascape and moorland of romance and legend."

The town itself gives one a sense of height and far distances, of wind swept valleys, of giant pine woods, of winding rivers and mountain crests that reach to the blue horizon in all their whiteness and glory.

It is a typical Highland town, with its long, wide, straight street, its solid, low-set, stone-built houses, its comfortable Hotels, its attractive shops, its old-world square that stands within a short distance of the ancient Castle of the Grants.

One need not go far afield for hill air, or mountain breeze, or for fishing, tennis or golf on one of the most picturesque courses in Scotland. You look across a great vista of valley and moorland, over which spread the sombre woods of Castle Grant, Rothiemurchus, and Glen More, and crowned by the majestic heights of the Cairngorms.

A GENIUS.

Ours was a vintage year, but in a class where the average intelligence was admittedly very high, he stood out head and shoulders; for he was a genius.

His attainments both at school and college are well known, but present day pupils of the Grammar School may be interested to know what manner of boy he was, and how he appeared to his contemporaries. He was always a voracious and insatiable reader; all was grist that came to his mill — Deadwood Dick, True Blue

Tales, Jules Verne, Poetry, Travel, anything and everything that he could find in print. But he was not what one would call a diligent student; everything seemed to come so incredibly easy to him. Not for him the painful steady grind nor the feverish sweating at the 11th hour; his notebooks and exercises were a sight for gods and men, and it is recorded that on more than one occasion he was unable to read his own handwriting! In class he seemed to dream his time away, and at the Leavings he would finish his papers in about half the allotted time, and then sit gazing out at the distant line of the Cromdale Hills. Maths., English, Classics, Science, he took them all in his stride inasmuch as he excelled in them all. Later he cared most for English and Greek, for he said to me the first time he was home from Cambridge, "Do you know I have been lying in bed this morning thinking in Greek." Then again "The old Boss (Mr Maclellan will forgive me) is the best English teacher I have ever met. He made me love English, not merely learn it." But it is not only as Dux, M.A. 1st class Hous. Maths. and Classics (Aber.), and Scholar of Clare College, Cambridge, that some of we F.P.s remember him; he was also happy and venturesome and foremost in every boyish play. Who remembers the canoe that was built from a diagram in the B.O.P. and launched on the Spey one summer evening ever so many years ago? The shouts and yells as it was paddled towards the island, the excitement when one of the hand fell into the water, and the cheers when he calmly continued towards the opposite bank. "Just to see if I could swim with my boots on," as he put it. Earlier still when we were very young there was a snow hut built in a certain park with skins of wild animals on the floor (flour bags), lamps burning blubber from the whales we had harpooned (stolen paraffin in old tin lids) and inhabited by real Eskimos with dirty greasy faces and attired in the skins of animals we had shot, but which bore a suspicious likeness to somebody's parlour

rugs. He had a lively curiosity and an avid interest in everything, but when he and a boon companion set fire to his father's haystack, and he was dragged out choking and almost suffocated, the four-year-old desperado still had enough sense to gasp out "Allie is worse not me for he is not yet out." There were little or no organized games at the Grammar School in those days, but anything he took up he did excellently and well. He was a good all-round golfer, an excellent swimmer, a brilliant if rather erratic billiard player, and was the champion bantam weight boxer for his year at Clare College, Cambridge.

To anyone who watched his triumphant and apparently effortless progress through school and college, and who knew his strength of purpose and simple integrity of character, it must have seemed as if everything presaged a brilliant future, that, indeed, here was one beloved of the gods. But whom they love die young, and to some of us there are now only dear memories of "Johnnie," and to others, a grave in Inverallan with a headstone inscribed with the name of John C. Surtees.

A GOLFING TOUR OF THE ORIENT.

[BY R. A. CRICKSHANK].

I STARTED out from New York with "Wild" Bill Mehlhorn and Al Hammond, our manager, on November 29th. Mehlhorn was my playing partner, and although this was the first time we "teamed" together we lost only one match of the twenty played.

We sailed from San Francisco on the "Tatsuta-Maru," one of Japan's finest ships. In the passenger list were several of the Japanese nobility, including the Japanese naval delegation returning from London. Our most distinguished passenger was H.R.H. Prince Togagawa, President of the House of Peers. There were also quite a few American and English passengers. Four and a-half days later we arrived at Honolulu, the island of the

guitar and the ukelele. Here we played our first match against two of their best players. We won this match 2 up and 1 to play, and then took a motor drive around the island. The beauty of this island is indescribable. One has to see it for oneself to appreciate it. On the beach one can walk out in the surf for a mile or so, and then swim or float back with the breakers. I am sorry we did not have time to try this out, as our ship sailed at 5 o'clock. The natives gave us a farewell song or two, and a band played the "Song of the Islands," a very haunting melody, and it made us feel sort of sad leaving them. Small boys swam alongside the ship for a few hundred yards begging for coins. When these coins were thrown into the water, the boys dived after them, and very seldom missed getting them.

Eight days later we arrived at Yokohama after a pretty rough voyage. Sad to say, I was sea-sick for a day, but I soon got over it. We were met by officials of the Japan Golf Association, and driven to our hotel at Tokyo, which is about 20 miles from Yokohama. Our first match was with the two brothers, Akahoshi Rokuro; the younger is the Amateur Champion of Japan. He and I were old friends, as he was a member of my club in the States in 1922. I gave him a few lessons at that time. The next day we spent in practising and getting our legs adjusted to land again. That night we went to a Japanese "movie" show. On one side of the stage an interpreter explains the dialogue in the picture, and it was really a good picture.

Next day we proceeded to the Tokyo Golf Club for our first match. There were about 1200 people present, and before starting we were presented to Prince Asaka of the Royal Family. He shook hands with us and asked us not to be too hard on the boys. As it turned out we were not the victors. The match was very close all the way, and we arrived at the 17th hole 1 up with 2 to play. At this stage we looked like winners, but golf is always an uncertain game. On the 17th green I had a 4-yard putt to win. Instead of playing safe I tried to hole it, missed it, and missed again and thereby



THE "MIDSHIPMITE," 1894.

Back Row—Left to Right—James Black, Geordie Mortimer, ——— Noble, James Dixon (Jeemsie), Alick Fraser, ——— Grant, Gowanlea; Charlie Cameron, James Calder, Alick MacGregor, Cameronie; Lizzie Anderson, Marion MacCaskel, Annie Innes, Nellie Corbet, ——— Stuart, Harriet MacIntosh, Herbert G. Cumming.

2nd Row—Maggie Rose, Mary Dixon, Jessie Stuart, Annie Grant, Cherry Grove; Bella MacQueen, Cromdale; Mary Grant, Balliefurth; Maggie Irvine Grant, Jessie MacIntosh, Rosemount, Maggie Jane Meldrum; Mary Grant, Topperfettle; Maggie Allan, Ballintomb; Anna B. Munro, Netta Fullerton, Jane Ross, Jake MacGregor, Dod King, Dod MacGregor, Lynmacgregor.

3rd Row—Jessie Fraser, James Cameron Grant, Tommy MacIntosh, Johnnie Surtees, Allie Meldrum, Annie Grant, Hannah Surtees, Jessie Batchen (Queen of the Fairies), Annie A. C. Grant, Agnes Smith.

4th Row Seated—Mina Macdonald, Hughie MacIntosh, Jeanie Watson, ——— Stuart, Nellie Grant, Lizzie Philip, Mary Agnes Stuart, May Smith, Alice MacDonald, Jessie MacIntosh, Rosemount; James Fraser.

Front Row—Rachel Campbell, Barrie Fraser, Willie MacDougall, Willie Grant, Briar Cottage; John A. C. Grant, John Templeton, Jack Grant, Reidhaven; Dannie Irvin, Geordie Burgess, Morris King, Geordie Cameron.

lost the hole. At the last hole Shirro, the elder brother, got a birdie 3 and won the match.

This was a hard blow for us, but I really think that this defeat made our tour a bigger success. The crowd was a very sporting one indeed, and never failed to applaud good shots no matter which side made them. We played next in Yokohama, and there we got revenge on the same two boys by the narrow margin of 2 and 1. From Tokyo we travelled to the city of Osaka, one of Japan's largest cities. The course here was much prettier and in better condition than the Tokyo course. It reminded me so much of our own course at Grantown that I really got homesick. Here we met the Japanese Open Champion, Myomota. We defeated him and his partner 2 and 1 after a very interesting match. This part of Japan was very similar to Scotland, and I felt like staying a week or two longer. However, business was calling, and reluctantly I left for the other end of Japan. This part, "Ito," right on the ocean, is called the earthquake area. It is said that as many as 2000 'quakes have been recorded there in a year. Happily we never felt one, or as a matter of fact did we feel any tremor during our stay in Japan. We played about 15 matches in Japan, losing 1 and finishing square in 1. After our matches had been all played we played quite a bit with a few of the younger golfers.

Four of these youngsters are highly promising, and I am almost certain that at least one of these four will one day be an international champion. One is the son of Prince Asaka, another the son of Prince Konoye, and a third the son of a Marquis, and the fourth is the son of one of the wealthiest business men in Japan. The latter youngster is built like Bobby Jones, is only 15 years old, and is perhaps the most promising of the four. His name is Harada. Put that name in your notebook, and look it up five years hence. The Japanese are tremendously keen to learn the golf game. In this respect they are very similar to the Americans. They are working hard

at the game, and they are giving their youngsters a real chance to learn it.

We had played all over Japan during our three weeks' stay, and we had made a lot of friends. However, we had to sail for China and our other engagements. We left Yokohama on January 6th, and arrived at Shanghai on the 11th. Here we found the weather was 15 below zero—too cold for golf. Two days later we arrived at Hong Kong, and the weather here was much nicer. Entering the harbour at Hong Kong is one of the greatest sights I ever saw. Surrounded by beautiful mountains, the harbour, filled with British warships, destroyers, and all sorts of Chinese craft. Hong Kong, built on one side of the harbour, and Kowloon on the other side, presents a magnificent sight at night with all the lights twinkling. Next day we were presented to the Governor, H. E. Sir Wm. Peall. Our opponents were two young amateurs, Shewan and Martin by name. Shewan, by the way, was a visitor to Grantown for years before the war and, needless to say, we got into a long "gabfest" of golf and players before the war.

The match itself was attended by a large crowd of English and Scotch, and finished all square. We were very lucky to do so as Mehlhorn had to win the last two holes to do so. From here we sailed to Manila in the Philippines. This is a beautiful country, somewhat like Honolulu and very warm. We played Montes, the Open Champion of the Philippines, and a local pro. and won 5 and 4. Mehlhorn broke the record with a 66, and I had 68 and Montes 70. We spent four days here, and enjoyed it immensely. On 26th January we sailed for San Francisco, and arrived there on the 31st of February.

In all we had travelled 26,500 miles. Golf courses in the Orient are not up to the Championship calibre yet, but what they lack in quality is made up by the enthusiasm of the players.

Some day I hope to go back again, and see all the things I missed.

LETTER BOX.

DEAR MISS GRANT,

You have asked me to write something for the Former Pupils' portion of the Magazine. May I begin by expressing a personal feeling which, I believe, is characteristic of old and retired people? It is comforting to feel that we are not quite forgotten. Although we cannot be expected to bulk largely in the eyes of the present generation, the memories of the previous one gather round their teachers as well as their companions, and it may be that it is only now that we are being judged at our true value. The instincts of younger children are merrily within their limits. They are wonderfully alive to the true character of their teachers. They love their teacher who tries to make their work a pleasure and not a toil, or perhaps a matter which gives them pleasure to toil at. The ability to discern other, and perhaps deeper, qualities can only come in later school days, and the light may only dawn years after the pupil has left school. It may be that they have received a good grounding which has helped them in their calling in life; that they have acquired habits of diligence, and of courage and manliness in the face of difficulties. The young child is a hero worshipper; the older scholar is more discerning. He knows when he is being helped to grasp difficulties, to discover how little he knows and how much there is to learn. He is being educated; all through life he has an open mind, and a wider outlook.

To the former pupils of the Grammar School, different phases of school life will have a more or less pleasant appeal. One happily forgets the less pleasant things that invariably happen in the course of a school career. They sometimes, in the words of Vergil, are "a joy to recall," and they are told over and over again with gusto. Except to the very young and very emulous, examinations are an abomination. To the teachers most of all; and when they are imposed from the outside, they take away from the freedom and pleasure which a good teacher has in his work.

I wonder if any of the school lessons have left anything of a permanent stamp on many of the youth who are now earning their living. Have they helped in their work and their outlook on life? Has Mental Arithmetic, for instance, made them quick and accurate at counter or desk? Has Grammar, along with Composition exercises, enabled them to write passably correct English? Even editors and writers of books do sometimes make mistakes which the teacher of a Qualifying class would not pass. As regards Spelling, which is so well taught in most schools now, it is a hard subject for elementary pupils, who have no acquaintance with Latin or French or Greek to help them with certain derivatives. I have known the word "siege" to be misspelt by more than half a class. I have seen it misspelt in large letters on a newspaper bill (not a local one) during the war. The spelling of the flower "fuchsia" would stagger even more, and "accommodation," such a useful word in the summer season, should never be attempted without a dictionary!

Many school subjects are of necessity scrapped in after years; but even an elementary knowledge of Latin or Science well taught adds to our mental equipment, and helps us in our reading. Science particularly should help the youth of to-day to take a greater interest in modern developments and inventions. It is in the English classes in the Upper School that the teacher finds his opportunity. The growing mind is brought into touch with the great writers and makers of history, and a pupil's taste for what is best may then be formed. The School has failed if it has not given its youth a lead here. The pupils will here, perhaps more than anywhere else, be inspired by their teacher.

But I must recall certain things in our school life that added a zest to the ordinary work. The winters were often very severe, and the class-rooms with open fires far too cold. But the great slide on the ice from the girls' door of the old school to the large

tree in the N.E. corner, from which depended Dr Grant's swing for girls, was worth all the cold. It was exciting and invigorating, and taught a whole generation to keep their heads and legs—an excellent discipline for future years. Then the school sports, cricket, and football of a kind, will have a large share in the memory. The girls' hockey team was one of the first to be started in the county, and during the first two seasons could more than hold its own. It was an outcrop from the physical instruction, which was taken up so enthusiastically by the splendid girls we had for so many years. The bigger boys began to fail us during and after the war, but in the early 20's, when inter-school sports were started, we were again to the front, and in our first year, we narrowly escaped the championship. In this connection it has just come into my mind that Robert Macgregor, son of the ex-Provost, and now in Paris, could throw the cricket ball farther than most of the big schools in the South.

There are two "side shows," which will always have for me a pleasant retrospect, and they bulked largely among the interesting things of school life. These were the Kinderspiels and the senior girls' Xmas "At Homes." The latter caused some stir and pleasurable excitement, all the preparations and decorations in the Art Room being carried out by the girls themselves. These girls initiated and were the backbone of the Former Pupils' Club, who have had since then some very hearty and successful reunions. In the early days the most picturesque was the "Fancy Dress" gathering in the Grant Arms, when the school was under reconstruction. It was a wonderful gathering.

The Kinderspiels meant hard work for both teachers and scholars, and they drew their material from almost every class. They brought out latent talent in singing and speaking, and occasionally surprisingly good acting. This also was an interesting feature in the scenes from Shakespeare that were staged on the Closing Days of the school. Many of the old scholars will look back upon those early performances of theirs as being among the most interesting

events of school life. I shall always remember with pleasure and thankfulness the splendid work done by the staff on these occasions. On the lady teachers fell much of the hard work. The first Kinderspiel in my time was conducted by Mr Lyall, who has since passed away. He was full of energy and enthusiasm, and everybody worked with a will. Then came Mr Young who got the older boys to do things that must have surprised themselves. Then Mr Fraser, who had been trained under Mr Roddie, luvverness, had a flair for tasteful things in that way. But the most original, elaborate and successful performance on these lines, and one which any school might be proud of, was the Pageant shown in the Black Park immediately after the War. It embraced various activities of the country during the War and reflected by a variety of scenes and songs the spirit of patriotism and determination to win through. To Mr Simpson and Mr Selson, just returned from service, working along with the lady teachers, was due the credit of this fine exhibition.

I cannot close this rather lengthy epistle without referring to what was to some of us the event of the year—the excursion to the Cairngorms. It was confined to the senior classes and staff, and was carried on for some years before the War, and only once after. It took place in the middle of May or early in June, when the weather should be at its best. It sometimes was. The hottest day in almost all my experience was on one of these occasions, when not only water-proofs but also jackets were cast aside, and we sat on the summit of the cairn under a speckless sky and hot sun with scarcely a breath of air. There were still many large patches of snow here and there, and we cooled ourselves and took snapshops in the snow. What a contrast to the last occasion when we fled from the summit to the shelter of some rocks on the far side of the mountain, lit a fire of wood, which some one had thoughtfully provided, and had hot tea! The drive through the Sluggan Pass or by Forest Lodge in early morning, or the cycle ride through Aviemore and Coylum Bridge by some of the party, brought us together on the shores of lovely Loch Mor-

lich ready for a substantial breakfast—a second one—before the ascent. There was much rivalry among the young folk to be at the top first, and this was achieved by a few in less than an hour and a half, while the less ambitious of us got there in two hours. It was altogether an exhilarating experience, though somewhat trying at the time for those who were not in form. It brought us all together in the face of Nature

at its grandest, and helped to knit us in closer bonds of fellowship.

We looked forward then : we look backward now!

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

R. MACLENNAN.

Croila,
Colinton.

"LOOKING BACK."

(Minutes of Meetings held by F.P.'s from 1909 to 1931.)

In the year 1909, Dec. 30th, a meeting of Former Pupils was held in the Grammar School. Mr MacLennan presided. The members present were Mrs MacLennan, Misses Macgregor, Gilbert, M. Gilbert, Meldrum, Surtees, L. Philip, A. Grant, A. Grant (Culloich), M. Findlay, Campbell, M. Campbell, Kerr; and Messrs MacIntosh, Wm. Grant, Duncan Philip, R. Surtees, M. Grant, H. G. Cumming and D. G. Campbell.

The chairman made reference to the Fancy Dress Ball held on the previous night, and congratulated the promoters on its success. Mr MacLennan then proceeded to explain the object of the meeting. On the motion of the Chairman it was agreed to form a club to be known as the GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' CLUB.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of Office-bearers, and Mr MacLennan was unanimously elected President of the Club; Mr H. G. Cumming, Vice-President; Miss Hannah Surtees and D. G. Campbell as Joint Secretaries; and Miss M. S. Macgregor, Treasurer.

At a meeting held on July 13th—Herbert G. Cumming in the chair—the secretary intimated that out of twenty who were asked to become honorary members only seven had replied accepting, and their letters were read to the meeting.

Hon. Members — J. Grant Sharp, A. Cameron, W. A. Robertson, A. Stuart, Robert Grant and David T. Samson.

A donation of £5 5/- was received from J. Grant Sharp.

Only July 18th, 1910, the club held the General Meeting, and John MacDongall proposed, and Miss Campbell seconded, that a prize be given to the School of the value of 21/-, and that it be left with Mr MacLennan to select the prize.

On 23rd November, 1910, it was agreed to hold the Annual Re-union on 2nd January, 1911.

In the School on 31st July, 1911, a meeting was held, and Pearl Meldrum proposed that the prize which was given yearly by the Club should be given for English, and be called the F.P.'s Prize for English.

Mr H. Cumming suggested that a Magazine be published in connection with the Club, and articles be supplied by Former Pupils.

At a meeting held in the School on January 5, 1912, it was proposed by Miss Gilbert, and seconded by Miss MacIntosh, that a sum or sums not to exceed £3 be allowed the committee, acting conjointly with the school teachers, towards the encouragement of School Sports.

The Annual Re-union for that year (1912) was held on 1st January.

On March 1st, Mr H. G. Cumming was presented with a travelling rug and a fountain pen on the occasion of his leaving.

On Friday, 27th September, 1912, the following sub-committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the publication of a Magazine to be ready for distribution by December :—Misses Campbell, Macgregor and Meldrum, and Messrs

Meldrum, Stuart, Noble and Campbell. Mr Simon Noble consented to act as Editor.

At a committee meeting on Tuesday, 26th November, 1912, Mr Noble reported that he had arranged to get the printing of the Club Magazine done by Mr Thomson, and that the Magazine would be ready for the Re-union.

On 30th December, 1912, the Annual Re-union was held in the Grant Arms Hotel.

At a committee meeting held in the School on Friday, 27th July, the feeling was expressed that the F.P.'s English Prize to the School should not be given in money. Miss Cumming proposed, and Mr Murray seconded, that the English Prize should take the form of a gold medal with inscription, to cost £1, and that another guinea should be spent on two book prizes, one for French and one for Mathematics.

Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 2nd December, 1913. The business was the fixing of the date for the Annual Re-union. It was agreed that it be held in the School on January 1st.

Mr Templeton and Mr J. MacDongall were appointed to act as M.C.'s.

At the annual general meeting on 20th December, 1913, Mr MacLennan was elected Honorary President; Mr Noble, President, for 1914; and Miss Gilbert, Vice-President. Miss Cumming was appointed Secretary, Miss Macgregor, treasurer.

In December, 1914, it was agreed that owing to the war the usual dance be put aside in favour of a whist drive—the proceeds to be divided between "The Women's Work" and "The County Red Cross" funds.

The activities of the Club seemed to have lapsed from the last date until 1929.

Minute of meeting of F.P.'s held in the Grammar School on 24th October, 1929. The members present were:—Misses Macgregor, Lawson, Brown, Cumming, Moyes, Paterson, Ross, Laing, Gouldie, Hastings, Macgillivray, MacIntosh, Robertson, Sutherland, Duffner and Plimister. Messrs J. K. Robertson (English Master), Mackenzie, Noble, Grant, Hepburn, Laing, Cameron, Milne, Grant, Cruickshank,

Stuart, Davidson and Thomas Hunter, M.A., Rector.

Mr Robertson, who occupied the chair, explained that the object of the meeting was to resuscitate the Former Pupils' Club. It was decided to retain the old constitution. Rule 4 being so amended as to read—The Office-bearers of the Club shall be:—President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a committee of six members.

The annual subscription was fixed at 2/-. Mr Robertson's suggestion that the Club should subscribe towards the publication of the School Magazine was unanimously approved.

At a committee meeting held on December 12th, 1929, the final arrangements for the Re-union on December 18th were made.

At the Re-union held in the Grammar School on 18th December, 1929, Col. Grant Smith was elected Honorary President of the Grantown Grammar School F.P.'s Club.

At a special meeting of the Club held in the School on 13th May, 1930, it was decided to advertise for contributions from Former Pupils. Miss Ann Grant was appointed sub editor, in charge of the F.P.'s section.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Club held in the School on 18th December, 1930, Mr Robertson's motion that a Life Membership subscription be fixed at 12/6, which sum would also cover the price and postage of future issues of the Magazine to Life Members, was agreed to.

The Re-union for 1931 was held in the School on February 27th.

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