

"Non scholae sed vitae discimus."

THE SOUTHLAND BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

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received.*

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No. 4

The School Staff.

THE changes in the School Staff have, since our last issue, been interesting and important, and we wish to collect an account of them here.

In the first place Mr Fowler, who had been connected with the School for the last eleven years, has left us. We do not remember hearing of a master more universally beloved by his boys, and treated by them with such unswerving respect. This affection was expressed by the boys and girls of the Schools on the last day of last year by making Mr Fowler a presentation of a purse of sovereigns for him to buy for himself a memento of the old school. Mr Fowler replied in terms of warm thanks, and gave the boys some wholesome advice, based upon the text, "Manners Maketh Man." We hope we shall not forget his lessons, given both by word and deed, on this matter. The Staff of the two Schools, over which Mr Fowler had presided for so long, also testified their esteem of their Rector, by presenting him with a pair of field glasses. May he sometimes look through the wrong end of them and see in the far distance of Invercargill some of those who cherish warm regard and admiration for his many good qualities. The following article taken from the SOUTHLAND TIMES of November 11th, aptly expresses the esteem the Rector was held in by the general public and his old boys.

"By the resignation of Mr Fowler the Southland High Schools suffer a loss which it will be exceedingly difficult to repair. The ten years during which he has been Rector have been for the School years of progress and expansion in every direction. In that time the attendance has more than doubled, and a reputation for scholarship has been achieved throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand. Among the improvements of recent years may be mentioned the equipment of a thoroughly modern chemical laboratory, the institution of a cadet corps, the addition of gymnastics and physical training to the ordinary school subjects, the revival of the annual school sports, the institution of a School Magazine, and the formation of the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations. We do not mean to imply that these things are all the unaided achievement of Mr Fowler. The increased attendance at the Schools is mainly due to the liberal action of the Board of Governors, and the progress in science and athletics to the able and enthusiastic co-operation of Mr Fowler's assistants; but in the world of scholarship the larger share of the credit is the Rector's own. Himself a man of uncommon attainments and culture, he has been able to impart these in large measure to his pupils. Probably, no school of a similar size in New Zealand could show better results for the last ten years in public examinations. The attainment of a Junior University Scholarship forms the goal of a High School course. Though the School had been competing for years, the first Junior Scholarship was not taken till 1896, since which date seven scholarships have been won in seven years—an excellent average when we consider the enormous odds at which the School competes with such schools as those of Dunedin, Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington. The "*annus mirabilis*" of the School was 1901, when no fewer than three Junior Scholarships were gained, with two "credit" places in the same examination. In the Junior Civil Service, the only other competitive examination for which the School enters, five candidates secured places in the first 20, one standing second and another fifth, while the usual large number of passes were secured in the Matriculation examination. This is a record of which the School may well be proud, but in a small school such results cannot be looked for every year, for the material, in the shape of somewhat exceptionally gifted pupils, is not always available. These results, be it noted, are not the result of "cram." In the Southland High School, examinations are taken as mere incidents of a school course, and little is done by way of special preparation. The thoroughness of the training afforded has again and again been demonstrated by ex-pupils in the honours they have secured in subsequent University careers. In short, the Rector has been true to the School motto: "*Non scholæ sed vite discimus.*"

But that which has especially characterised Mr Fowler's rectorship, and that by which his pupils will best remember him, is the absolute perfection of the discipline he has maintained. It would be difficult to find anywhere a teacher who exacts such instant and unquestioning obedience with apparently so little exertion to himself. The main instrument of this discipline was a power occasionally used of biting sarcasm. Sarcasm, though a most effective, is also a most dangerous weapon in the hands of a teacher, but in Mr Fowler's case it was rarely misdirected, and it was quite possible, with care, to pass through the High School without once falling under the lash of his tongue. His words of praise and appreciation were few—perhaps too few—but they were proportionately highly valued.

Mr Fowler possesses a distinctly marked and forcible personality, by virtue of which he exercises upon his pupils an influence which lasts beyond their school lives. In this respect he shares a potency that has been exerted in a remarkable degree by some of the greatest teachers—by the revered master of Mr Fowler's own school, for instance, Arnold of Rugby. Mr Fowler's influence is more austere and less genial than Arnold's was. If we may be permitted to say so, he bears more resemblance in many points to Matthew than to Thomas Arnold. In him the critical faculty is abnormally developed, and his influence tended, again perhaps too much, to the repression of youthful fancy. Yet no one could be three

or four years under Mr Fowler and fail to glean some notion of what culture and good taste in literature really meant. But Mr Fowler's influence was not confined to the comparatively narrow sphere of literature. We venture to say that the boys of the High School learned from him, almost unconsciously, to draw distinctions between "good form" and "bad form" in their behaviour at school and afterwards in the world. We recollect meeting in some book or other a young man who was all that was manly and honourable. But he was incapable of weighing right and wrong or of analysing an action. It was sufficient for him that he knew there were certain things "no fellow can do," and he knew them by the accumulated lessons and impressions of his school years. While Mr Fowler has been Rector the atmosphere of the High Schools has been wholesome and good for the young to breathe. We believe that he is a teacher much above the ordinary, and that more by his personality than by his spoken precepts, for he is not given to much talking, he teaches the youth how to judge between the worthy and unworthy, and to discern and admire what things in literature and life are good and lovable. Such has been the effect that for ten years Mr Fowler has been producing on the best of his pupils—for pupils as well as teacher must contribute to such a result. Nelson College is greatly to be congratulated on the acquisition of such a man, and his pupils in Southland will long remember him as a type of the double ideal of scholar and of gentleman."

The foregoing account exactly expresses our sentiments.

The whole success of Mr Fowler's Rectorship of the School we attribute to his wonderful power of keeping discipline. We have seen several High Schools, but none in which the general behaviour and gentlemanliness of the boys equalled that in ours. With discipline work goes hand in hand. The two can never be divorced. A great deal is often said about the "*Mens sana in corpore sano*," so much, indeed, that it seems that in the minds of some speakers the "*corpus sanum*" is of more importance than the "*mens sana*." Now there are schools in the colony—we think at the present of one in a minor town in the North Island—where this idea has evidently taken possession of the minds of the members of the Board of Governors, and of the staff as well; the result is that this particular college, bears the palm for football and cricket, long distance running and gymnastics, while its Scholarship list is virtually empty. The success of a school is measured not by its football victories, but by the proportion of boys that yearly pass Matriculation, and by the Junior University Scholarship list. In these points Mr Fowler raised the School to a pitch that it had never reached before, and that is unexcelled by any other school in the colony. Of course Mr Fowler never wished to neglect the care of the bodies of the boys, as is shown by the list quoted above of athletic exercises he introduced to the School, to which if need were we could add the swimming lessons of last year and this—lessons much appreciated by every boy in the School. Add to all this the continual lesson on good manners that Mr Fowler gave, by his precept, and still more by his continually restrained and gentlemanly behaviour to all he met. There was in him nothing obtrusive nor pushful; no cheapening of his services, nor betraying the dignity of his office; never a raised voice, never a perturbation of the countenance; one could easily realise that he was face to face with an English gentleman; he seemed always

to have in mind the School motto: "Non Scholæ sed vitæ discimus," and to be teaching us the great life lesson of restraint under vexation, and steady pursuit of a high calling.

And the explanation of all this success? The key to it is peculiar but completely satisfactory. Mr Fowler liked school teaching. We do not mean to insinuate that other teachers dislike their profession, but they would frequently be glad of other duties: by many the opportunity of, say, a lectureship would be hailed with joy: the drudgery, as it is often called, of teaching and teaching elementary work is distasteful, and they would like to have to deliver a lecture and leave it to the students to learn it or not as they liked. Most teachers drift into their profession because it is the only opening or the best opening available. With Mr Fowler all this was different. He liked teaching; would sooner do this than anything else; gave up a University professorship and entered the teaching profession, and stuck to his choice and never regretted it. Teaching—what other people call the drudgery of teaching—was to him a pleasure. He loved to make boys learn, and this is the secret of a success that has been somewhat sparingly recognised, but which is as great as it is exceptional.

But the old order changeth and giveth place to the new. Mr Fowler has left us, but we are not left destitute, for Mr Pearce is now Rector. Mr Pearce has been assistant master at Nelson College and Otago Boys' High School, and comes with good testimonials as to teaching ability and academic attainments. We give him welcome, and wish him all success in Invercargill. He has already shown himself eager and tireless in the interests of the School, both in the work and the sports of the boys. Many innovations in the School routine will date from this year 1904, and we wish them, as we wish their author, long life and good success.

As we go to press, we have just lost another, the oldest remaining, of the staff of the Boys' School. Mr J. G. McKay was a boy at the School under Mr Fowler, and it is noted that he made exceptionally rapid progress through the forms during his school period. After engaging in commercial pursuits, and teaching in the primary schools for about two years, he was appointed an assistant in the Boys' High School over two years ago. Mr McKay has been a successful teacher, and boys have learned well the subjects it fell to his lot to teach them. Mr McKay's geography lessons in particular have a reputation outside the school walls, and the pains he took, and the natural ability he displayed, to treat the subject as one of living interest, clothed the whole subject with romance, and often made boys feel as if they were jolting over the railways or gazing down into the valleys he described. Outside, too, Mr McKay took the keenest interest in the welfare of the boys. His training them in football, till by mere combination and smartness they were able to defeat much heavier teams, his continual lessons on the straight bat, and his precept and practice at swimming



T. D. PEARCE, M. A.

lessons have all left an indelible mark on many a life and character. On Mr McKay's last day at school the boys made him a presentation of a handsome dressing case to express the esteem they held him in; Kennedy's speech was particularly true and fortunate, and was loudly applauded. On the same day his fellow teachers made him a present of books. Boys and masters join in wishing him the best of luck in his University studies, and hope that he may return to the School as a senior master, crowned with the best degrees the University has to give.

At the beginning of the term the increase in the number of boys necessitated the appointment of an additional master. Mr McGrath was selected for the position, and we heartily congratulate ourselves on the Board's choice. Though recently teaching in a primary school, he has had experience in secondary schools of a high class, and brings with him good methods that must ensure good results. We all feel that we have a strong man in Mr McGrath. We hope to know him better during the coming winter, when we shall often meet him as our trainer on the football field.

The place vacated by Mr McKay is being filled by Mr Pow, of the Croydon Siding School. We wish him welcome and success, and a pleasant time in his new position.

Present Staff:—Headmaster, T. D. Pearce, M.A.; Assistants, F. W. Hilgendorf, M.A., B.Sc., J. McKinnon, J. S. McGrath, J. Pow.

Classes (upwards):—I, II, III B, III A, IV, V.

University Examination Results.

JUNIOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP—

A. Bonar Lindsay, fourth place.

MATRICULATION AND SOLICITOR'S GENERAL KNOWLEDGE—

J. A. Craig, B. Gilmour, R. A. Jennings, G. T. A. Lyttle, J.
H. Murdoch, G. E. Overton, W. T. White, R. Selby, H.
J. Macalister, M. Macalister.

MATRICULATION—

F. M. Earle, G. H. Mears, W. G. Spite, H. McKay.

CIVIL SERVICE—

J. Craig (2nd in Invercargill and 22nd in colony).
R. Jennings (5th in Invercargill and 124th in colony).
R. Selby (12th in Invercargill and 216th in colony).

Mears has been awarded by the Presbytery of Otago and Southland: a scholarship of £20 for three years, entitling him to study in the Theological Hall, Dunedin. The selection was made on the Matriculation examination results.

School Prize List.

FORM IIA—M. Mitchel, English and Shorthand.

G. Fraser, Latin.

W. King, Mathematics and Science.

C. Miller, Book-keeping.

L. McCartney, Progress.

FORM IIB—D. Oughton, English, Mathematics and Shorthand

J. Marshall, Science.

F. Joyce, Book-keeping.

G. Henderson, Latin.

FORM III—G. Overton, English and Latin ; Science

J. Craig, History, Geography, Shorthand.

G. Fraser, Mathematics.

H. Christophers, Book-keeping.

J. Murdoch, French.

B. Gilmour, Progress.

F. Miller, Progress.

FORM IV—R. Kennedy, First in all subjects.

FORM VI—A. B. Lindsay, Latin and French.

J. Mehaffey, Good Conduct.

Dux—A. B. LINDSAY.

School Items.

The break-up last year took place on the evening of December 11th. As usual, every boy was toggled up in his Sunday-best, and wore a white rose in his coat. The gymnasium was decorated both with pretty faces and with pretty flowers, forming what we boys thought "une combinaison superbe." A platform had been erected for High School Board and Old Boys' representatives. As Professor Sale was to be present, and Mr Fowler was this night to take farewell of all his pupils, past and present, the gymnasium was full upstairs and downstairs. It was our lot to receive our prizes from the same Professor as had examined some of our matriculation papers, and we had therefore a special interest in him. After Professor Sale had distributed the prizes, and had given some good advice to the dux of the school, A. B. Lindsay, and our agitation about the prizes had subsided, we were able to listen to the Professor with all due attention. As a representative of one of the oldest seats of learning, and educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, his speech, like that of Mr Fowler, was worth listening to. From him we learnt that in 1884, Mr Macalister, Chairman of the Board, took 1st in Greek, and 2nd in Latin at Otago University, and Mr John Asher 1st in Latin and 3rd in Mathematics. Professor Sale also briefly dealt on

the death of Dr G. P. Brown, who was educated in Invercargill High School, and graduated in the Otago University. Speaking of the success of New Zealand students Professor Sale mentioned that Messrs Erskine and Rutherford, who were educated at Canterbury College, under C. H. Cook, M.A. (now a University examiner also), and after graduating at Home, are now pursuing studies in scientific research in America. Mr Mellor, he said, has also made a name for himself, and is now at Owen's College, Manchester. Professor Sale did not forget to mention the Rhodes scholarship. In conclusion, he begged us not to look back on any past success but to go ahead, and look for more honours.

Mr Fowler was then presented by Mr E. Russell, on behalf of the Old Boys' Association, with a couple of pipes and a walking stick. In responding, Mr Fowler stated that he would not wait until he reached Nelson, but would at once put his shoulder to the wheel, and try a course of the treatment that "these instruments" suggested. As for the walking stick, he laughingly replied that it would make a grand cane. He was applauded by the boys at every opportunity, and in an excellent speech gave us an historical account of the progress of the School, and admitted that it was hard work getting Latin and French into the heads of some of us, but all the same he reminded us that we were by no means worse than pupils of former years, and concluded by thanking us for our appreciation of his year's work, and hoped our School would ever be successful. Mr Hanan, M.H.K., was also there, and other leading men of the city, obviously for the purpose of doing honour to Mr Fowler. The meeting dispersed after three cheers had been given for Mr Fowler, the High Schools Board, the Teaching Staff, and Professor Sale.

After Easter we had a visit from Mr Vernon, who it will be remembered was Science Master at this School before obtaining the Rectorship of Palmerston North High School. Mr Vernon passed through the rooms, and although it is but two years since he left here, yet there are few left whom he must have recognised as old pupils.

This Magazine has no girls' news in it, as the girls have started a magazine for themselves. We wish them success in their new venture.

On February 3rd we were dismissed in time to see the chief events in the Invercargill regatta.

The holiday in honour of A. B. Lindsay's scholarship was added to the Easter holidays, school closing down till Wednesday.

On February 27th Forms III, IV and V had a picnic at Greenhills. An account of it appears elsewhere in this magazine.

A half-holiday was granted us on the 16th March to see the Irish Athletic sports, in which some of us were taking part.

A pound, which has been instituted at the School, is evidently paying well, every day seeing a small collection of books, rulers, caps, straps, &c., finding its way there.

Saturday classes in typewriting and shorthand are now held on Saturdays for the benefit of the boys.

We boys have lost half of our "long room," the other half of which has been handed over to the girls. At present the Salvation Army Barracks Class-room is pressed into the service of the School.

There is some hope that a new school for the girls will be erected, probably up North street. As it is, two distinct schools exist in the one building, for the girls have now separated from the boys, with the exception of the highest form.

Extension Scholarships have been awarded to B. H. Gilmour and T. H. Murdoch; E. B. Scholarship to Spite.

Some very original facts have come to light this term. For instance, we are told:—We get beef from an animal called "mutton." The Normans brought the Chinese language into England. The Aurora Borealis thaws the northern icicles.

In spelling, too, we have our novelties. According to some hopefuls, "alkali" is properly spelt "alcholi"; "fulcrum" should be "fölkroom"; and while one thinks "valve" is spelt "vowel," another prefers "voul." Even in the senior forms one boy when asked for a word of Dutch origin wrote Syncope, and spelt it "Sin-kopje."—(? Ed).

We have to thank Mr Hilgendorf for arranging to let us hear Mr Wragge's lecture on "The Starry Universe" for half price; also the Rector for excusing us from lessons that night.

Alterations—We gladly welcome the new locker-seats in the shed, the supply of a roof ladder, the substitution of a smooth fence by the Fives Court for the old corrugated one, and the wire-netting over the Backroom window.

De Pugna Edinensi.

(Cæsar Bk. VI, cap 1-6).

The Otagi are a proud and warlike tribe that inhabit a mountainous country towards the rising sun, about 140 miles from our winter quarters. Between them and our men there were constant quarrels, and a centurion, who had left camp to get food and water, having been captured by their scouts, Cæsar determined to turn his attention to them. Accordingly, leaving the camp in charge of his lieutenant, Cæsar, fifteen men of the soundest limb and most warlike spirit having been selected from the Tenth Legion, set out into their country, which, by forced marches, he reached in two days. The Otagi, having been made certain by their scouts of our approach, had gathered themselves to their capital, Edinum, a city of the greatest strength both by nature and by fortifications. On the evening of the second day, our camp having been pitched on a plain a little distance removed from the city, a valley lying between, two soldiers were sent under cover of night to spy out the city and bring word how many of the enemy were within; who, the walls having been examined and all

things they were commissioned to do having been done, returned to camp, and informed Cæsar that the Otagi were many more and much larger than our men, that they were skilled in war, having been trained in military exercises from their youth; and that some had hair on their upper lip, and could blow fire and smoke from their mouths—which thing has never been done amongst the Romans from the days of Romulus until now. This news caused great consternation amongst our men; but Cæsar having gathered them together, exhorted them to display their pristine valour, and to uphold the name and fame of their legion and of Rome. Then, the signal having been given, and our banner advanced, we marched against the enemy.

The battle was fought with the greatest animosity, and many grievous wounds were given and received on both sides. Our men displayed the utmost courage, and although several times driven back, returned to the fight with spirits not in the least cast down. For a long time the result of the battle remained doubtful, till at length Cæsar, seeing the enemy occupied in repelling a fierce attack by the main body of our men, ordered the cavalry on our right wing to charge on an undefended point; which being done, our standard was planted within the enemy's lines, the Romans greatly clamouring. A thunder-storm then interrupting the battle, both sides refreshed themselves with apples and lemons, and removed their dead and wounded. The fight having been renewed, the Otagi made so fierce a rush as to drive us out of their fort and even penetrated our camp. Then Cæsar, seeing that the sun was nearly setting, calling on his men to follow, rushed with drawn sword on the enemy so vehemently that they were thrown into confusion, and sought safety in flight. Our men pressing after them, the slaughter was great, and they were driven completely out of the city of Edinum; and thus ended the famous battle, the like of which for fury and valour has not been seen before. Cæsar immediately wrote letters to the Senate, to show how he went, he saw, and he conquered.

An Episode.

The only title of the following little episode to publication is its unquestionable veracity and, it may be, its gleam of humour. It will recall to one old boy at least, the more strenuous days of his youth. The hero of my tale was doing bush-surveying in the wild and woody west—one of a band of six or eight, most of them old boys of the school. He had earned the reputation of having the best appetite in camp. It was insatiable, colossal, notorious. For this the cook hated him, and one night confided to his mates that on the morrow he would show our hero up before the whole camp. When the next evening came and the men trudged back to the camp, our hero was the last of a tired and hungry band. He slouched in with an indescribable listlessness of carriage that would have deceived anyone who did not know

what possibilities slept beneath that exterior of incomparable languor. The cook fed us royally that night, and crowned all by bringing out a vast plum-duff for a final course. This he divided amongst all the men but our hero, who sat aghast at such an unwarrantable omission. Unabashed, however, the cook drew from the fire a second pot and set before our friend another pudding of equal size—say a block of duff 100 cubic inches in volume. Our hero sat unmoved. In a moment he defined the plot, and at once addressed himself to the task of achieving the cook's discomfiture. This he successfully accomplished, for in the space of a single hour he put himself outside the vast concoction, clenching his victory with the triumphant commentary, "I'd eat it or bust."

Gymnasium.

Since our last Magazine was published, work in the Gymnasium has gone on with its usual success. This has been mainly due to the hard work and never failing energy of our Instructor, Mr Hanna.

About the middle of last term it was reported that there was to be a gymnastic competition, and keen interest was taken in this by every ardent gymnast. In order to give the juniors a fair chance of competing it was decided to have two divisions, one for the seniors and one for the juniors. The competition for the seniors turned out very much as was expected, except that Lindsay had to take rather a low place, owing to his having the misfortune to slip in one of the exercises. The result was that Gilmour N. topped the list with 99, followed by Gilmour B. with 87, while Lindsay and McKay tied for third place with 85. The junior competition resulted in Mitchell's obtaining first place with 96, Morris second with 86, and Lewis J. third with 84.

At the end of the year there was a gymnastic display in aid of the piano fund, both girls and boys taking part. The girls pleased the audience with their manœuvres on the rings and the backboards, and gave some splendid dumbell exercises. The boys gave an exhibition on the horizontal bar, the bridge-ladder, the parallel bars, the ropes and poles. The pyramid on the parallel bars was one of the best displays of the evening. We were pleased to have with us Master Hanna, a brother of our Instructor, who showed us what we have yet to attain to both by his club-swinging and by his weight-lifting. While speaking of Master Hanna, we desire to thank him for coming so far to help in our entertainment. We must not forget our Instructor, who greatly added to the enjoyment of the evening by his clever feats on the horizontal and on the parallel bars.

This year, instead of having classes once a week we have it twice a week, a change which is very much appreciated by all. In conclusion, we all wish the work in the gymnasium in the coming year success, and we hope that the boys will continue their interest in everything connected with the gymnasium.

Holiday Experiences.

Since the publication of the last Magazine the great event for the schoolboy has been the holidays. We would not be doing our duty as recorders of school life were we to neglect an account of its most important events, and so we have picked out two essays from the school work of a junior class, giving an indication of the methods in which some holidays were spent. Two essays, one describing the day's outing available to all boys, the other the longer journey to strange places, that it falls to the lot of fewer to visit.

A SATURDAY OUTING.

One Saturday in February a party of about fifteen school chaps went to Greenhills. Most of our party, heavily laden with provender, embarked by the morning train at Clyde street. Getting out at Greenhills we followed the tramway for some distance, cut off through the bush, traversed sandhills, and finally reached the back beach our destination. One youth having succumbed to the heat and an internal superfluity of plums, returned to the station. Once on the beach we soon got stripped and into the water, where sandflies and biddy-bids were forgotten. Our aquatic propensities satisfied, we played a fancy costume cricket match, an industrious one in the meantime preparing tea. The cricket match was adjourned to allow of that most necessary part of all picnics, a good feed. This although attended by many discomforts, was a most enjoyable part of the outing. The amount and variety of the eatables were too great to be enumerated, but included, besides individual tuckers, a sack of apples, several plums, eggs, and a half-dozen bottles of milk. The inner man satisfied, we dispersed in different directions, some to cricket, some to the water for a bathe, and others, more ambitious, to search for Maori curios. The latter, by the way, were not unsuccessful, returning with variously shaped stones, which *might* have been Maori implements. Sports (?) were held during the remainder of the afternoon, but the cool waters of several small pools offered a counter attraction to many. Thus the afternoon quickly passed, and, after yet a third bathe, being routed by sandflies, we took our swags upon our backs and marched back over the sandhills to the bush. There we boiled the billies and had tea, and, after the slight rest occasioned by this performance, we resumed our journey. After a long tramp we reached the station, over an hour too early for the train. We passed the spare time playing cricket. Once in the train our discomforts were at an end. Town was soon reached, and each sun-scorched, sandfly-bitten, tired adventurer departed homeward.

A HOLIDAY TRIP TO STEWART ISLAND.

Rakiura, Stewart Island, or "The Island," is an ideal spot for a holiday. One may go there year after year and still find new pleasures. There, native bush is seen in all its grandeur, with its tall pines and flowering rata towering in some places from the very water's edge. The

beautiful little bays and sandy beaches are innumerable. The larger bays teem with fish, and no visitor should miss the opportunity of hiring a boat and having a good day's sport. Mount Anglem is now easily accessible, a track having been made to its very summit.

I have very vivid recollections of a holiday spent there with a companion some two years ago. Leaving Bluff at half-past nine in the morning we were soon in the Straits, and although the fishes in the wake of the vessel were not left hungry, I, on the whole enjoyed the trip, and when we glided into the calm waters of Half Moon Bay all thoughts of "mal-de-mer" were forgotten. At the boarding-house we were given a bedroom, in a loft, with a sail for ceiling, rather rickety floor, and worst of all, a dressing-table which threatened to prostrate itself before you as you approached it.

We soon found plenty to do. In the first two or three days we walked to most of the surrounding bays and beaches; amongst the most beautiful of which are Golden Bay, Thule Bay, Ringa-Ringa Beach, Butterfield's Beach, Brag's Bay, and Horseshoe Bay; the last named is a large bay across a peninsula from Half Moon. Cutters were going out of the bay on picnics every day, and on two occasions we took a trip, once to Ulva Island and once up Paterson's Inlet. Nothing could be more enjoyable than a sail in one of those cutters. On a fine morning the anchor is weighed, and the vessel glides slowly out of the bay to the thuds of the oil engine, or with sails just filled by a gentle breeze that creeps over the surrounding hills. Once out of the bay a stronger breeze catches the sails and the little vessel scuds over the now rough sea towards her destination, which is generally "up the Inlet." When coming back in the evening the wind has generally gone down, and the return journey is made with the help of the oil engine. In both of our excursions we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and decided that it was far more pleasant sailing in a little cutter than in the old tug, which seemed determined to make you sick.

We had not been long at "The Island" when H.M.S. Wallaroo steamed up and anchored at the entrance to the harbour. We went on board and had a good look over her. We were especially interested in the four large guns, two on the bows and two at the stern, the torpedoes and torpedo tubes, and her powerful engines. We returned to the boarding-house greatly impressed with the thought of what damage a foreign warship, even if only third class like the Wallaroo, could do to one of our unprotected seaport towns.

One day we decided upon an eight mile walk to Maori Beach, where it is said Maoris once lived and Maori axes may be found even now. Setting out in a north-westerly direction we crossed Butterfield's Beach, a favourite camping ground, and after a long walk and hard climb reached Horseshoe Bay, traversed its mile of sandy beach, and after a walk through a tract of bush reached Lee Bay, where the Bluff cable lands. Here we boiled the billy and had a good lunch, and then

set out for Yankee River. The scenery was now most beautiful. On one side of the corduroy track was the thick bush, and on the other, away down beneath us, the sea lapping the rocks. Yankee "River" turned out to be very Yankee indeed. It was only a creek. The last stage of our walk was from Yankee "River" to Maori Beach. After travelling along the same beautiful track for some time we came out on the top of a high headland, with rocky, precipitous sides. This we learnt had been cleared and made into a garden by an old man, in the time of the whalers, and thither the sailing ships used to come for their vegetables. We were not long now in reaching Maori Beach, which we could see from the old garden. We found some beautiful shells, had a hunt for Maori curios and shags' nests, which we were told were there, and then started on our home tramp. We reached Half Moon Bay at dusk in good form for a substantial meal.

At Stewart Island it is a very easy matter to "go to the dogs." You have only to walk through the bush to Deep Bay, thence to Ringa-Ringa, and then round the rocks or across some hills to the fenced in yard where they, the Siberian dogs and their descendants are kept. Some of them had, according to their habits in the snow covered land, burrowed holes in the ground and used these as kennels. Some were tame but others became quite furious when we went near them. We went for several other walks, and as each day came it brought its pleasures and enjoyments, but every holiday must come to an end. Before we had fully realised it, tug-day came round and we, greatly regretting that we were unable to stay longer, left for Bluff.

School Museum.

During this term there has been rather an influx of natural curios to the Science Room. The boys, knowing that Mr Hilgendorf is an authority upon animals and plants, have thereby been encouraged to bring him specimens, and the supply of material has increased to such an extent that Mr Hilgendorf has suggested the formation of a School Museum. It is not proposed to ask for a case or room for the specimens at the present time—that is out of the question, but our efforts now are to be concentrated on supplying specimens, which our Science Master will mount and name, and take charge of in the meantime. When a sufficient stock of material has been accumulated we will be able to approach the powers that be, and ask that it may be given suitable accommodation in the school, where it will doubtless prove of use and interest to the boys. It is wonderful how a collection of this sort will grow by continual small additions of natural objects encountered by boys in their walks and games. Of course it will grow still faster when it is housed in the school, and where the sight of it will prove a continual stimulus to further effort. In the meantime we must do what we can to bring the collection up to such a size as will warrant our approach to the Board in the matter of its accommodation.

All boys should collect some natural object. Mr Fowler used often to talk of the ignorance shown by the boys of his classes of the animal and plant life around them, saying that in England every boy collected something. Birds' eggs and shells, grasses and seaweeds, bush plants generally, and ferns in particular, form interesting subjects of investigation and collection, and when once undertaken would commend themselves to all boys. Insects and fossils, too, are special fields, collections in which would richly repay the boys that undertook them. Every year there are numbers of new insects discovered in Southland, and there are numbers more simply awaiting capture. The solitary fossil shell brought to the school proves to be not only a new species, but a representative of a new genus of great importance and interest: it was one of hundreds that are lying at Winton and Waimea—merely awaiting the collector. All collections should be brought to the school, where the Science Master has promised to classify and name them, and give some information about all. Mr Hilgendorf supplies the following list of specimens already collected:—

GEOLOGICAL.—Petrified wood; petrified flax, fossilised reeds—the two latter very peculiar: fossil shell, a new genus of spiniferina; fossilised ferns; conglomerate: sand blown stones—very rare in New Zealand; Maori axe.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Stick insect, much larger than any described in books. Two Cicadas, which were previously reported from no place south of Nelson, while these specimens came from Wyndham. Drone Fly: larva and pupa (the latter uncommon) of the plentiful black and white moth; a beautiful N.Z. stinging wasp. Two very fine specimens of the trap-door spider.

BOTANICAL.—Top leaf shoot of red pine tree.

This list of interesting and in some cases important donations to the Museum will show that the collection, of which these are the most notable items, has already a footing, and we hope all boys will assist it to the best of their power.

Cricket.

Cricket this season has not been quite up to the usual standard of our school. This year there are only one or two members of last year's 1st Eleven left, so that the victories, if any, gained this season are entirely due to the coaching of Mr McGrath, who, along with Mr McKay, has indeed worked hard to bring us into form. At the beginning of the season, that is before Mr McGrath came, we had a very fair eleven, but at the end of the year they all left school. They thus bequeathed to comparatively new hands the upholding of the school's honour.

Of course when the cricket team had to be built afresh new office-bearers had to be elected. For this purpose a meeting was held as early as possible in the new year, when the following office holders were elected:—

CAPTAIN: B. Gilmour.

SEC. AND TREAS.: R. Kennedy.

COMMITTEE; Christophers H., Macalister M., Macalister H.

All these office-holders were elected without opposition.

MATCHES.

Feb. 17th: 3rd Form A. v. 3rd Form B. The 3rd Form A. won easily by 10 wickets.

Feb. 22nd: High School 2nd XI v. Central School. Our team won by an innings and 7 runs. Marsh, with 14 runs, put up the highest score on our side.

Several other matches were arranged but did not take place.

From this it may be seen that the 1st eleven have played no matches this season. This is not due to a lack of enthusiasm, for the enthusiasm is even greater this year than it was last, but to a lack of competent members. As we have said, most of our skill left last year, so that we have not enough boys to bring together a 1st eleven good enough for the other elevens we should have to meet. No doubt at the end of the year, when the school has recovered from the relapse due to the exodus of the old boys, we shall give a better account of ourselves.

The subscription for new boys this year was 1s 6d, and the Secretary has been very faithful to his duties. There is not one boy in the school, we believe, who has not paid his "sub." Of course the usual "stimulants" had to be resorted to, and it needed only a hint at the punishment to make the Secretary's pockets jingle.

The club has invested in two new bats and two new balls this season. They also expect to be able to get mats before next season. This will be welcomed by the boys, for the present pitch is not all that could be wished. The Board has also promised to put down a full length asphalt pitch, as well as a short practice piece.

British Navy League.

VISIT OF MR F. H. WYATT, B.A.

On Wednesday, the 24th of February, the boys and girls assembled in the Gymnasium to hear an address from Mr F. H. Wyatt, B.A., one of the honorary secretaries of the British Navy League, who was then touring the colonies. He pointed out the advantages of being a British subject, showed the importance and aims of the League, and referred briefly to several schools in England in which branches had been

formed. In conclusion, he hoped that a branch would be formed in the Southland High Schools. Cheers were given for Mr Wyatt, and the British Navy League. The Rector thanked Mr Wyatt, and gave his permission for the founding of a branch in the Boys' School, and a resolution to form a branch was carried by acclamation. Several members of the Board of Governors were present.

In accordance with the resolution passed on Wednesday, the 24th, a meeting was held on the following Friday, for the purpose of electing office-bearers in connection with the Navy League. The following were elected :—

PRESIDENT : The Rector.

VICE-PRESIDENTS : Mr McGrath and B. Gilmour.

SEC. AND TREAS. : H. Macalister.

COMMITTEE : IIIA—Mitchell, M. ; IIIB : Hawke ; II : Wesney ; I : Smith

The advantages of the Navy League are not at first apparent to most of us. There does not seem to be any real gain in such an institution. But it does indeed serve one great useful purpose ; that of keeping alive national interest in the British Navy. The Navy League Journal, which treats of the growth, strength, and exploits of the Navy, will serve to intensify this interest. It is proposed to have a meeting once a term, at which there will be delivered short lectures on some topic concerning the British Navy, and, when further funds are available, lantern slides, illustrating the growth and strength of the Navy, will be shown. In the end, a common interest will be created, a striving desire to promote the interests of the Navy and the prestige of the Empire, at Home and abroad.

Sports.

At the annual football meeting last year it was decided that, as the previous sports had been a success, they should be continued. The following committee was chosen to carry out all the details necessary for the success of such an event :—G. Mears, W. Henaghan, H. McKay and B. H. Gilmour and N. H. Gilmour (Hon. Secs). Preparations were at once started, and a committee consisting of J. Gilkison, A. Rowlands, R. G. Christophers, and C. Whitaker, was chosen to represent the Old Boys. It was decided to hold the sports on the 18th November, and the subscription list was immediately started. For the filling of this list we are largely indebted to Mr A. F. Hawke, who, last time as well as this, devoted a great deal of time, and put himself to much trouble, to collect from the business firms of the town. The following presented prizes :—The Staff, the Rev. W. White, Mr E. Russell, the Old Boys' Association, Mr H. A. Macdonald Mr Wesney. Amongst those who gave us subscriptions were :—The High Schools

Board and Messrs R. J. Gilmour, R. A. Anderson, A. F. Hawke, J. Callender, W. D. Hunt, Geo. Froggatt, R. Churton, A. Norris, F. W. Bicknell, H. S. St. Paul, A. C. Christophers. A. E. Smith, T. M. Macdonald, R. G. Christophers, Broad, Small and Co, J. A. Mitchell, P. L. Gilkison, L. Stronach, R. G. Roope, H. Carswell, J. E. Watson, R. H. Rattray, J. Batger, F. D. Morrah, W. Henderson, Wm. Macalister, The Rev. Arch-Deacon Stocker and D. Cuthbertson. We take this opportunity of tendering our sincere thanks to all the above friends who very liberally gave us subscriptions.

About six weeks before the sports a fair number started training, but they soon thinned out until Sports Day was close at hand.

The 18th turned out to be a splendid day, fine and bright, with a cool east wind blowing. In spite of other attractions a large number of friends turned up, and to all appearances, enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The majority patronised the afternoon tea tent, doing full justice to the cakes and other dainties which were provided by the High School girls, and several lady friends. No doubt the boys, who were very evident in this department, had other attractions than the sweets inside the tent. We must here express our gratitude to Mrs and Mr Stewart, who presided most ably and satisfactorily over the boiler, and those gentlemen who acted as judges, stewards, time-keepers, etc., must not go unmentioned in this acknowledgment. The races were got off in good time, and several exciting finishes were seen.

The detailed programme is as follows :—

ONE MILE SCRATCH.—With a good spurt, B. Gilmour got home first ; McKay 2nd ; Henaghan 3rd. Time : 5 min. 12 secs.

HALF-MILE HANDICAP (over 15).—1st, McKay ; 2nd, N. Gilmour ; 3rd, Lytle. Time : 2 min. 20 1-5th secs.

HALF-MILE HANDICAP (under 15).—1st, Cowie ; 2nd, M. Mitchell. Time : 2 min. 21 secs.

220yds HANDICAP (over 15).—1st, Lytle ; 2nd, N. Gilmour ; 3rd, Murdoch. Time : 23 4-5th secs. This was a splendid finish.

100yds HANDICAP (under 15).—1st heat, M. Mitchell 1, Shand 2 ; 2nd heat, Mair 1, A. Thomson 2 ; 3rd heat, Hawke 1, Morris 2 ; 4th heat, Wilcox 1, Dawson 2 ; 5th heat, Strang 1, Craig 2 ; 6th heat, F. Miller 1, G. Lewis 2. Final : Wilcox 1, M. Mitchell and Hawke a dead heat for second place. Time : 11-2 secs.

100yds HANDICAP (over 15).—1st heat, W. Thomson 1, H. Price 2 ; 2nd heat, Christophers 1, Craig 2 ; 3rd heat, Murdoch 1, McChesney 2 ; 4th heat, MacGibbon 1, Lytle 2. Final : Christophers 1, MacGibbon 2, Craig 3. Time : 11 2-5th secs. Nineteen entries.

THREE-LEGGED RACE HANDICAP (100 yds).—1st, Price and White ; 2nd, Lewis and MacGibbon ; 3rd, Wilcox and Lewis C. Time : 14-1 secs.

440yds SCRATCH.—1st, B. Gilmour ; 2nd, McKay ; 3rd, H. Mitchell.

ONE-MILE BICYCLE RACE (Old Boys).—1st, D. Cuthbertson ; 2nd, F. Ball ; 3rd, L. Mitchell. Time : 2 min. 34-3 secs.

100yds SCRATCH.—1st, B. Gilmour ; 2nd, Henaghan ; 3rd, H. Mitchell. Time : 12 secs.

440yds HANDICAP (under 15).—1st, F. Miller; 2nd, McLeod; 3rd, Dawson. Time: 60 secs. Sixteen entries.

LONG JUMP.—1st, Morris; 2nd, Lindsay; 3rd, MacGibbon. Distance: 15ft 11in.

220yds RACE (under 15).—1st, McLeod; 2nd, Wellbrock; 3rd, Aitken. Time: 23 4-5ths secs. A good race. Twenty-six entries.

120yds HURDLES (Scratch).—1st, Lindsay; 2nd, McKay; 3rd, Henaghan. Won easily in 15 3-5ths secs. After the race the course was found to be several yards short.

PICK-A-BACK RACE (50 yards).—1st, Henderson-Lewis; 2nd, Jones-Taylor. Time: 18 secs.

HIGH JUMP HANDICAP.—1st, MacGibbon (4 in.); 2nd, Price, H. (3 in.) and McKay (2 in). Height, 4ft 9in. A good event.

100yds RACE (Old Boys).—1st, F. Ball; 2nd, R. Hay; 3rd, J. Christophers. Time: 11.2 secs. A close finish.

OBSTACLE RACE.—1st, MacGibbon; 2nd, C. Lewis; 3rd, Spite. An exciting race. 28 entries.

880yds HANDICAP (Old Boys).—1st, St. Paul; 2nd, J. Christophers; 3rd, V. Christophers. Time, 2 min. 33.3 secs. Only three entries.

RELAY RACE (880 yds).—1st, Form 3B: Mears, B. Gilmour, Lyttle, Murdoch; 2nd, Form V: Lindsay, McKay, N. Gilmour, Henaghan. A good race. Time, 1 min. 47 secs.

4-LEGGED RACE.—1st, Jennings; 2nd, Gardiner; 3rd, Morris. Five entries.

KICKING THE FOOTBALL.—1st, McKay, with five kicks.

Cadets.

CAPTAIN: T. D. Pearce. LIEUTENANTS: J. McKinnon and J. Pow. SERGEANTS: R. Kennedy, M. Macalister, J. Murdoch, B. Gilmour.

In the beginning of September we had the honour of a visit from Colonel Robin. He inspected the Cadet Corps in the football grounds and at the close of the inspection said that the performance was very creditable, seeing that the new drill had just come in. He hoped that after we left our old school we would not leave off volunteering, but would join some other corps. He complimented the sergeants on the common sense they displayed in carrying out their orders. The uniforms, he said, looked neat and smart. The High School Company ranked among the best Cadet Corps he had.

Early in November Captain Hughes inspected the Company. After putting us through some extended drill he asked each sergeant to give his own section a little drill. When the four sergeants had severally manœuvred their sections, Captain Hughes complimented them on the progress they had made since his last visit. He said that if we could give him the photo of the company he would insert it in a review along with the best corps in New Zealand. The end of the year saw the last of the Sniders and the whole corps is now provided with the Lee-Enfield magazine carbine.

On Tuesday, the 22nd of March, we were all sorry to hear that Captain McKay was to sever his connection with the Cadets. The

good reports made by Colonel Robin and Captain Hughes were undoubtedly the result of the enthusiasm and competency of our first-class captain. Although we have lost an excellent captain we are now assured that his place is well filled by the Rector (Mr Pearce), who has now taken over the command of the Cadets.

On Tuesday, 15th of March, Sergt.-Major Knee put the company through manual drill with the new rifle. The only exercise which the boys were not able to grasp thoroughly was that of fixing bayonets. Even yet some of the new boys are unable to fix their bayonets according to the new rules.

Of the four sergeants of 1903 three have left: Sergeants McKay, N. Gilmour, and Mehaffey, leaving only B. Gilmour. Rowe is our new bugler.

Swimming Notes.

This year we have been allowed the use of the baths on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Great interest has been taken in this branch of the school athletics, especially by new boys, and a large number of boys have learnt to swim since the beginning of the season. Boys who can swim are instructed in life-saving and in artificial means of resuscitation. An exhibition of these was given by eight boys at the swimming sports, held on the 23rd of March. Each boy had on a coat and a pair of trousers, and this made the swimming a great deal more difficult, but, nevertheless, the rescuers succeeded very well in bringing the supposed drowning ones to shore. The exhibition looked very realistic, owing to the wearing of the clothes and also to the agonising shrieks which were heard. A relay race for schools was also held on this day and the school was entered, but without the success which it might have had, if one of the team had not slacked off before he finished his lap. However, our last man was not very far behind that of the winner; and, as the winning team was represented by some crack junior swimmers of the town, our team did a very creditable performance.

Some of the boys who learnt to swim last year are becoming fairly fast, and some pretty fast times should be put up at the tournament to be held soon.

Pushing one another in was becoming a very common habit at the beginning of the year, till one unfortunate was pushed where the water was slightly over his head. Unluckily, none of the older boys happened to be near enough to rescue him in time, so Mr McKay, heedless of the damage to his clothes, promptly jumped in and pulled him out. Since then pushing each other in has been strictly forbidden.

Mr H. Kingsland has presented a silver medal, to be competed for at our forthcoming sports, and the Royal Humane Society of Australasia a bronze medallion for Life-Saving Competition.

The sports programme for this year shows some changes, the most important of which is the increase of distance of the swimming championship to 100 yards. The use of baths is not favourable to long distance swimming, and, indeed, 100 yards is in no sense a long distance, but it is a longer one than 40 yards, and so is to be welcomed as a move in the right direction, as discouraging the exclusive practice of short and comparatively useless sprints.

Late School Items.

The following items of news were received just as the Magazine was going to press :—

During the holidays, one of the pupils of this school had the pleasure of visiting Mr Fowler at his new home in Nelson. Mr Fowler warmly welcomed his visitor, and chatted about the old school. He said that he would be pleased to see any of his old pupils if they came his way, and, pointing to a photo of last year's football team, said that they would feel proud of themselves if they heard the comments passed on it up there. He conducted his visitor through the college, and before leaving, showed him what he had bought with the money presented to him. This, which must interest last year's boys, was a silver dessert service, in an oaken case, on which was the inscription we had given him for the purpose.

The Headmaster has, with the co-operation of the Board, secured to the school the reserve at the end of Forth street. This will enable two games of cricket or football to be going on simultaneously.

Junior football is to be revived, despite the refusal on the part of the Schools' Association to admit our juniors. We understand that four teams will be chosen, below the First Fifteen, and a competition arranged within the school itself. This ought to serve its purpose admirably, and thus strengthen ultimately the ranks of the seniors.

The whole school is now drilled on Tuesday afternoons during the last period. The Cadets occupy the football ground, while the remainder, under Mr McGrath, receive physical drill and marching exercises. When boys are at school they should loyally support the school institutions. It is unfortunate that some of the Bluff boys do not see with the same eye as the rest of the school. There is still time for them to mend their ways.

Senior football practice goes on steadily in the gymnasium under Mr McGrath's energetic coaching. This persistent coaching ought to make a material difference in combination work.

In our last issue there was a tone of regret at the absence of an *esprit de corps* in the school. We are pleased to say that is a thing of the past. Our school has enrolled this year 134 boys, more than half of whom are new pupils. Yet already there is present a strong feeling of comradeship between new and old, conspicuous in the large numbers engaging in the sports of the school. Some seventy attended the swimming practices. Owing to the fine summer there was more than usual opportunity for engaging in cricket, while two-thirds of the school are beginning the game of football. The numbers in attendance were never so large, yet the spirit of the school is, we believe, one. And why should it not be? Every boy proudly dons his school cap; let him remember that in donning it he carries about with him the honour and reputation of his school.

We sympathise with S. C. Millar, who has been laid aside with a severe attack of appendicitis, necessitating two operations. We hope he will make a speedy recovery.

Only one case of typhoid fever has occurred among us during the epidemic, little Charleston being the victim. McCartney has been quarantined till the end of the term.

Football Committee—President, Headmaster; vice-presidents, Mr J. S. McGrath and Mr Hanna; secretary and treasurer, H. H. Christophers; committee, M. Mitchell, McGibbon, Kennedy; captain: B. Gilmour.

Magazine Committee—Editor, R. Kennedy; bus manager, Mr F. W. Hilgendorf; committee, H. Christophers, J. Murdoch, R. Jennings.

Some Past Masters.

W. E. P. AUSTIN, M.A. (Oxon.)

Under this heading we have arranged for articles upon some of the former masters of the School, which will, we trust, prove interesting to "Old Boys."

Mr Austin, the subject of the first of these sketches, joined the teaching staff about the end of 1884, Mr Highton being then Rector. Amongst schoolboys, he was generally known as "Bony," and in case he should not previously have been aware of this, we hasten to assure him that no disrespect is intended by recalling the fact. Well-built, broad-shouldered, and possessed of plenty of muscle, he was, indeed, anything but the angular personage such a nickname implies. What, then, was the origin of the misnomer? To those unacquainted with the logical mind of the schoolboy the explanation, though exceed-

ingly simple, might appear almost incredible. At that time one of our text books was Morris's Historical English Grammar. This impressed us with the fact that the whole of our language was derived from a few simple roots; and we were constantly spending our time in original research upon names that were not set us for home work. One of these was "Austin." The fact that the first syllable is almost identical in sound with the Latin "os" (a bone) made us conclude that "Austin" was a derivative of that word, and was therefore equivalent to "Bony." Had the majority of us only displayed the same ingenuity and resource for legitimate channels of knowledge who can say what heights of knowledge we might have scaled? What posts of honour attained?

In the class-room Mr Austin gave us, from time to time, glimpses of his past, so that we are able to outline, although in a very shadowy fashion and without wealth of detail, his career prior to his advent in Invercargill. He was educated at Oxford, where he graduated M.A. In athletics also, he displayed considerable prowess, being chosen for the "Trial Eights," and we believe that he ultimately took part in the Inter-university boat race. Being anxious to obtain a lucrative appointment he competed in the Indian Civil Service examination, and although he secured a very creditable position, it was not, we believe, such as demanded recognition by the Government. He then proceeded to Australia, where he obtained a post in a bank. Possibly his banking experience accounted for his smart, businesslike appearance and method of teaching.

A crisis in banking in Australia necessitating the retirement of a great number of officers, Mr Austin took to school teaching, for which he was well qualified. He secured an appointment as assistant in the Geelong High School, to which he ultimately returned as Head Master, after two years' service in Invercargill.

As a teacher he was most popular. He took a keen interest in athletics, particularly in cricket, which, previous to his advent, had almost suffered a decline in our hands. The school sports also received from him very considerable encouragement. Even our worst book-worms were at that time fond of games, so we appreciated a master who knew the value of recreation, and tried to work up enthusiasm in our sports.

In the class-room, too, he was well liked. He was a really good teacher, and was never at a loss for an answer if any difficult question was propounded to him. His favourite subjects appeared to be Latin and History. The latter he taught in a fashion never excelled by any other teacher in our experience. He seemed to be able to get even the duller boys interested and to ground them thoroughly in the facts without making the lessons merely an exercise of memory. He was of a most equable temperament, not irritable and changeable like some teachers are. Only once can we remember him really losing his temper.

It was upon a wet day, when the heavy downpour compelled us to await, in one of the rooms, the ringing of the bell for the resumption of lessons. Mr Austin came into the room, laid his hat upon the stationery press, and then went into the lobby to converse with the Rector. In the meantime we were practising "passing," and when the bell rang one of our number hurriedly placed our master's hat upon the football. It was only intended as a joke, and we thought Mr Austin would take it as such, but instead he keenly resented the action and reported the culprit to the Headmaster. It was an illustration of "If the cap fits, wear it" in a very unpleasant form. We had never intended to insinuate that Mr Austin was empty-headed, but evidently he viewed the matter in that light.

Not only was Mr Austin popular in school and playground. He was liked also in the home. He lived at Gladstone, and some half dozen or more of the scholars were under his superintendence. These were Miles Aspinall (The Smiler), Jack and Dan Aspinall, Gerald and Dick Turton (commonly known as Turtle Major and Turtle Minor), Lovell Davis, and W. MacLachlan. The latter rejoiced in the sobriquet of "Clockie," bestowed upon him by his fellow boarders. These, one and all, whilst they tried to dodge the "Prep," always had a good word to say of Mr Austin.

Good progress was made by the school during his time. For two or three years previous none of the scholars had distinguished themselves in competitive examinations, but in 1890 three of the pupils obtained very fair positions on the "with credit" list of the Junior Scholarship Examination. Had Mr Austin remained a little longer it is probable that he would have obtained the Rectorship on the resignation of Mr Highton. He, however, received the offer of the Geelong High School, which he promptly accepted. He was succeeded by Mr H. L. Fowler, who subsequently became Rector, and succeeded in bringing the school up to its present high state of proficiency. Since he left Invercargill we have not heard much of Mr Austin, but all contemporary "old boys" will join with us in wishing him success in the pursuit of his profession.



Old Boys' Column.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor, "Old Boys' Column," Box 85, G.P.O., Invercargill.

In order to attain our ideal of what an "Old Boys' Column" should be we desire to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of all "Old Boys." If you have heard of any ex-pupil acquitting himself well, pass on the good news, for it will undoubtedly be enjoyed by his class-mates; if you can give us an account of some of your own school experiences our editor will gladly welcome it; if, indeed, you know any item of interest to "Old Boys" do not "hide your light under a bushel," but let it shine forth in our columns.

We consider that the "Old Boys' Column" should be one of the strongest links that bind the Old Boys together; besides being the organ of the Association, it should be its best ally.

The annual dinner is undoubtedly a strong factor in bringing sundered school chums into fellowship again; but it cannot do this for "absent old boys" separated from us perchance by many hundred miles of sea. But the Old Boys' Column can, and should, accomplish this purpose. This is its mission, and to secure its perfect consummation we again solicit the interest and support of all ex-pupils.

The annual dinner is to be held on 27th May. The place of meeting has not yet been definitely decided upon, but it will probably be the School Gymnasium. Those "Old Boys" who were present at the last dinner will, we are sure, look forward to the next with keen anticipation. If hard work and foresight ensure success, the committee will be successful, and realisation will exceed anticipation. Whilst materially desiring as large a membership as possible, the Committee wish it understood that all "Old Boys," whether members of the Association or not, will be heartily welcomed to the dinner. We sincerely trust that every ex-pupil, who can possibly attend, will make a point of being present. We think we can safely guarantee a really "good time."

1904 The annual meeting of the Association, held last September, was not very largely attended. The principal business was the election of officers for the current year. Mr Eustace Russell was chosen President, and has since acquitted himself very creditably in his official capacity at the school games and the annual prize-giving. The vice-presidents number five in all, viz Messrs Alex M. Burns (of Wellington), Rev. J. A. Asher (of Napier), and Messrs W. Macalister, LL.B., H. A. Macdonald, and R. J. Gilmour, of Invercargill. These gentlemen were all prominent pupils of the school, and have since commanded respect in the wider arena of life, and the Association is justly proud of reckoning them amongst its members. The following "Old Boys"

comprise the committee, viz. Messrs F. Ball, J. T. Carswell, R. G. Christophers, D. Morton, J. G. McKay, A. M. Macdonald, and C. J. Whitaker. Mr A. Rowlands was elected secretary and treasurer, and has since filled the post with credit. The Association would gladly welcome to the ranks all past pupils of the school. The subscription is nominal, viz. 2s 6d per annum, and is mainly devoted to the encouragement of present scholars in their studies, and also in athletics.

We can hardly be permitted to close these notes without a brief reference to the resignation of Mr H. L. Fowler, formerly Rector of the school. Mr Fowler was universally respected by all "old boys," and more especially by those who passed under his tuition. Under his regime the school made great progress, and the names of pupils frequently appeared in the Scholarship lists. More than that, we believe that manliness and good taste were instilled into the scholars—qualities quite as essential as a knowledge of Latin and French. We wish Mr Fowler happiness and success in his new sphere of labour as Rector of Nelson High School. His connection with Southland and the "old school" will be amongst our kindest recollections.

ABOUT OLD BOYS.

Mr Fred. Ball (who joined the school in 1897), after being for several years in the local office of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, has received a transfer to Wellington, which we are pleased to say means very substantial promotion.

We have to congratulate Mr C. J. Brodrick on the extremely handsome and solid building erected under his supervision for the Bank of New South Wales, Invercargill.

We have also pleasure in placing on record the high honour attained by another "Old Boy," Mr E. R. Wilson, in gaining the first prize of £100 for the best design of a Town Hall and Theatre, to be erected by the Invercargill Municipality. Mr Wilson's achievement is all the more creditable when we remember that a number of the best architects in the colony competed for the prize.

We are glad to notice that Mr Basil Bastian has made a start upon his own account in Invercargill as a Civil Engineer and Authorised Surveyor. We also congratulate him and three other "Old Boys," J. Christophers, D. Morton, and H. Fleming, upon their win in the "Senior Fours" at Waiholo Regatta. We trust that in the race of life one and all of these comrades may maintain a lead of several lengths.

Mr Herbert Collins spent a short holiday in Invercargill lately. He is now employed in a hardware business at Timaru, and is getting on very well.

Mr W. Corbet spent a short holiday with his parents in Invercargill last Easter. He tells us that he is getting on famously in Wellington, where he has a good position as assistant in a soft goods business.

The "Old School" has been the nursery for many of Southland's best footballers. It was a treat to see Julian Christophers' fine running in the Interprovincial matches against Wairarapa and Auckland last season. His absence through illness was greatly felt in subsequent matches.

Rev. John Collie, M.A., of Crookston, preached at both diets of worship in First Presbyterian Church, Invercargill, on a recent Sunday. Mr Collie was one of the best students the school ever produced, and made a great name for himself at Otago University, where he graduated M.A. with honours. We are pleased to say that Mr Collie's health has considerably improved.

Mr W. J. Grigor, one of the oldest of the "Old Boys," spent a few days in Invercargill last December on the occasion of his sister's marriage to Mr Maconochie, of Victoria. Mr Grigor is still stationed with the National Mortgage Company at Timaru.

Mr J. A. Hanan, M.H.R., acquitted himself with credit during the recent session of Parliament, and made several able speeches on the licensing and other questions.

Dr W. A. Logan (Logie, we used to call him at school) is now practising his profession in Wellington with considerable success. He was in Invercargill a month or so back on a short holiday.

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Dr Angus McNab on the occasion of his marriage to Miss Evelyn Calder, of Melbourne. In conversation with Dr McNab, we learnt that he had abandoned his intention of settling in India, but will, instead, commence practice as an eye specialist in the Home Country.

Mr James G. McKay, an "Old Boy," a past master of the school, and one of the most active organisers of the "Old Boys' Association," proceeded this session to the Otago University, where he intends pursuing a course of study. We wish him every success, and have no doubt that he will acquit himself with credit.

Mr John McNab has sold part of his Kennington property, and intends shortly to visit Great Britain.

We record with sincere regret the death of Mr D. L. Matheson, for a number of years a member of the Board of Governors and father of three "Old Boys"—Messrs Alexander, Farquhar, and Donald Matheson. The late Mr Matheson was a great friend of the school, and frequently donated prizes for proficiency in study and in the school sports.

Mr G. F. Morison (Frank) has resigned his position in the Bank of New Zealand to start sheep farming in the Tapanui district.

The friends of Mr James M. Quinn will be pleased to learn that he has commenced business on his own account in Sydney as a produce broker. He has our heartiest good wishes for future success.

We regret to record the death, through a train accident, of Mr David Roche, junr., who was for a short time a pupil of the school.

We congratulate Mr Eustace Russell on his being chosen as President of the Old Boys' Association. Mr Russell has been one of the most enthusiastic members of the Association, and has spared no trouble to promote its interests.

Dr Ernest Rogers, who has for several years past been practising in Wyndham, is now *en route* for Britain. We wish him *bon voyage* and a safe return.

Our heartiest congratulations are tendered to Mr Fred. W. Reid on his appointment as Government Inspector of Mines at Zeelahn. Mr Reid originally went to Zeelahn as a clerk, but, a "slump" occurring, had to take off his coat and work in the mines. By dint of perseverance and judicious speculation, he accumulated enough money to go through a course of study at the Adelaide School of Mines, where he acquitted himself so well that he had no difficulty in securing the appointment referred to.

It is pleasant to learn of the marriage of schoolmates, and especially of ex-pupils of the old school. We congratulate Mr Percy B. Macdonald, son of Mr T. M. Macdonald, on his marriage to Miss Etta Traill, daughter of Mr A. W. Traill, of Ulva, Stewart Island. We wish Mr and Mrs Macdonald long life and happiness.

Mr George Tucker, who went to South Africa some years ago, has returned to Invercargill. George had many vicissitudes of fortune, having been employed by various mercantile houses, besides trying dairy farming. He tells us that the people in New Zealand don't know when they are well off, and expresses himself as glad to get back.

We record with pleasure the appointment of Mr Alexander T. Thompson, B.D., of Yale University, U.S.A., to the charge of Thames Presbyterian Church.

We congratulate Mr Alfred Tapper, of Waitoru, Wallacetown, upon his marriage to Miss Thomson, of Winton Plain.

We learn with pleasure that Mr R. H. Turton (Dick) has entered into partnership with his father, Mr Wesley Turton, solicitor, of Queenstown.

We regret sincerely the death of Mr George Walker, son of ex-constable Walker, who was drowned as the result of a capsizing of a sailing craft in the New River Estuary.

Amongst our "old boys" one of the shining lights in the realms of journalism is Mr G. H. Kingswell. Mr Kingswell is at present acting as war correspondent in Japan for one of the big London dailies (the St. James' Gazette.) Prior to that he had edited and been part owner of a West Australian paper, and on the outbreak of hostilities in South

Africa he proceeded thither, and started a newspaper (The Owl), acting also as war correspondent for (we think) the Daily Mail.

News has come to hand that two "Old Boys" have recently passed their final medical examination. Mr James A. Cowie (Big Bear), son of Mr Andrew Cowie, of Limehills, who has been a student at Glasgow University, passed his final at London. Mr J. R. Gilmour, son of Mr James Gilmour, of Winton, completed his course at Glasgow. We understand that he will shortly return to New Zealand to commence practice.

Mehaffey, Lindsay, N. Gilmour, and H. McKay, the senior boys of the school, have left our walls, and have started out in their various paths through life. Mehaffey and Lindsay have gone to Otago University—Lindsay with a Scholarship to study medicine. N. Gilmour is working in the office of the Southland Times, and will make one more link connecting that journal with the school. H. McKay has joined the staff of the Australian Mutual Provident Association, at the local office. We miss them all from the school and the sports ground, but wish them the best success in their various walks of life.

Mr C. Wild, for five years a boy in this school, and now in the employ of the Education Department, Wellington, has secured his B.A. degree from private tuition. It is a most arduous task to take a University degree while engaged in daily work, and Mr Wild has our congratulations on his success.

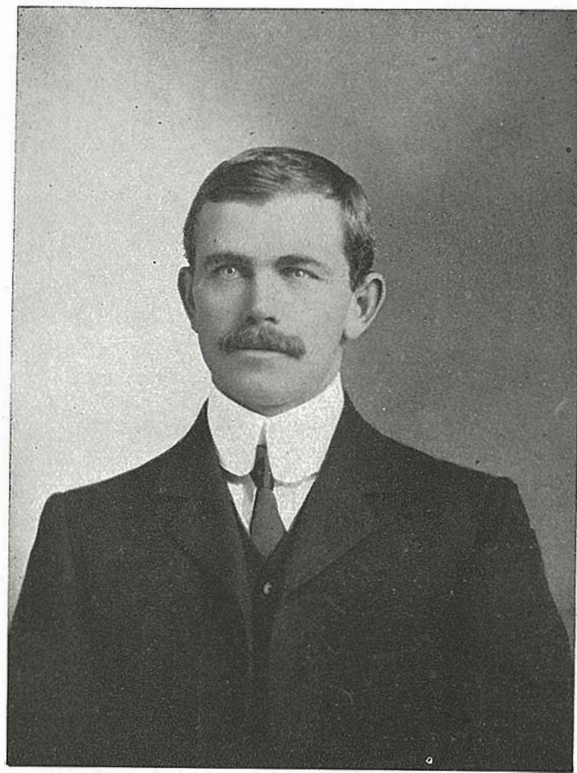
Bruce Baird, who last year won a Junior University Scholarship from the school, has sustained his credit at the University, where he took first-class passes in Theoretical and Practical Physics, and second-classes in Senior French and Mechanics.

E. Lindsay, who is at Otago University, has passed the first section of the B.A. degree.

W. H. Sinclair, who was at the school from 1901 to 1903, and is now teaching at Matura, was successful in the Matriculation examination.

Last year Acheson at Canterbury College passed the second University Examinations for the degree of B.Sc. in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, so that he has now completed the first examination for this degree.

R. McKay is also at Canterbury College. Last year he passed the College examinations in Mathematics and Chemistry, and took a portion of the exams. for the degree of B.Sc. in Engineering, and for the Certificate of Associateship of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.



H. O. STUCKEY, M.A., B.Sc.