

"Non scholae sed vitae discimus."

The Southland High Schools Magazine.

PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR.

SUBSCRIPTION:—*2s per Annum, is payable to the Editor, High Schools, Invercargill.*

Contributions from, and news relating to, old pupils will be thankfully received.

VOL. I.

SEPTEMBER, 1903.

No. 3

Editorial.

In his speech at the Old Boys' Annual Dinner, reference was made by the Rector to the fact that, though of late much improvement was noticeable there was still something wanting in the matter of *esprit de corps* among the pupils of the school. This was probably due in great measure to the youth of the school. In the older colleges of Great Britain, some of them dating back to the times of the Tudors, as for example, that of Eton which was founded by Henry VI in the year 1440, every student is led to consider the wearing of the college cap an honour. He becomes proud of his school, and will not suffer that any other is quite as good. In his school some of the great men who have shaped the course of the Empire have in time past received their mental training, sitting in the same benches. He realises his responsibility. No act of his must tarnish the good name of the school. Around him lie ancient landmarks, which perhaps in time of war have been centres of hot conflict, as was Cambridge during the Civil War; perchance some "Bodley's dome" or "Bacon's mansion trembling o'er his head." His, thinks he, is a heritage possessed by few,

honourable and unstained. The feelings of such a one Johnson has truthfully pourtrayed in his famous satire "The Vanity of Human Wishes":—

" When first the college rolls receive his name,
The young enthusiast quits his ease for fame,
Resistless burns the fever for renown,
Caught from the strong contagion of the gown."

Although we cannot hope to attain to such perfection all at once, yet if every boy tried to develop his abilities moral, mental and physical to the utmost, and thought of his school less as *magister* and more as *alma mater*, certainly we should not be deplored a lack of *esprit-de-corps*.

The present law of the land provides that all pupils passing the sixth Standard before a certain age shall have free admission to a High School. By this provision our Board of Governors have been practically forestalled since they had long been discussing methods by which the doors might be opened to all who merit a higher education and would profit thereby. The school has, however, been brought a stage nearer the level of the primary schools, from which pupils pass as but into a higher class. Every one must realise in what low esteem his school's honour is held by the average scholar of the primary school, and this in spite of the fact that loyalty to one's school is akin to patriotism, a virtue which all colonials possess to perfection. Is it surprising that those who enter thus hold the honour of the High School in proportionate esteem?

We think that perhaps one of the causes may be sought in the attitude of 2nd and 3rd year boys. Surely if these fully realised that their examples must eventually tell upon the characters and conduct of those beneath them it would not be necessary for drastic methods to be employed to persuade boys to take part in school games. Many of the boys we see only in the school room. The playground knows them not save under compulsion. The only bond between them and their school is one of work—a harsh tie, not likely to foster the growth of an *esprit-de-corps*. We trust that henceforth, amongst the elder boys at least, more interest will be evinced in the welfare of the school. For the mental training it gives, our school is second to none in the colonies, a fact which the public examinations amply prove. Let us all, then, strive to give it as good a record in other respects. Thus shall the honour of the school become dear to us and its associations and memories be cherished through life.

Exchanges.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following exchanges:—Nelsonian, Wellingtonian, Otago High School Magazine (3), Otago University Review (2), Christchurch High School, Scindian.

School Notes.

Early in the year the gymnastic craze was very strong, and not a few invested in "horizontals" as being the most convenient form of apparatus to manipulate. Others, less extravagant, utilised gas pipes, while some were content with convenient branches of trees. This calls to mind the experience of those few keen gymnasts who, at the end of 1901, tramped out to a bush behind the abattoirs, coming home laden with poles both long and large. On getting these erected they found of some that their girth was too large, of others the prominences were most uncomfortable, while others succumbed to the weight put upon them. However, all honour to the brave.

After one of the second's matches, an altercation having occurred between a diminutive member of our team and a correspondingly large one of the enemy, recourse was had to fisticuffs, but the amateur pugilists were forced to restrain their ardour and they adjourned *sine die*, which being interpreted, is till dusk.

In a previous issue of our magazine appeared a paragraph stating that the skull cap was in vogue. If there is one thing which especially makes a fellow look smart it is a small neat cap, not the great umbrella-like article so often purchased. We hope a school order will soon be issued to the effect that the whole school shall have a uniform headgear, and that the skull cap.

Some Vandals thought to disfigure the new lockers by imprinting their ignoble names thereon, but a speedy application of "eau froide" quelled their ardour somewhat. On second thoughts, however, their crime does not appear so large; since it is quite possible that that is the only place where they are likely to hand down their names to posterity, and in that case we should be sorry to deprive them of so well-deserved an honour.

During one of the paper-chases some of the fellows appeared with a large number of splendid apples. These they devoured with great avidity, thus showing they had forgotten that essential virtue in football, unselfishness in passing. For the benefit of those who may arrive at the natural conclusion that these were ill-gotten gains, we may as well explain that the previous owner of the apples was not averse to his loss, being one of the school-fellows. Nevertheless, it was observed with what regularity the paper-chases led in that direction several times after this incident.

The gym is supposed to be mostly a High School concern, but for about six weeks, whenever the footballers went round, they were told that dancing classes and other unnecessary evils had full sway and that there was no admittance. On the only occasion when we did get a practice, one of the fellows who was playing rather too keenly, smashed one of the globes with a misdirected kick. The opinion was freely expressed that such fragile articles are out of place in the gym, besides interfering, as they do, with the use of the trapeze.

The custom of giving fellows nicknames from some peculiarity, such as the colour of their hair, the sinuous curves of their legs and the area of their feet, seems to be dying out. We have heard the nickname of "Tiger" applied to one who is singularly meek, and in seeking an explanation we have come to the conclusion that he must have been the perpetrator of the following vile joke at the beginning of the year:—A notice was put up stating that an article of adornment generally called "a tie" (which has the peculiarity of being able to bear a great strain without completely strangulating its owner) had been found. The facetious youth changed this to "Found a tiger," thus showing his complete mental aberration.

Some novel translations of common Latin expressions have been produced by novices at unseens this year, and perhaps the best we have heard of late is one which shows how completely ideas of modern business life dominate even the mind of a schoolboy. "Jactans comam officio" was rendered by "Throwing a hare into his office," the real translation being "Tossing his hair in his ardour." An equally good specimen was "Pulsus tria tempora ramo," "having been struck three times with a battering ram!"

The school fellows have mustered fairly well to witness their representatives make trial of their strength, and there have not been wanting some of the old boys who still have an interest in the old school. In the case of the majority of that species, this spirit is only roused from its lethargy by the approach of the Old Boys' dinner or the break-up when they can see their successors receive the wonted prizes. In the case of the school fellows, however, we regret that it is the same ones every time who roll up, and that the barracking which even these enthusiasts keep up, is at times a very attenuated and disjointed murmur.

"A propos de" football, the unanimous opinion of spectators is that the school team plays the game, but that the same cannot be said of some of the other teams. There have been one or two (we do not attempt to disguise the fact) who assert that the team contains some fellows who can scrag on occasion. All we can say is that if these *criticasters* were to get upset in a scrum and then felt deliberate kicks on every portion of their bodies when the ball was far away from them, they would not be so inclined to say that "we" play a rough game. The team goes on the field to play, not to be played, and the result is, in most cases, a willing game.

Probably the most amusing incident of the otherwise monotonous football season took place during one of our later matches. We were having a line out and, according to the ancient custom of the school to make the game open, our half threw the ball well out. Immediately a scrum was formed, and the referee, unfortunately for his clothes, found himself in close proximity to the ball and the ground (which was, to say the least of it, none too clean).

As soon as the crowd of barrackers became aware of the unusual sight of a referee in the midst of the scrum, they became demonstrative with cries of laughter which the re-appearance of the referee with considerably damaged attire did not tend to lessen. The office of referee is thus, from another point of view, no sinecure.

Readers of "Chums" will have noticed in a back number that answers to the question "How to treat a boy bully" were solicited by the editor. Happily there is not much of that in colonial schools, and there are but few who will submit to such treatment (A few years back three enterprising juniors formed a "triple alliance" with, we may suppose, the customary oaths; these three stuck well together, and did indeed fight some battles, but the bellicose youths and their deeds are now almost forgotten). A more suitable question now would be what to do with fellows who take no interest in cricket or football, who are not keen at either the athletic or swimming sports, and who do not excel even in lessons. Such fellows *may* turn out "Milners and Kitcheners"—to quote a speaker at the Old Boys' dinner. We doubt it. Again, if they occupy a high position in the school who can gauge their influence on the present new boys, who next year will form the mainstay of sport in the school? De hac re sapientiores viderint.

A few years ago one of the 2nd form "beaux-esprits" when asked in an exam. on physics to define Force and Motion and give suitable illustrations, gave in his answer to the latter part of the question, the example of an engine. Wrote this youth—"If you try to stop an engine you can't." Acting on similar lines of thought, a precocious youth in the second form tried to change the geographical position of the asphalt at the back of the school, using his head as the point of application of force. He became unconscious and remained in a coma-like state till the universal restorer, cold water, brought back his battered senses. The medical verdict was that he had sustained an abrasion of the muscles of his arm. There must, however, be some mistake about that, as when last seen there was no sign of muscular development anywhere.

A somewhat unfortunate mishap befell a youth of less ambition who, while trying to breathe in words of instruction in the lab., inhaled some fumes of a gas more disagreeable than poisonous. (SH₂ is not the gas referred to nor even PH₃). This mysterious gas has a tendency to burn the mucous membrane of the throat, and caution must be exercised in its treatment. The sufferer soon recovered, but now his words are the words of Horace—"Hic locus displicet et diludia posco" (used more frequently, however, of the detention room). There have been known those, too, whom HNO₃ has maltreated, while others again have succumbed to the noxious fumes of C₂H₆O.

A subscription list in aid of the fund to erect a memorial to troopers who were killed in South Africa was opened during the term, and on the boys' side the sum of £5 1s was subscribed, composed of £2 5s from the staff, and the remainder from the various forms. It was

noticeable that in the 4th and 5th forms all subscribed, in the 3rd about half, while in the 2nd form the ratio of subscribers to non-subscribers was very small; another peculiarity was that the amount given decreased gradually from the 5th form downwards.

On several occasions those entering the school enclosure after the luncheon hour were welcomed by showers of hard pellets, hurled by the hands of hidden sharp-shooters. We are just afraid that those who convey such quantities of these missiles to school, do not realise the extent of the labour to which they are putting the janitor, who, during the football season especially, has quite enough to do to keep the dressing-room tidy.

The shop at the corner seems to have a great attraction for some of the gallants of the 3rd form, who are to be found leaning up against the posts at all hours. Others, again, are constantly in need of rulers, pencils, exercise-books and other articles of stationary, and make frequent journeys, ostensibly to get these, but in reality to buy confectionery, the results of which appear in ruined digestion, loss of wind and lack of form on the "footer" field.

QUERY:—Who was the genius who when reading that well-known line of Gray's,

"Haply some hoary-headed swain may say," got considerably mixed in his vowels, and ejaculated,

"Haply some hairyheaded swine may say?"

ANSWER:—Nemo! a pure fiction!

In "The Student's Rome" there occurs a passage describing how, when being tried before Marius, an old soldier tore off his tunic and displayed the scars of sword-cuts on his breast. On this Marius became visibly affected, and "iron tears rolled down his cheeks." Hence we get a new method for the preparation of chemically pure iron!

One of the fellows having occasion to consult a dentist about his teeth, which he alleged were swarming with "bacteria," entered the waiting-room without agitating the tintinabulum. The hour of closing came, and he received no summons to seat himself in the dread chair. Still he lingered on, but no call came. At length the situation became serious. "In tali tempore" he made his way out, to find the place deserted and the door locked. Some allege that the prisoner then lowered himself down to terra firma by a barber's pole in front of the surgery. Others are of opinion that the suffering patient rendered himself insensible by administering nitrous oxide gas. A third party insists that nothing happened at all, but he is in a decided minority.



Athletics.

FOOTBALL—(1st fifteen).

Results of flag matches:—

Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points for.	Points against.
8	3	2	3	40	34

Out of a possible of 16 flag points 9 have been gained.

v. ATHLETIC.

School, 0. Athletic, 6.

This match was played on the Western Reserve on Wednesday, 20th May, just after we had returned from our holidays. Of the play, little can be said, except that all of our team were out of form, and that little combination was shown. In the first spell the game was fairly contested, the forwards holding their own pretty well, but the backs gave a poor display. About the end of this spell the Athletics scored a try, which was, however, not converted. In the second half our opponents, who showed fine combination, were attacking nearly the whole time, and we were very lucky in having only one more try scored against us.

Of individual play in this match there is practically nothing to be said, except that Lindsay, playing centre, showed very good form and saved his side again and again.

v. STAR.

School, 0. Star, 0.

Since our last game we had had two good practices, and so had more confidence when we set foot on the Western Reserve on the following Wednesday, May 27th.

The Star proved to be much heavier than our last opponents, but the school played a very good game. The play in the first spell was very open and even, neither side scoring. After the second kick-off, the game was still more open, but the school had much the best of it, and were attacking nearly all the time. The forwards, at every line out, packed round well and frequently broke right away with the ball at their toes, but although the defence was weak were unable to score, a peculiarity which, by the way, has shown itself a characteristic of our fifteen; not only in several matches this year, but also in years past; if any of our opposing teams break away with a good rush they, more often than not, score. For the sake of the future footballers of the school we may mention here that it is our opinion that, in such cases as these, not enough independence is shown. We do not wish to deprecate the statement that combination is almost everything in a football team, for we recognise that it is; but if players had gone more "on their own" and picked up the ball and dashed for the line, instead of dribbling, passing the ball from foot to foot, and, in the excitement, invariably losing it, we think that more matches would have been won. For instance, take Gilmour's score against the Pirates on June 17th: he scored from a forward rush by picking up the ball and dashing over; previous to this the school team had made many such rushes, but as they went in for too much combination when near the line the attack had always been warded off. Although this may not be the case with other clubs, it is undoubtedly the case with the school teams, for which reason we have mentioned it here.

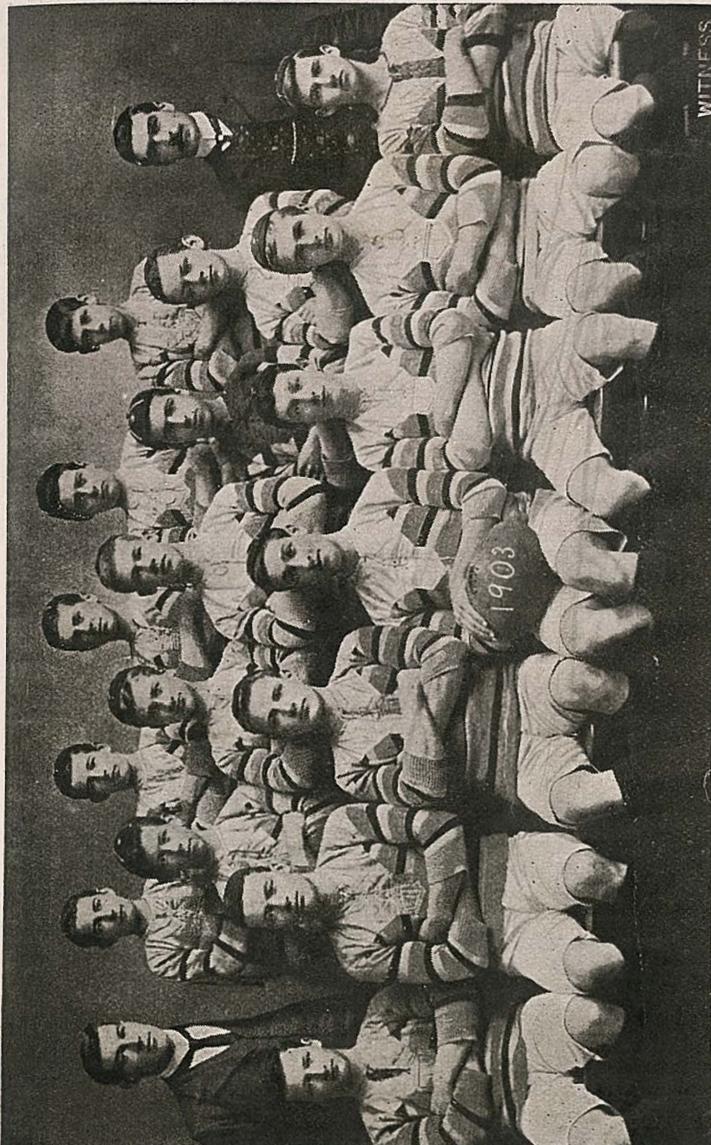
The team in this match showed a decided improvement in almost every way; much more dash was shown, and the following up was excellent. All the players, except the second form members in the forwards, were in good form and went hard from beginning to end.

v. CAMBRIDGE.

School, 0. Cambridge, 14.

After our display on the previous Wednesday it was hoped that a good stand would be made against this strong, but light, team. However, the hopes of our supporters were soon dashed to the ground, the Cambridge in the first twenty minutes scoring four tries, of which one was converted. The school's performance during this period was extremely miserable, the light and quick Cambridge forwards running

Southland High School Football Team, 1903.



WITNESS

Back Row.—Mr J. McKay F. MacGibbon J. Lewis J. Murdoch D. Smith T. Carswell H. Christopers H. Macalister Mr J. Hanna

Middle Row.—A. McLeod F. Earle B. Lindsay H. McKay J. Mehaffey (Capt.) R. Hay M. Mitchell A. Lyttle

Front Row.—B. H. Gilmour G. Tears H. McKay Points for—67. Against—33.

Matches Played—9. Won 4, Lost 2, Drawn 3.

round and through our pack which was poorly formed. And even during the remainder of this spell, and the whole of next, the exhibition made by our team was very poor, the forwards being beaten in open play, and the backs as a whole showing inability to stop rushes.

v. PIRATES.

School, 3. Pirates, 3.

This match was also played on the Western Reserve on June 17th. Almost at the beginning of the first half the Pirates scored from a splendid rush. The school lined up for the kick-off, determined to wipe off this reverse, and began attacking with great energy but did not score till almost the end of the first spell, B. Gilmour being instrumental in equalising the scores. All through the second spell the Pirates were kept defending, but no score was obtained.

The team, as a whole, played very well in this match, their play being characterised by much the same points as in the match against the Star on the 27th of May.

v. ATHLETIC.

School, 10. Athletic, 7.

The first win of the season was gained in this match, which was played on Roche's paddock on July 1st. During the first spell the school played down hill, and had the best of the game, although the Athletic backs gave a fine exhibition. After twenty minutes' play McLeod scored, Mears being mainly instrumental in obtaining it. McKay converted. For the rest of the spell the Athletics played a fine up-hill game, and attacked strongly at the beginning of the second half, when they scored a try, which was, however, not converted, although a very good attempt was made. The school now began to see that they would have to "liven up" if they wished to win, and so they set to work with a will, play being carried to the enemy's goal-line. From a line out there McKay scored and converted the try, with a fine kick at a very difficult angle. The attackers were now attacked, with the result that the Athletics obtained a mark right in front of the posts and kicked a goal. The score was now—School 10, Athletic 7, and after the kick off our team was kept defending. Nearly all the play was in our twenty-five, and about five minutes from time the ball went out about three yards from our line, a scrum-mage followed, after which opponents crossed the line. We do not know whether it was a try or a force-down, but the referee, who appeared to be in the same position as we were, decided in our favour. Shortly after time was called.

The Athletics had hard luck at the end of this match in not scoring, but we, also, have to endure the same kind of thing. Our team played well in all respects, Lindsay of the backs and McKay of the forwards, displaying particularly good form.

v. CAMBRIDGE.

School, 0. Cambridge, 0.

This game, played on Roche's paddock on July 8th, was undoubtedly one of the slowest of the season. The play was nearly all scrum work, each side in the first half having a fair share of the attack. During the second spell the School was attacking for the most of the time, although now and again the Cambridge were dangerous. However, no score was obtained by either side, and so ended one of the slowest games (at least for the spectators), of the season.

v. STAR.

School, 18. Star, 0.

This match was played on the Eastern Reserve, which was in a terribly muddy state, on July, the 22nd. The School, winning the toss, played down-hill with the sun and got on some good passing rushes, the backs handling the greasy ball with fair accuracy. The Star forced several times, and during the first spell were never near our line. Near half-time Lindsay picked up the ball near the corner and grounded it over the line. No goal resulted.

In the second half the Star put more vigour into their play, and no further score was obtained for about twenty minutes, when Mehaffey scored from a line out. The attempt at goal failed. Soon after the Star started a fine dribbling rush right down the field, but owing to erratic kicking the ball went out of play at the corner. The School then rallied, and McLeod, Mehaffey, Lyttle, and McKay registered tries in quick succession, but no goals were kicked, and the whistle blew after 6 tries had been scored.

In this game our opponents, especially in the second spell, played very poorly, although some good individual play was seen now and again. The School team played up to their usual form, and displayed considerable "dash."

v. PIRATES.

School, 9. Pirates, 4.

The Western Reserve was in fair condition for this match on July 29th. From the kick off the Pirates began to attack, and very soon obtained a mark, from which a goal was kicked. The rest of the spell was fairly even, although another goal was very nearly registered from a mark, and thus play began again after half-time, with the score standing—School 0, Pirates 4. The School attacked strongly, and about five minutes after the resumption of play McKay kicked a goal from a free kick, leaving the score—School 3, Pirates 4. Soon after McKay scored but did not convert. We were now two points ahead, but did not relax our energies, with the result that McKay shortly before call of time registered his second try.

The play on both sides was good in this match, although the Pirates seemed to give up all hope as soon as their score was passed. For the School, McKay, Mehaffey and Lindsay played well.

v. OLD BOYS.

School, 27. Old Boys, 0.

This match, played on the Eastern Reserve on the 4th of August was practically a game against a weak Blues' seconds, and proved an easy victory for the School. The Old Boys played a plucky game, especially in the second spell, when they held their own pretty well. In the first half six tries were scored by the School playing down hill, but none were converted.

For the School team, who played well together, McKay (2), Lindsay (2), McLeod (2), Mehaffey, Lyttle, and MacGibbon scored tries. Among the Old Boys V. Christophers, Churton, Carswell, McKay, Russell, and "Pickwick" were prominent.

CRITICISM OF 1ST FIFTEEN.

- M. Mitchel—Full-back: good kick; rather weak on defence, and lacks dash on attack; has played well towards the end of the season, improving in all respects.
- F. MacGibbon—Wing three-quarter; although diminutive has played consistently throughout the season, fielding, kicking and running in very fair style; should develop into a first-class man.
- A. B. Lindsay—Centre; the mainstay of the backs, good on defence and attack; kicks, finds line, and passes well, but slightly weak in collaring; follows his kick well, and is splendid at going through a crush; very hard to hold.
- G. Lewis—Wing three-quarter; a good fielder, showing up most in defence; runs into the middle of the forwards; lacks dash in attack, and should have scored on several occasions.
- D. Smith—Five-eighths; knows what to do with the ball, finding the line splendidly; is good on defence but not so good on attack.
- A. McLeod—Five-eighths-or wing forward; has considerable pace and scoring talent; weak on defence and cannot take the ball with certainty; should learn to get round the scrum on to the half-back; unable to part with the ball; inclined to loaf.
- H. Macalister—Half-back; has been out of form during several matches, but has played fairly well nevertheless; throws out the ball well on the line but not to his backs; fair on defence; should use his head in feeding his backs.
- J. Mehaffey—Makes a fine captain (2nd year); front ranker; hooks the ball well, and puts all his weight into the scrum; splendid on the line and brilliant in collaring, but lacks dash in the open; has played consistently the whole season.

- R. Hay—Front ranker; very good in the open, following up well; a trifle weak in defence, but a hard worker when not off colour.
- H. McKay—Lock; is a splendid forward but not too fast; excels in the open and works hard from start to finish; has done good work in front rank since Hay left.
- G. Mears—A player of great strength; runs well when he gets away, being hard to stop; ought to have scored on several occasions; should use his head more; has acted as "lock" during latter part of term.
- B. H. Gilmour—Has improved immensely, exerting himself considerably more than last year; a strong runner.
- W. Henaghan—Was playing well when obliged to stop from ill-health; good on the line out.
- F. Earle—Plays fairly well; ought to have exerted himself more; weak on tackling, but good on the line.
- A. Lyttle—Has shown himself a good worker, getting away with the ball at his toe; puts his man down hard.
- H. Christophers—Shaped well at first but has degenerated; fairly fast and dribbles well, but lacks precision and ability to stop rushes.
- J. Murdoch—Originally played at full-back; works hard throughout, having weight and strength.
- F. Carswell—A keen player; has got into the team through sheer hard work, follows up and is the makings of a good player.

2ND FIFTEEN.

The Seconds, although they have played only two outside matches, have otherwise had a very successful year. They have attended the Monday and Tuesday night practices very well, and have "rolled up" in fair numbers to the paper-chases. Earle was appointed captain by the General Committee, and has carried out his duties splendidly.

v. SOUTH SCHOOL.

High, 0. South, 14.

The South School forwards carried all before them for the most part of the game, and did not give our backs a chance to do any passing by their quick following up and accurate collaring. For the School Henderson, Alexander, Hawke, Carswell, and Macalister played best.

v. MIDDLE SCHOOL.

High, 9. Middle, 0.

The Middle backs played a fair game, but their forwards were outclassed. For the School, Lewis, McLeod, Miller, and Earle did good work.

JUNIORS.

A meeting of Juniors was held in the Long Room on April 29th. Gardiner was elected captain and Fleming secretary. It was decided to hold a weekly practice on Thursday afternoon, and to adhere to the old custom of having the paper-chase after drill on Tuesdays. They have left nothing to be desired in the way of attending practices, fully thirty being present each time; but, in the matter of paper-chases, we are sorry to say they have not shown so much enthusiasm as last year's form did.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

The First Fifteen may be considered to have had a very good year. Although not very successful in their first matches, they have drawn up wonderfully towards the close of the season. This is, of course, due to the regularity with which they have attended practice, for which they are to be complimented.

No form matches were played this year, as equal sides could not be obtained by any division.

The annual match Town v. Country was won by the town by 17 points to 0.

Our first match of the season, which was to be played against the Pirates, had to be postponed as they did not put in an appearance. Although we claimed the match the Rugby Union ordered it to be played at the end of the season, as the Pirates had been under a misunderstanding about the arrangements. How this can be we fail to see, because the Pirates' Secretary came to the school and arranged about the match. Again, the Union, who ordered it to be played at the end of the season, must have known that this was impossible since our fixtures ran right up to the time of the commencement of the interpro. matches, when no other matches could very well take place.

We have been put to considerable trouble this year through the referees appointed by the Association not turning up. In many cases we have had to pick a referee off the ground, which was not very satisfactory; but in some instances we have not been able to do that. In the Cambridge match we had to wait for half an hour, until at last Mr McKay consented to act as referee.

The football ground ought to be in excellent condition next season on account of the extensive draining operations now being carried on.

We wish to thank Mr McKay for the regularity with which he has come down and helped us at practice, and also Mr Hanna for the enthusiasm which he has shown in the gymnastic operations of the team.

At the beginning of the season first-fifteen badges were given to all last year's players, viz:—Lindsay, McKay, Mehaffey, Mears, Hay, Henaghan, and B. Gilmour. During the season McGibbon and D. Smith were awarded one each for brilliant play, and at the end of the term, for consistent play throughout, Carswell, Christophers,

M. Mitchel, J. Lewis, Lyttle, Earle, McLeod, and Murdoch. As Hay and Smith have left, this leaves fifteen who have received the badge of honour from their school.

The additions effected at the back of the school have been a benefit to the boys, who are accordingly grateful to the Board for their consideration.

Several times during the term Mr McKay kindly consented to preside at meetings of the first fifteen. On one occasion the rules, as issued by the Southland Rugby Union, were gone through; and on other occasions, the defects of the previous Wednesday's play were spoken of, a course which proved very beneficial in the following games.

C. B. Fry, in "The Captain," gives the following advice on the subject of barracking:—The lookers-on should cheer good play impartially. There is no patriotism in an unceasing and meaningless shout of "School." Let good play be cheered and appreciated; let a win be enthusiastically received. But do not let the opposing team be left out in the cold.

Paperchasing.

It was decided at the football meeting to carry on paperchases this year; and, taking the term as a whole, there is no doubt that the sport has been successful. Our reason for taking the term as a whole is that, for various reasons, the shooting practice in the gym. being the chief, our runs have not been held so regularly towards the end of the term as they were at first.

In our excursions, about 100 miles have been traversed, and the country visited has been much more varied than last year. The longest run of the year was on the 4th of July. Lindsay and Melaffey were hares, and led the course north to the Waikiwi river, passing right through the bush; thence the trail went westward for about two miles, then turning to the south, striking Otatara road about three miles from the North road. The total distance was about 12 miles, and some of the most beautiful country traversed in paperchases during the last two years, was passed through.

We hope that, next year, this branch of athletics will continue to prosper, for, as training for every purpose, it cannot be surpassed.

Drill Notes.

Since last issue of the magazine there has been little change in the personnel of the corps, which is given below:—

Captain: Mr J. G. McKay.

Lieutenant: Mr J. McKinnon.

Sergeants: H. McKay, J. Melaffey, N. Gilmour, B. Gilmour.

Corporals: B. Lindsay, R. Kennedy, Mears, D. Smith.

Lance-Corp.: C. Ive, M. Macalister, H. Mitchell, J. Murdoch, with 48 cadets.

B. Gilmour has taken the place of Hay, who left school during last term, Mears being promoted to corporal.

D. Smith also left, and we expect his place to be filled up next term.

As soon as the whole company was supplied with uniforms parades were held every Tuesday afternoon, either in the football grounds, or, if, as is often the case, these were in too bad a condition, on the road in front of the school. When, however, a drill day turned out particularly wet, in lieu of the ordinary parade there would be a general cleaning up of arms and accoutrements. Such days came on pretty often last term, but not too often, we think, for the rifles.

With the end of this term we bid goodbye, for ever we hope, to the old Snider carbines with which we have hitherto been armed. On his last visit of inspection Colonel Robin definitely promised to equip the corps with new magazine Lee-Enfield rifles as soon as possible, and we have good reason to believe that these will be to hand on our return to school. The Lee-Enfield supplied to cadets is much lighter than the antiquated Snider, and in every respect more suitable for the purpose.

Shortly after the uniforms came the leggings, which were welcomed with much delight by all concerned. For the first few days, of course, everybody had some difficulty in getting into them, but we soon became used to them, and now the appearance of the company is vastly improved.

There has been a great change lately in the style of the drill. A couple of years ago the principal achievements of the cadets were the "manual" and "firing" exercises, "physical drill" and marching in close order. Now, according to the new regulations, the greater part of the work is done in extended order, with scouts out on both flanks, in the van and in the rear. Our instruction has been quite up-to-date, and we have received practical illustrations of the modern method of warfare; namely, advancing in skirmishing order and taking advantage of every scrap of cover. On one occasion the valour displayed by one section in attacking and capturing an armoured train (in other words, a few empty trucks), was truly encouraging, but, considering the boldness with which these gallant warriors exposed their persons to the fire of the enemy, scorning all cover, we are forced to believe that very few of them would have attained their object in actual warfare.

As we have said above, the very latest drill has been introduced. Its chief characteristic is its extreme simplicity. Movements that before were intricate and difficult, can now be performed with the greatest celerity and ease. At first it was naturally rather perplexing to forget one set of rules and learn a new one, but now every sergeant is supplied with a modern drill-book, and it will be his own fault if he does not understand his work.

During the last term holidays a target was fixed up in the gymnasium, and on several Saturday mornings in the term practices were held at short ranges, the Gaudet miniature ammunition being used. These practices served not only to pick out the promising shots of the school, but also to show the extreme hopelessness of some of the juniors who cannot go anywhere near a fairly large target at less than thirty yards.

A few months ago after the beginning of last term, Captain Hughes, D.S.O., paid us a visit of inspection. The majority had no uniforms, and had handled rifles only once or twice previously, but, to judge by what the captain said, he was quite satisfied with our general efficiency, considering the circumstances. The football grounds were not fit to be used, so the few manœuvres we went through were performed on the ground beside the gymnasium.

On Thursday, June 16th, Colonel Robin inspected the corps on the grounds. The various sections were put through the manual and the new drill, and considering they had had but one previous trial, they performed fairly creditably. Some recruits from the awkward squad rather "put the show away," but on the whole the company did well. There was a muster of 56 rank and file, and Captain McKay and Lieutenant McKinnon were also present. At the conclusion the company was formed into a hollow square when Colonel Robin expressed himself as pleased with the progress of the company, complimented it on its improved appearance, and expressed the hope that on his next visit when we had received our new arms, he would be able to record further progress. He concluded his remarks by urging us to uphold the honour of our "alma mater" both in uniform and out of it, and also when we were no longer pupils.

The New Weapon.

MAGAZINE LEE-ENFIELD CARBINE.

Weight, 7lb 8ozs.; length, 3ft. 4in.; length of barrel, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; calibre, .303in.; rifling Enfield; twist uniform; left-handed; 1 in 10in.; 5 grooves; depth of grooves .005in.; width of lands .0936ins; muzzle velocity 2000f.s. The carbine is a bolt system gun, the breech being closed by a bolt worked backwards and forwards in the body by a lever on the right side of its rear end, bent in to the body. The bolt

contains the mainspring and striker. The striker, which is inserted from the front end of the bolt, passes through the mainspring and screws into the cocking-piece which travels under the rear end of the bolt. The cocking piece has a safety catch, by means of which the whole action can be locked. The bolt-head carries the extractor. There are two holes or gas-escapes in the body, one on either side of the breech to facilitate a lateral escape of gas in case of a burst cartridge. The magazine holds six cartridges. It is secured in front by a link to a staple and behind by the magazine catch. To enable carbine to be used as a single-loader a cut-off is provided. A recess is provided in the butt for the carriage of an oil-bottle and a pull-through. There is secured over the barrel a wooden hand guard to protect the left hand. The foresight is of the barley corn pattern and protected by two wings. The leaf of the backsight is graduated from 600 to 2000 yards with short lines for the intermediate fifties; the bed is graduated from 200 to 500 yards.

Ammunition—Charge, 30 grains cordite in 60 small strands. Bullet, a compound one, consisting of a core of 98 per cent. lead, 2 per cent. antimony and an envelope 80 per cent. copper, and 20 per cent. nickel; length of bullet, 1.25in. diameter; max. .311, mean .307. Case—brass, solid-drawn; wad, cardboard disc; weight of bullet 215 grs., cartridge 415 grs., package of 10 rds. 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ ozs.

Hints for the new rifle :—

A RIFLE should never be used for carrying weights, nor for any unauthorised purpose.

It should not be FORCED into the arm rack.

Great care should also be taken to PREVENT ITS FALLING, as its shooting qualities might be seriously damaged, more especially at the muzzle, which is least protected.

The foresight must be carefully protected from injury.

The rifle should never be carried with the leaf of backsight raised.

As the bore is only the size of a lead pencil it is almost impossible to clean a rifle once it gets dirty. The rifle should always be kept greased with vaseline or mineral jelly when not actually in use.

Correspondence.

(To THE EDITOR.)

SIR.—In the columns of the last Mag. there appeared an article entitled "Commentaria," contributed by one, whom, for the sake of brevity, I shall call "Old Boy," supposing him to be of that "genus." In this article he has taken upon himself the duty of discussing one of my statements. In order that the reader may understand the state of affairs, he must know that an article signed by a writer using the nom-de-plume of Vercingetorix, (who for the benefit of those ignorant of Caesar's mysteries, was a leader of the Gauls against the Romans under Casar), appeared in a former issue, in which article occurred the following sentence, "I desire to know why the game of cricket should be made compulsory if attendance at football is optional;" in discussion of which, "Old Boy" proceeds to trace the history of football from the earliest times deriving it from the Gr. episkuros and the Latin harpastum. This may be so, although Professor Beckering his "Gallus," a modern text book of Roman antiquities, inclines to the opinion that several balls were used in Harpastum. Also in that game, the "pila" used was a small hard elastic ball, like the modern cricket ball, while that corresponding to the football of to-day was the "follis," a large but light air-filled balloon. However that concerns Roman antiquities.

After giving some extracts from the writings of James I. and Sir Thomas Eliot, "Old Boy" concludes by expressing the opinion that football has been "from the earliest times a game of roughness," and may even now degenerate into such. "Therefore," says he, "the reason is obvious why cricket should not be compulsory." But here "Old Boy" makes a mistake in his reasoning which up to this point is good. His argument is, shortly, this "football has a very black history while cricket has a good one, therefore football should not be compulsory."

In a certain well-known Essay on the Political Value of History, the author makes the statement that if an institution, although it may have had a very black history, is still at the present time accomplishing some good object, it cannot be condemned from its past. "Old Boy" dilates on the bad history of football, but he acknowledges that it is now a game of science; he will no doubt admit that its good qualities are greater than the bad, that it, in fact, justifies its existence. Therefore if it accomplishes some good object, it should be compulsory for all those who may get good from it, to exert themselves to gain the benefit.

Let me now refer to a few of these benefits to be derived from football. Besides mere muscular development, endurance and fleetness of foot, football fosters such virtues as pluck, unselfishness, and self-restraint. When these are not exercised, then the darker points in the game come out, and we have the "roughness and brute force" that "Old Boy" talks about. My own experience is that with the exception of a plunge in the waters of the deep there is no exercise which can come up to a good keen game of football.—I am,

VERCINGETORIX.

A correspondent, under the nom-de-plume of "Caius," writes proposing that in future practice for the football season should begin earlier, arguing from the results of this year's matches that such a course would be beneficial. We concur in his opinion.

A HOLIDAY TRAMP.

(To THE EDITOR.)

SIR,—During the last Christmas holidays we, a party of four H.S. boys, spent about five weeks camping in the Cold Lakes district. For the first four weeks we stayed at One Mile Creek, near Queenstown, but, although it was very pretty up the gully, we tired of it and decided to walk to Lake Wanaka, 42 miles off. So, having made due preparations, we started off on January 9th at nine o'clock, and, judging by the astonished stares of passers by, we must have looked peculiar with our swags on our backs.

Thus began the first day, and it proved to be a very toilsome one. We soon reached Frankton, which is chiefly noted, with us at anyrate, for its particularly juicy strawberries. Continuing on, the next place of interest was the Shotover River, of a beautiful clay colour, owing to the numerous dredges on its flats. Here one of our number succumbed to thirst and entered an hotel, but he says he only took lemonade. Lake Hayes, a mile or two further on, is prettily set amongst steep hills, which are clearly reflected by the smooth water. At lunch time, O welcome hour! we were on the banks of the Arrow River; our meal, frugal but hearty, being in nowise marred by the sight of the Crown Range, which we had to cross. The inner man satisfied, we commenced the ascent, but our progress up the Zigzag road was slow and laborious. Soon we came to a sort of plateau, at that time green with oats, and here there was a splendid view of the surrounding country. Then ensued the hardest climb of the day, the road inclined steadily upwards for weary miles. However, all things came to an end in time, and at length, with a united sigh, we reached the top. But oh! how cold it was! Although it was midsummer it almost froze our marrow-bones. We camped on the summit for the night, but none of us could get to sleep for the noise our neighbours made shivering. Here endeth the first day.

In the morning, breakfast discussed, we set off in high glee, for the road was all down-hill. We were just at the source of the Cardrona River, which in its course, continually crosses and recrosses the road, all travellers having to wade through as best they can. Cardrona town was reached a little past eleven o'clock, but we stopped only for provisions and drink (lemonade, as before). Lunching about twelve, we tramped wearily on, wearily, because this stage of the journey is very uninteresting. Low tussocky hills rise on either hand, hills nude of trees, but dotted in places by patches of a fiendish shrub well called the "Wild Irishman." On, on, ever on, through the dirty yellow river, and still the hot dusty road had no end. Nobly we battled on, and well, until at about 6 o'clock our hearts were cheered by the sight of the little town of Pembroke and the blue waters of Lake Wanaka. Straight to an hotel we went and had a satisfying meal. Then camping on the station of a settler, we slept the sleep of the weary. Thus passed the second day.

Our rate of progress was of no mean order, 15 miles the first day and 27 the second, and constant wettings did not tend to lessen troubles of the way.

The following day we enjoyed idleness and good, well cooked meals, the owner of the estate having placed a hut at our disposal, containing a good stove.

Having had a good night's sleep we packed up again, and after a long fight with the chimney, which had accidentally caught fire, we again took the road, but we did not intend to return to Queenstown by the same route by which we had come. We were to go through the little known Motutapu Gorge. Our road lay along the lake-side for some miles, and at Glendhu, an estate which we passed through, we were told that, although it required a bit of pluck to venture through the Gorge, we could not miss the way. But we did miss the way, and went about five miles up a creek which led to nowhere, so there was nothing for it but to return to Glendhu disconsolate. This mistake added about 10 miles to our travels.

We got fairly started the next day and passed through mountainous country for about 16 miles. A miner was met with occasionally; otherwise there was a monotonous view of mountains and water and sky. That night we struck the walls of an old hut and threw our tent across them. No wood was to be found anywhere, so our provender remained cold.

About 6.30 the following morning we started on the last stage of our journey. About noon Arrowtown was reached, where we satisfied our thirst and purchased two tins of jam to lubricate the bread. By the way, approaching Arrowtown, the road resembles the far-famed Skippers Road. After lunch we jogged along with light hearts and reached Queenstown, home, sweet home, at five o'clock.

We were not sorry to be home again, although we had enjoyed the trip immensely. We shall long remember our adventures, and go over the trip again in our minds. Although we felt stiff for a few days after, that feeling soon left us, and we thoroughly enjoyed the remainder of our stay in Queenstown. "X."

Girls' School.

The most important event in the school life of this term has been our annual entertainment. For some weeks it was looked forward to with bright anticipations, all those who enjoyed last year's gathering expecting a repetition of their former pleasure, and painting its enjoyment in glowing colours to the new girls. The examination lost half its dread with the promise of such a treat to follow, and now that it is all past we feel sure that none have been disappointed. There was the usual amount of preparation, but the work was pleasant, especially to those who were going to act in a real play for the first time in their lives, and rehearsals (which are apt to grow monotonous) were attended quite cheerfully. The "cooking" girls had the hardest work, for they had to give much time in order to be able to please their friends with a good display of sweets of their own make. A debt of gratitude is due to Mrs Turner for her very great assistance in this part of the work, and we also wish to thank Mr McKay and Mr Hanna for their help in decorating the gymnasium, and the latter also for superintending the girls' drill.

The play acted by the girls before their friends who filled the Gymnasium was Tennyson's "Princess," put into more everyday language by Sullivan. Princess Ida (Miss M. Palmer) kept a seminary for girls, who, upon entering it, vowed to give up the companionship of man for ever, and she strove to prove that "woman, educated to the work, can meet man on his own ground and beat him there." Her former lover, Prince Hilarian (Miss H. Smith), with Florian and Cyril (Misses Meek and Ellis), enter the college disguised as young women in order to take her away from her foolish task. Cyril's sister, Lady Psyche (Miss Stuart), who is a teacher in the college, recognises her brother, while Melissa (Miss M. Carr), a young girl who has never seen a man, overhears Lady Psyche's conversation with the intruders, but she is so pleased with their masculine appearance that she promises to keep the secret. Lady Blanche (Miss J. McKay), has strong suspicions of the sex of the new comers owing to their awkwardness and their ignorance of all feminine arts, and when she finds a cigar-case her suspicions are confirmed. Her daughter Melissa tells her the secret and coaxes her to aid the Prince's plan, for it would give her the opportunity of becoming first in the college. Lady Blanche agrees to do this. The Princess, however, evidently hears of the plot, for in the last scene she has all her maidens in battle array, and is prepared for war against man. To her dismay she then finds that her followers have grown faint hearted; their muskets are stored away for

fear they might go off," the band is not well and can't come out, and even Lady Psyche wants to use tongues to blow the enemy up, instead of that terrible gunpowder. The deserted Princess then bravely determines to fight the foe alone, and the audience sees her for the last time as she sets out on her lonely mission. All the girls acted their parts very well, and others who represented minor characters in the play were Misses A. Anderson (Sacharissa), E. Stead (Chloe), and N. Waymouth (Ada).

The play finished, the visitors were shown that if maidens did object to fighting they were very clever at making sweets, as the pretty baskets containing these dainties, which the girls handed round, testified. A Scotch reel was then very gracefully danced by Misses Hawke, A. Pilcher, M. Simon, and Field, who were instructed by Miss Aytoun. The girls also gave exhibitions in dumb-bell exercises and club-swinging, and solos were rendered by Miss Kilburn and Mrs Forbes-Williams. After supper the floor was cleared for dancing until 11 o'clock, which came round all too quickly, and the happy evening was ended with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

During the evening Miss Stevenson thanked the friends for their presence, saying that she liked them to see the happy side of school life, besides the hard part when lessons were being prepared, and now all the girls feel grateful to Miss Stevenson and the other teachers for the trouble they took in order to give them an evening of enjoyment.

Games.

A novelty for this school in the way of a Skipping Competition was held during the winter. As skipping was found to be an excellent warming exercise on the frosty mornings, and as we were told that it improved the instep many girls went early to school to enjoy their old pastime, and a competition was the result. It was very successful, and prizes were given for slow skipping, pepper and hopping skipping, which were won respectively by A. Cockburn, C. Ramsay, and M. Palmer.

A tennis tournament was commenced at the end of the season but we are sorry to say that it was never finished. A large number entered, and all the matches were played off excepting a few of the finals which were left for the last afternoon of the term. The girls brought afternoon tea, and meant to enjoy watching the final results of the tournament, but the inclement weather spoilt their plans, and a heavy fall of rain forced them to take refuge in the Gymnasium. As the afternoon tea could not be wasted, a High School Girls' party was held, and the time passed very pleasantly in playing Charades, "Hawks and Chickens," and dancing—but those finals! The results of them are not known yet.

Southland High School Old Girls' Association.

It is not as a figure-head of an association of Old Girls that I enter into the columns of this magazine, but in response to a request from a present High School pupil of the male persuasion. Old girl, indeed! It is not quite 50 years since I carved my name on the desk of that noble academy of learning—the Southland High Schools, and I can still here and there, pick some hairs out of my head that are not gray. However, the best testimony to my not deserving the honourable epithet of "old" is found in the fact that (1) I do not in the least object to being called an old girl, and (2) the ranks of our Association are gradually being swelled by additions to its membership of ex-pupils of the school, who are not at all dismayed at the prospect of acquiring such a title.

We Old Girls have had some jolly gatherings during the past year, including a couple of billy runs—one to Wallacetown, and another on the Otatara road, and two very enjoyable evenings. I did not go to the last one, I am sorry to say, for everyone tells me I missed a treat. Music interspersed with parlour games helped to pass away a pleasant time, and each one did her share to make the evening a sociable one, with the result that any stiffness that there may have been amongst newly-acquainted members soon wore off. Notwithstanding the one-sidedness of the partners in the dances, these formed a very pleasant feature of the social, for no sooner did a small coterie of friends gravitate together for a little gossip than the groups were broken up by a waltz or a polka, so that soon every Old girl in the room was threading the intricacies of some mazy dance, or was whirling to the tune of "My mother said." A delightful supper brought the gathering to a close, everyone expressing a hope that another similar evening will be held soon. The Association is much indebted to Mrs Fowler and Mrs Macalister who are always willing to perform any duties that would be irksome to others.

In a short time we shall be celebrating the first birthday of the Association, when all the members will reunite for an annual general meeting. I have heard many suggestions as to what form this general meeting might take, among others, being mentioned a picnic, progressive euchre party, evening with acting charades, and literary evening, but this matter could be left to the decision of the Committee which has always managed admirably.

The Tennis Club which has been in abeyance during the winter months will soon be able to get to work again. We are only waiting till we get a safe distance past St. Swithin's Day, in the hope that old Sol will smile again upon the Old Girls' Association and its Tennis Club. Many a pleasant Wednesday afternoon was spent last summer on the court with racquet and balls, and many the cups of tea we drank in the pavilion when it became too dark to play and "smoke-oh" was called. Alas! for our hopes. To-day the hail, wind and rain beat

defiance on the window panes, while the tennis court is partly under water. Still this cannot last for ever, and a few months will see us again desporting ourselves as merry as larks over the net.

I must not forget to tell you about the Gymnastic Club, which is going ahead swimmingly, and lately received an accession of four old girls to its membership. We have decided to keep up the traditions of the school by trimming our gymnastic costumes with the school colours—red, white and blue.

Members are all loud in their praises of their instructor, Mr Hannia, who is always ready with a willing hand, or an encouraging word, or both where necessary. We have a real good time at this same gymnastic club, and I feel as young (under my less than fifty summers) after a course on the flying trapeze, parallel bars, the greasy pole, the stock horse, the rings, the climbing ropes, dumbbell, barbel, and club exercises, as if I was back again to sweet sixteen! Our instructor is nothing if not energetic, and we go through our evolutions, gyrations, and circumgyrations with a vim that is quite exhilarating. Muscles are developing—rather slowly I fear, but we must be thankful for small mercies. I don't think it could have been any of our club who broke the spring-board, for I am sure it would be beyond the powers of the combined members to have the slightest effect on that article of gymnastic furniture. Still, there is no knowing what may happen some day, with a little patience and a great deal of practice. A greater than Sandow might rise up amongst us,—no one knows. Perhaps the most interesting part of our course is that devoted to figure marching, especially when we are fortunate enough to secure a musician, figure eight, wheeling, and various figures being performed to the tune of some inspiring march. I would recommend any Old Girl who has not joined this Gymnastic Club to do so at once, for it is thoroughly enjoyable as well as being a good thing for promoting health and strength. A new term commences shortly, so opportunity should be taken of joining at once. Here I must conclude, for the printer's boy (generally known by another appellation) is waiting for copy.

OLD GIRL.

Old Boys' Column.

The Rev. L. Thomson has been inducted to the charge of North Taieri. Before entering on his ministerial duties, he was granted (on account of ill-health) a few weeks' holiday, at the conclusion of which he was welcomed back and presented with a substantial token of his congregation's goodwill.

Mr J. G. Fullarton, who for some time has been stationed at Otama, has received an appointment to a position in the Otago Boys' High School. On leaving Otama he was the recipient of many presentations, one of which was a dressing case from the Mataura Mounted Rifles, in which corps he held the rank of Lieutenant.

A correspondent writes:—It is with great surprise and regret that I read the following "In Memoriam" notice in one of our local newspapers.

"In loving remembrance of Joseph Hallet Davey, who died in Victoria on the 27th July, 1902; aged 27 years.

Inserted by his affectionate widow, brothers and sisters."

The last I had heard of "Joe" Davey was some two years ago from his school chum Fred Reid.

Fred told me that he had met Joe in Melbourne, where he was doing very well as a chemist on his own account.

I well remember Joe at school. He gained a Board Scholarship and entered the High School during the third term of 1888. He worked hard, and did fairly well in his classes, gaining several prizes, though his chum Fred Reid was more successful.

He was a member of the 1st fifteen in 1890.

Joe was well liked at school: he had not very much to say, but when he said anything one knew he meant it.

I am sure all contemporary "Old Boys" will hear with regret of Joe Davey's untimely death, and sympathise with his relatives in their loss.

E. Traill, while playing up at Winton had the misfortune to break his leg. The break was not discovered for some days, and he has been obliged to spend a couple of months in the Hospital. He is now up and about, but has a decided limp. Since A. Delargey, last year's five-eighths, was playing on the opposite side, we think it must have been one of his "low collarings" that did the deed, as he was noted for bringing his man down.

J. Corbet has passed section A of his Pharmacy Exam.

We record the marriage of Mr G. Cuthbertson to Miss Sheila Macdonald.

During the Varsity holidays a large number of Old Boys were in town, some of them coming down to "footer" practices. Others, who were keen on anatomy, went hunting for "skulls" out at Otatara, returning, however, with but a sheep's head! Eric Johnson was in town at the beginning of the term, and came down to see his old class-

mates, to find only one of the same year at school. In reply to questions he told us of all the Old Boys he knew up there (Wellington), including H. A. Wild who, according to him, took a tremendous interest in cricket. "Ferox" must have had the untamed spirit which exerted him to magnificent efforts on the football field considerably softened by the burden of duties in the Customs office.

Mr J. Erskine has gone to Canada, where he no doubt intends to follow up his already extensive study of electricity and its commercial applications. Many hold the opinion that a great future lies before Mr Erskine, who has so far greatly distinguished himself in theoretical electricity, and is now perfecting himself in the practical part of the work.

In another part will be found an acknowledgment of exchanges. We have received a copy of the Otago University Review, which is edited by Mr T. Neave, one of our Old Boys.

W. Stead has had the honour of being the only representative from Southland to be chosen in the N.Z. Team to Australia. According to newspaper accounts he distinguished himself greatly in the Queensland match. He also represented the South Island against the North Island.

We have received from a contributor a brilliantly-composed life of E. G. Wiseman. As we cannot possibly print the whole we give an extract:—

"Soon after landing in South Africa he became manager of a gang of Kaffirs, holding that position till the outbreak of the war. At the mines the Kaffirs do most of the hard work, the white labour being confined principally to the working of the machinery. When the war broke out Edward was among the refugees who were expelled from Johannesburg, and who suffered terrible privations, being forty-seven hours in an open truck and having most of their baggage stolen by the Boers. . . . He joined Brabant's company of Mounted Rifles, who were well known for their chivalry and daring. Their principal work was scouting, which was both dangerous and fatiguing, but they acquitted themselves well, gaining much honour by their achievements, one of which was holding out against the Boers when besieged at Weperner. In this siege bread became scarce, and having no yeast, many tried to make bread without it, the result being not always digestible. In this crisis "in tanto discrimine," so to speak Edward came to the rescue by making good digestible bread by a process he had learnt in the "Fiji" islands. He remained in service for two years and, during that time, enjoyed excellent health. He is now in Johannesburg, where he has a good position."

Mr A. Thompson has obtained the degree of B.D., with honours, at Yale University, and has now returned to the colony.

The Recitation Competition, December 1887.

In the olden days, the break-up was enlivened by Recitation Competitions, the last of which was held in 1887. The reader will pardon a short account of this historic event.

About a fortnight before the vacation, the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th forms were summoned into the Long Room, and Mr Highton, the headmaster, caused each lad in turn to stand up before the class and repeat a poem called "The Land of My Birth."

Needless to say that when some 35 boys had recited this selection, it had been murdered about 35 times, for no previous attempt had been made to instil into our youthful minds even the most elementary principles of elocution.

What the Headmaster's feelings about his native land were after these 35 orations can only be imagined, but we at the desk had received such an overdose of patriotic sentiments that we began to think that, after all, the way of traitors might be neither so hard nor unpleasant as generally represented.

We all survived this fearful ordeal, however, and the upshot was that three lads were chosen to do battle for the recitation prize on break-up-day. These were W. W. Brown (now Presbyterian Minister at Limestone Plains) then familiarly called Bill, J. T. Carswell (otherwise Jean), and Robert Fraser who, because he was supposed to favour the brogue, commonly received the nickname of Pat.

We of the third form were proud to think that two of our number (Carswell and Fraser) had been chosen to represent the school, and we hoped that one or both of them, would succeed in lowering the colours of the 6th and their representative Brown. All three competitors were scholarship holders, and I can well remember with what feelings of disgust and envy we viewed the scholarship holders as a class, as, no matter how hard we worked, they seemed to overtop our efforts, and gain with ease the majority of the prizes. The recitation prize we did not, however, begrudge them. In fact most of us would sooner feign "illness" on prize-giving day than face the ordeal of "spouting" before our class-mates and our best girls.

At last the momentous day arrived, each of the candidates had been asked to learn the whole of "The Ancient Mariner" by Coleridge, comprising over 250 lines. On the break-up day the poem was divided into three parts, and the candidates drew lots for the order in which they were to recite.

Carswell drew first place, and when he appeared upon the platform we of the "third" trembled because he was trembling. His knees verily did shake and he appeared very unhappy. However he enunciated distinctly and gained confidence as he proceeded, but there were one or two serious defects, notably, a neglect to modulate the voice sufficiently to show when the "Ancient Mariner" was speaking and when the "Wedding Guest." He also seemed in a great hurry to get back to the

We regret to have to announce the death of Dr Brown, house surgeon at Dunedin Hospital. The deceased attended Southland High School in the early eighties soon after it was founded, and all his schoolmates speak highly of the esteem in which he was held, both in and out of School. He passed through a very successful University course, and doubtless, had he been spared, would have made a name for himself in the medical world. There is a movement on foot in Dunedin to erect a memorial to him, and liberal subscriptions have been received, thus testifying to the high regard in which he was held by all with whom his short career brought him into contact.

forms in the body of the hall. At the end of his performance, we felt that we had been worthily represented, but were still doubtful of the prize.

Our hopes were now centred in the next candidate, Fraser. The contrast between the two rivals was great. Carswell was tall, thin and nervous, the other short, stout and collected. Well can I remember Fraser's calm deliberate delivery, his manner quiet and unassuming yet not destitute of dramatic force.

He started at the lines—

Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down ;

"Twas sad as sad could be.

And we did speak, only to break
The silence of the sea.

Day after day, day after day

We stuck—nor breath nor motion

As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

In fancy we could picture the whole scene, and there on the platform was the Ancient Mariner telling us of his terrible experience in his quiet but deadly earnest way. At the conclusion of his part, there was much stamping of feet, and clapping of hands. We of the third were particularly boisterous, for we felt that in Pat Fraser we had a champion who would lead us to victory over the lordly and aspiring "sixth."

The sixth form candidate, Brown, now appeared on the stage. He gave a very nice rendering of his lines, but the spell was broken. It was not now the Ancient Mariner speaking to us, but some one trying to tell us what he had said. There was a certain amount of self consciousness, and a certain want of dramatic power (both of which faults, needless to say, Mr Brown has now rectified) which made his performance inferior to Fraser's. At least the judge (Archdeacon Stocker) thought so, because he immediately rose and declared Fraser to be the winner.

We of the third, testified in a very noisy way our hearty concurrence in this decision, and if it had not been for the august presence of the Board of Governors, we would have carried our hero shoulder high on to the stage and forced him to give us an encore.

As it was we gave him a great ovation when he stepped forward to receive his well earned prize

So ended the last Recitation Competition.

Historical Football.

Thinking that a statement of the matches played, their results, and of the points for and against the school, would be of some interest to Old Boys, present pupils and outsiders generally, we have examined the Sibylline books and the result of our labours will be found below. Only matches played in Invercargill have been recorded, but 1st, 2nd, and 3rd XV matches are included. A few points of interest may be noted.

The largest number of matches played was 20 in 1902, 10 being won, 9 lost, while according to THE BOOK, only 1 was played in 1893, and that one ended in a defeat.

In 1896 a third fifteen was in existence, playing 3 matches of which they won 1, and drew 2, and yet this year with about 100 at school we have only two teams, neither of which can be said to be excellent in its class !

In the eighties we find recorded the melancholy fact that a certain one having joined the Britannia, was deprived of the honour of playing for the school, the words used, denoting his great punishment, being he was "kicked out." This shows the barbarity of the "good old times." But that is just precisely how some of the fellows now at school, who won't support their club, should be treated.

It will be seen that in 1900 the school first fifteen suffered no defeats, drawing 1 match and winning 5. Some of the players that year were Mr Foote, J. A. Christophers, E. Lindsay (captain), A. Acheson; H. McDonald, O. McKay, E. Johnson, M. Mehaffey, etc.

Last year we scored the greatest number of points ever scored by the school, but the points against were likewise increased.

Perhaps the neatest secretary was E. J. Wiseman, who has certainly every reason to be proud of his work. J. T. Carswell and A. Lindsay about tie for second place.

In the very first line appear the points scored against as 2. Since this is now impossible, readers will understand that up to the year 1894 a try counted as 1 point, a goal 3.

We have given the flag matches only since 1900, that being the first year when the secretary recorded results separately.

The most successful season, next to 1900, was 1888, when 6 matches were won and 2 drawn. Amongst the players at that date were E. Russell, C. Cowan, D. Macpherson, W. Borrie, W. Grigor, G. Tapper, C. Howells, and C. Todd.

In 1889 the sub. was 6d. Since then it has gradually risen; 1s in 1890, 1s 6d in 1891, 2s in 1897. This year the sub. was fixed at 1s 6d for new boys, 2s for others, it being anticipated that numbers would make up for the reduction.

Appended is the table :—

Year.	Secretary.	No. of Matches	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points for	Points ag'nst
1887	W. J. Grigor	8	5	2	1	33	2
1888	"	8	6	0	2	22	8
1889	J. Collie	8	4	3	1	15	15
1890	J. T. Carswell	9	6	2	1	32	11
1891	G. Cuthbertson	9	5	3	1	22	11
1892	P. B. McDonald	5	4	1	0	40	2
1893	A. R. McDonald	1		1		0	11
*1894							
1895	B. Basstian	5	2	2	1	14	0
1896	A. Lindsay	12	2	6	4	34	69
1897	E. J. Wiseman	14	9	4	1	123	46
1898	G. Taylor	3	1	2	0	38	43
1899	D. Cuthbertson	10	7	2	1	90	17
1900	J. A. Christophers	(Totals 11	6	4	1	91	59
		(Flag 6	5	0	1	63	8
1901	C. S. Brown	(Totals 10	4	4	2	54	43
		(Flag 5	1	3	1	5	24
1902	J. B. Baird	(Totals 20	10	9	1	149	71
		(Flag 11	7	4	0	63	21

*No record in book.

Lays of the Ancient School.

No. 1.—BRUTUS AND THE POST.

(With apologies to Gray, Macaulay, etc.)

One day I sat upon a lofty stool,
And as I sat, I tried to make some rhymes,
But it was vain; my muse was dead and cold,
Till happily I chanced upon the "Times."

This was the "par" that did revive my muse,
That woke "the harp that once" to ecstasy :—
"High School will play the Pirates third to-day,
Western Reserve, to start at half-past three."

I shut my eyes and gave my fancy rein,
And soon a vivid picture I did see
Of thirty players ready for the fray,
Ready to kill or be killed, if need be.

Then lo ! the teams line out, the whistle blows,
And up and down the field the ball doth fly.
But spite of kicking, scragging, mauling, shoving,
Nor School nor Pirates can obtain a try.

Both sides grow desperate as "time" draws near,
And fiercer still and hotter grew the fight.
Only three minutes now—now two—now one,
But in that one I saw a glorious sight.

The enemy is pressing near our line,
When from a line-out Brutus gets the ball.
At once he bursts away, his blood is up,
And he—O glorious sight ! runs through them all.

Then Hark ! the cry is Brutus ! how the fellows yell
As speeds the fleet-foot warrior with tremendous pace;
Beneath his heel,
The earth doth reel;
Midst frantic cheers, peal after peal,
Towards the posts he turns his eager face.

Hot is the pace and with his head bent down,
Onward he rushes, certain of a score,
Onward he rushes, straight towards the post—
A crash ! the post is red with Brutus' gore.

My tale is told—yet stay—but one word more,
Ere yet the fountain of my muse runs dry ;
Shall not his epitaph, though short and plain,
Implore the passing tribute of a sigh ?

THE EPIGRAPH.

"Go, tell my alma mater, thou that passest by,
That here, obedient to her laws, I lie."

An Old-time Football Match.

In looking over the old football records of the school, one calls to mind many well-fought tussles in which perchance he himself bore a share.

I shall endeavour to give my recollection of a match we played against the Riverton School on 14th June, 1888.

In those days we always tried every year to arrange an outside match, and not infrequently Riverton was the battle-ground.

On this occasion we had some difficulty in getting a team together. Some of our best players always went to their homes in the country on a Friday, and could not be expected to give up the pleasures of re-union for a football match : others again felt the cost of the trip (say 7s), to be too heavy a burden on their pocket money.

However, after much canvassing of members, and after much interviewing of the bus proprietor, to see whether he would not reduce his charge for the conveyance from four pounds to three pounds ten shillings, we at last managed to arrange all details.

We started from the Post Office at 7.45 on the Saturday morning aforesaid—a cold, sharp, frosty morning it was—with all the exuberance of spirits peculiar to lads on football bent.

At Gala street we stopped to pick up Gus and Jules Tapper. The latter had left school, but we hoped to be allowed to play him "half back" with his brother.

All along the North Road, and right on to Wallacetown Crossing, we kept up a running fire of songs and ballads—"John Brown's Body," "Poor Old Joe," "On the Ball," "One More River to Cross," "Uncle Ned," and others. Of noise there was plenty and more of discord than of tune; yet we wanted to show in some way that for once we were free from the cares and discipline of school, and that was the way we chose.

By the time we reached Wallacetown Junction our throats were hoarse with the unaccustomed exercise, and our singing had deteriorated into a kind of raven's croak. In response to several cries of "ring off," the singing (save the mark?) ceased, and funny stories became the order of the day.

The four horses were travelling at a respectable pace—that is to say, as fast as the weight of 16 or 17 lads and the driver would permit; and every man with hedge knife, or boy in cart, or drover of sheep, we greeted with a piercing war whoop, or loud hurrah. Truly the quiet country side must have thought that the "seven devils" were let loose, and that the reign of pandemonium had commenced. Near Thornbury there was, then, a piece of unformed road, about three miles long, and on reaching this we were ordered to walk so as to lighten the load for the horses.

The team here indulged in "passing" practice, though it was decidedly under difficulties, as, in reaching forward to catch the ball, one would frequently stumble over a tussock or into a rut.

At last we reached Riverton, and after having lunch, we prepared to meet our adversaries.

The High School team was as follows:—

Full-back—Eustace Russell.

Three-quarters—W. H. Borrie (now Dr Borrie).

Captains—Herbie Rodgers and Will Grigor.

Half-backs—Jack Aspinall and Gus Tapper.

Forwards—Paul Morgan, Charlie Todd, Donald Matheson, Duncan Macpherson, Farquhar Matheson, Miles Aspinall (commonly called The Smiler), Jack Gilkison, Jack Carswell, and John McIntyre (usually known as Jumbo).

It was the first occasion on which the three last-named players were included in the First Fifteen. Gilkison and Carswell, though light, were fairly fast, and dribbled and followed up well.

"Jumbo" McIntyre's inclusion was regarded by the Selection Committee as an experiment. He had only played three or four games and was not well up in the rules, so that we were afraid that we might be penalised for infringements. However, his play in the match more than justified the Committee in including him, and he afterwards became one of our very best forwards.

The Riverton Captain would not allow us to play Jules Tapper, whose fame as half-back for the Invercargill Pirates had already reached him. We managed, however, to secure his appointment as referee.

The only member of our team who did not belong to the school was H. Rodgers. He was even then an "old boy," having left school 12 months previously.

On lining out, it was seen that the Riverton team was much the heavier, and I believe it was three or four years since some of their "boys" had seen the inside of a school. However, we were used to playing teams nearly double our size, so we started confidently enough. Our opponents' superior weight quickly told in the scrums, and for the first twenty minutes we were on the defensive, and a try was scored against us as the result of a forward scramble, but the kick at goal failed. The onlookers were very partial indeed to the home team, and moreover they continually encroached on the ground, all of which was exceedingly irritating to us. We were now, however, to have our revenge. The Rivertonians' first onslaught had been fierce, but they could not compare with us in fitness, and during the remainder of the first spell we began to wear them down chiefly by means of smart dribbling and passing rushes. At last "Jumbo" McIntyre obtained the ball in the Riverton 25, and scored a try, which, however, was not converted. "Jumbo" was a most difficult man to collar. If you "went high" the chances were that you would be laid flat by his powerful fending, and on the other hand he was so short and stout and so strong a runner that it was hard to hold him "low."

In the second spell we had the best of the game, but our opponents maintained a strong defence, and they had, moreover, a very fine kicker as centre three-quarter (named Pattison, I think). The game was chiefly a forward one, and at last Paul Morgan, who had been playing a very fine game, scored our second try, but Russell did not succeed in kicking a goal. The game ended—High School, 2 tries (2 points); Riverton 1 try (1 point).

After the battle, we were very kindly treated by our opponents. They took us to an hotel and invited us to "have a drink." At that time most of us were what Charles Lamb would have called "Basilian water-sponges—cold, washy, bloodless," and therefore incapable of Bacchus; we had, however, willy nilly to take "something soft."

The home journey was accomplished without accident, though we did not at all relish having to drag our stiff and weary limbs across the three or four miles of bad road. We reached Invercargill about nine o'clock, tired out, but well satisfied with our day's outing and with our part in the fray.

For most of the members of that team football days are now over, but as we thread our way onwards through the more serious business of life, our minds cannot help reverting to the "old school" and the pleasure

sant times we spent together, rivals, and yet colleagues, in the playground and in the class-room.

For one member indeed (I refer to the late Jack Aspinall) "life's fitful fever" too is o'er, and he has received the call to "go up higher." Jack was killed by a flash of lightning in Westralia.

With the exception of Donald Matheson, who is now at Charters Towers in Queensland, all the other members are still in New Zealand, though only seven remain in Invercargill.



H. L. FOWLER, M. A.

Rector, 1893-1903

died at Sydney, 10/2/27.
after 3 days in hospital. He contracted pneumonia
on the voyage to Sydney