GOREU ARF,



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# Swansea Municipal Secondary School Magazine.

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Vol. III.

Editors-

MR. BEANLAND.

MISS PHIPPS.

#### SCHOOL NOTES.

Ninety new boys were admitted at the beginning of the Term and of these 59 were awarded scholarships.

At the beginning of last year there were 304 boys in the school, the highest number since it has been a Secondary School, but there was a further increase of ten at the beginning of the present session, and one of the Upper Forms is distinctly too large for its room, and migrates when possible, to any other room that may be empty.

The Examination results for last year were generally excellent and in some respects create records, which it will be difficult to surpass or even to equal. W. Ll. Hathaway obtained, as the result of examination, a post in the Civil Service, as Assistant Surveyor of Taxes, salary £100-£350. P. Ivor Howells succeeded in passing the Intermediate Examination in Arts in the University of London. Halfholidays were given to celebrate these successes.

T. M. Jenkins was awarded the Senior Scholarship and A. Bates and A. Tregaskes Junior Scholarships to the Swansea Technical College. W. A. Jones obtained an Entrance Scholarship of £25 to Llandovery College. In the Senior Oxford Local Examination, three boys obtained honours—S. H. Davies, 2nd class; T. M. Jenkins and J. L. Jones, 3rd class; and the following obtained certificates— A. H. Bates, B. Davies, T. A. Evans, A. Foner, and T. H. L. Sampson. In the Junior Examination 22 candidates passed, and of these Emlyn Jones and P. Lloyd obtained honours.

On the Commercial side six boys from Form 4M obtained thirty certificates and eleven distinctions in the London Chamber of Commerce Examination. R. J. Comley obtained the full certificate, passing in the following subjects:— English Grammar and Composition (with distinction), Handwriting, Arithmetic (with distinction), French (with distinction), Commercial Geography, Commercial History, Commercial Arithmetic (with distinction), Shorthand (80 words per minute).

Seven boys from Form 3M, who did not enter for the Junior Oxford Local, were entered for the N.U.T. Commercial Examination and all passed.

In Pitman's Shorthand Examination, speed certificates (1st class) were awarded to A. P. Jones (80 words per minute), and to Harold Evans and S. Webber (50 words per minute). Twenty Elementary Theory Certificates were also awarded, Percy Lloyd obtaining the first of three special prizes offered by Messrs. Pitman.

In the Royal Society of Arts Examination, W. Davies obtained a first class in French, Intermediate Stage, and seven others obtained second classes. The number of certificates for the Elementary Stage was four Shorthand, five French, and eight Book-keeping.

Prize Day will be held on Friday, Dec. 13th in the Albert Hall, when the Mayor (Councillor DAVID WILLIAMS) and the Mayoress will be present.

The School offers a warm welcome to Monsieur Augustin, who has succeeded Monsieur Sireygeol as French Conversation Master.

Last year for the first time our School entered for the Sir John Llewelyn Schoolboys' Swimming Cup and we received silver medals for obtaining second place. This year our four representatives are K. Howells, G. Davies, Joshua Evans, and T. Davies, with N. Holt as first reserve. We hope at least to equal, and if possible to surpass, last year's performance. The game of Fives is still very popular in the school. The official court is of the Rugby order and in this court the game is played according to Rugby rules. We have no Eton court with its step and buttress, but we have two special forms of Swansea Fives, the rules of which apparently vary according to circumstances and players. One kind is played in the "small court," which has a back, front and one side wall; it seems to require three players only, one of whom is called middle-man. Under the archway, the two-player game finds many supporters; both back and front wall are used and any ball, even a golf ball, can be pressed into the service.

In the Sack Race on Sports Day, T. Smith glided gracefully along, swanlike, while Barrett waddled home to victory, a good second, leaving the hoppers or sparrows simply nowhere.

Form III were taking French Oral in the Lecture Theatre. their own room being occupied by Lower School Choristers: naturally the first comers had taken what they considered the The lesson had already proceeded for some best places. little time, when Monsieur Augustin made a discovery. He noticed there was always a forest of hands raised and excellent answers received from the first row; satisfactory replies also came from the second row, but from the "wall-flowers" on the top row, never a hand and never an answer. Monsieur could not at first understand why this should be and he tried hard, but tried in vain, to elicit an auswer from the top row. Someone in authority remarked that the explanation probably was that this was a case of "the weakest going to the wall." After that lesson there was a sort of Reform Bill and Redistribution of Seats.

Mr. Gordon being now proficient in the manipulation of the new electric lamp, has already given several lantern lectures in the drawing room, or perhaps it should be called the art room, lest some outsider should object to this modern extravagance in providing a school with a drawing room as well as a dining room.

Form IB was pleased to be the first Form in the Lower School to have a lantern lecture; this was a reward for excellent attendance, the Form register showing only four *a*'s for absence since the beginning of the Term.

Two of our Old Boys are now at Cambridge : C. Hanson at Selwyn College and R. Norby at St. Catherine's. They have promised to send an article for our next magazine on some phase of 'Varsity life. The former is also arranging for an Old Boys' Rugby Match v. Old Grammarians, on Jan. 4th, on the Grammar School Field. It is hoped that a Reunion of Old Boys may be held during that or the following week, but the unexpected departure from Swansea of the Chief Secretary, Mr. W. C. Barrett, has had rather a damping effect on the idea, but *Dum spiramus, speramus,* or "Never say die till you're dead."

#### SWANSEA CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

The date was December, 1962. I had been elected Lord Mayor of my native city on the ninth of the previous month and this was therefore the first meeting over which I was to preside as Chief of the City Fathers.

As I wended my way very slowly to the Council Chamber, I could not help thinking what a vast improvement the present City Hall was upon the dismal, dingy buildings, near the docks thirty years ago. The City Hall, Municipal Offices, and Civil and Criminal Law Courts now occupy a fine quadrangular block of buildings extending from Page Street to Christina Street and from Walter's Road, almost to St. Helen's Road and The Broadway (formerly Northampton Place).

When I had taken my seat upon the dais, I received the congratulations and good wishes of many old friends, among whom were Sir Sidney John, Bart., the Hon. Arthur Williams, Sir J. J. Lewis, Alderman Conrad Davies and Councillor M. C. Baylis. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, and usual routine business gone through, I asked the Council to give their careful consideration to the very important items on the day's agenda.

The first item was a proposal by Sir Sidney John to make a subway from the Central Junction Station at Wassail Square to the East Side Station, which now covers several acres and owes its importance to its connection with the King's Dock.

The subway was to pass under the City and River Tawe, and would be thirty feet wide, lined with white glazed bricks, and paved with concreted rubber, laid over wood blocks.

"This subway," said Sir Sidney, "was intended to relieve the dense traffic of the City, and only pedestrians, rail-less cars, and motor cars were to use it. All stations were to be easily accessible from it, for branch lines would join it at certain places." When this proposal had been supported by several councillors who were entirely favourable, it was opposed by a small section of members who declared, "It was all very well in theory, but it would prove far too expensive." "Not at all," replied Sir Sidney, "it will pay for itself in a few years. Think, too, how many times in the past Swansea has suffered for her lack of enterprise : if timorous counsels of this kind had been followed during the past thirty years Abertawe would still be playing second fiddle to Cardiff as she did in those days." After this there was no further opposition and the motion was carried.

The next item on the agenda was a proposal by the Hon. Arthur Williams to extend the sphere of municipal trading to include the manufacture of engines for aeroplanes. He had invented a specially light engine and had applied for a provisional patent. He was willing to hand over his patent to the City Council, if they were prepared to undertake the manufacture and thus introduce another industry to the Welsh metropolis. He had with him a model aeroplane, fitted with an exact replica of his engine. It certainly flew better than any machine I had ever seen, and after a short discussion the Council unanimously agreed to accept the offer.

Councillor Baylis then submitted the plans he had drawn for a new aerial station. The Nelson Aerodrome, as it was to be called, was to occupy the site on which fifty years ago stood the old Swansea Training College. It was proposed to build it near the Central Railway Station in order to be near the new subway and the various tram centres. It would be a great boon to those business men who lived in the suburbs of Gower and travelled in each morning by aero. After due consideration, this, too, was passed.

The Chairman of the Education Committee, Sir J. J. Lewis, then proposed that all boys who passed through the Secondary School should receive grants of £26 a year, if they wished to continue their education at the Municipal College. One member objected, saying, "I consider that too much is already being expended on them, and I move that not another penny be spent." Some one then stood up and said, "You were a pupil once. Did you object to any money being spent to better your condition?"

At this there was a general uproar and the state of things became so alarming that 1 ordered the usher to eject both members.

Calm being thus restored, the proposition was carried. After this I formally closed the meeting, and invited my old friends to my house, where we had a talk over the good old times we had spent together at the M.S.S.; for though I am sixty-four, I have not forgotten my old school.

J. GORDGE.

#### ATHLETIC SPORTS DAY.

The Sports were held on Wednesday, July 24th, on the Grammar School Field. They were to have been held on the Tuesday, but owing to the unsatisfactory state of the weather they were postponed to Wednesday, when fortunately the weather proved quite ideal for sports and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

The Committee of Masters, and particularly the Hon. Sec. Mr. D. J. Williams, are to be thanked for all the trouble they took, and complimented on the programme and the excellence of the arrangements.

Points were given for each event and a trophy is to be awarded to Form I Remove who scored  $16\frac{1}{2}$  points. Form 2b were second with  $8\frac{1}{2}$  points to their credit. The following were the results :----

- 100 yards (under 14)—1, W. Rees, 1r; 2, G. Price, 2a; 3, T. Williams, 1r.
- 100 yards (over 14)—1, H. Harman, 1b; 2, S. John, 2a; 3, B. Davies, 4cl.
- Throwing Cricket Ball (under 14)— 1, J. Williams; 2, H. Murray, 2a.
- Throwing Cricket Ball (over 14)--1, L. Baynham, S.T.; 2, W. Thomas, 2b.
- Hop, Step & Jump--1, B. Davies, 4cl; 2, L. Baynham, S.T.
- 220 yards (under 14)—1, S. Jones, 1c; 2, T. Williams, 1r; 3, M. Kiley, 1a.
- 220 yards (over 14)—1, Tregaskes, 4m; 2, H. Harman, 1b; 3, H. Clement, 2r.
- High Jump (under 14)—1. tie between J. Williams, 2b, and S. John, 2a.

Sack Race—1, E. Smith, 1r; 2, Barrett, 2b; 3, J. Williams, 2b.

- Form Relay Race--1, Form 1r—W. Rees, N. Davies, C. Barrett, and E. Smith.
  - 2, Form 1a—T. Davies, T. J. Evans, N. Lewis, and R. Birchenough.

Victoria Cross Race-1, H. L. Baynham and T. Matthews, 1c; 2, T. Meyrick and Poole.

Three-legged Race—1. J. Howells and R. Morris; 2, T. Meyrick and T. M. Jenkins.

Char et Race-1, A. Morris, I. Howells, W. Davies, T. Jenkins and B. Evans; 2, H. Murray, G. Price, Fitzgerald, S. John and K. Howells.

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# THE CONFLICT OF THE PATHETIC AND THE LUDICROUS.

The sun was pouring down upon us as we walked along the broad roadway which, skirting the river, leads away from the town of Rouen, past the halfpenny "transbordeur" and away to the ramshackle wharves alongside which the ship that had conveyed us from Swansea, the "Alice M. Craig," was moored.

We had spent rather more time than we had intended in admiring the flower-bedecked graves which were scattered around Jean d'Arc's monument at Bonsecours and were, in consequence, hurrying along with swinging strides.

As we approached the "transbordeur" my companion, whose girth I am sure exceeded mine by at least a foot called a short halt to recover his breath and to mop his brow which was dripping with perspiration.

Suddenly a wildly gesticulating Frenchman came careering round the corner and sped onwards, stopping only to sing out to those sitting at their mid-day meal in the cafés something which, either owing to the distance between us or my poor French I could not understand.

Out trooped the noisy and excitable French workmen and, leaving their cheap "vin rouge," chunks of "petit pain," and some mysterious looking specimens of meat, costumed according to the fashion then prevalent among the butchers, went clattering away in their sabots.

A hazy whisp of grey smoke struggling to make itself seen against the deep blue of the sky now attracted my attention. With a shout of "It's a fire! Come on, let's see the fun," I darted away, and my less youthful companion, still applying a multi-coloured handkerchief to his streaming face, followed as quickly as his corporation would allow.

As soon as we turned the next corner we had no difficulty in locating the scene of the fire, for an evil smelling and brownish smoke was belching forth from the roofs of a small factory and an adjoining house. An ominous crackling was heard as the fire gained its hold upon the dry flooring boards and rafters, and hurrying up we came across a scene of the wildest excitement and confusion—chairs, tables, sideboards, washing stands, and most of the heavier furniture were strewn about the roadside. At the windows were to be seen a few French workmen whose figures showed up black and clear against the lurid background. They worked like trojans, and heedless of the scorching flames they handed down treasured belongings to the eager ones below.

The mother, with some of her women friends vainly striving to comfort her, stared at the building with a vacant look as the flames slowly devoured it. She had two children, and one of these, a young girl of eight summers, was wildly clinging to her mother's dress and crying piteously—not because she realised the immensity of their loss, the loss of home and old assoications—but because her little soul was filled with fear at the sight of the leaping flames, the fast charring of the wood, and the wild rushing to and fro.

At the end of a few interminably long minutes a faint cheer was raised for the brigade was seen in the distance. As it approached the surging crowd parted in twain and we had a good view of the brigade. In spite of the seriousness of the situation one could not help but smile at the ludicrous figure cut by the brigade. It consisted of a length of hose rolled round a hand reel and three gasping men, whose boyish faces and ample proportions reminded me very much of my jovial friend.

A crash was now heard up above, and soon a pair of sturdy shoulders surmounted by a head of tousled hair emerged through a hole in the root. The people standing below, not divining his purpose, shouted out in voices in which anxiety and impatience were plainly to be discerned, "Descendez! Descendez! vous etes fou." Now however the man, who, judging by the attitude of the crowd, was a familiar character in the neighbourhood, scrambled on to the hot slates and drew after him a length of garden hose which he had fastened to the water-tap below. The people now cheered him on but all his bravery was of no avail for, owing to the drought of that summer, the force of the water was very small indeed. The flames now surged up close to him and, with a reassuring shout to the anxious crowd, the strange figure beat a hasty retreat.

By the time we looked round for the brigade, we found that they had discovered that the nearest fire-pipe was about 150 yards back along the road they had come over. Even now in their anxiety and haste they neglected to leave one end of the hose at the building and unwound the hose on the way back, thus wasting many precious minutes.

The hose was fixed up at last and two of the three members of the brigade present held the nozzle whilst the other turned

ALL .

150.

on the water. We awaited with anxiety the swish of the water on the crumbling roof, but when the water at last travelled along it was found that the force was insufficient even to reach the building where the men were standing within ten yards of it. All hope was now given up and we turned away in disgust.

As we sat before our glasses of iced lemonade in the nearest cafe our faces would have furnished excellent studies for any artist. Mine, I am sure, was expressive of a hearty contempt for French brigades as I saw them, whilst the chubby face of my tender-hearted companion looked ridiculously solemn as he thought of the family's distress.

As our glasses chinked, however, and the "A votre sante, mon ami" was uttered, the twinkle came back to my friend's black eyes and the lines of thoughtfulness were bauished from our features like mists before the rising sun.

We made a point of visiting the spot two hours later and there we saw slow-moving Frenchmen looking after the small hand engines which pumped dirty river-water over a mass of crumbling ruins—all that remained of a modern factory and a happy home.

W. DAVIES (Student Teacher).

#### CROWS.

"What is a crow?" you ask, "Why, everybody knows the crow which nests in the high elms." But that is where we are led astray, for though a rook is commonly called a crow, the name really includes the whole of the crow family; and what a large family it is, to be sure. Even in our own district we have almost a whole crow community. First we have the raven, that large uncanny bird which nests early in the spring, before most of the birds have got over their winter troubles. Then come the more common types, such as the carrion crow, hooded-crow, and rook, the last named being distinguished by the bald patch at the junction of its head and beak. Again, we have the magpie which builds its curious domed nest with an open door at the side, well protected with thorns and sharp twigs, but snugly lined with moss, and that pert denizen of the chimney tops, the jackdaw. Last but not least we have the starling, which many people do not imagine to be a crow at all—a bird familiar to all with its speckled plumage—which nests in a hole of a tree or a house and lays its four or five pale blue eggs on a scanty heap of straw or hay.

H.L.B.

#### GIRLS' SCHOOL NOTES.

School re-opened on Tuesday, September 10th, after five or six weeks' bad weather, August being in these days almost a winter month: but in September we were greeted by bright sunshine--a good omen for our New Year's work.

The Girls' School is poorer by the loss of Miss Hemming (Mrs. Sidney Bevan). We wish she could have stayed with us longer, but we hope that her exchange of the lowlands of Trinity Place for the breezy heights of the Garden City will be a happy one for her.

We extend a hearty welcome to her successor, Miss K. Balls, B.Sc., of the East London College. The hockeyites have already found that Miss Balls is a decided acquisition to their team.

We also welcome Miss Neate, our gymnastic mistress, and Mfte. Gamblin, who has taken the place of Mlle. Grinda for the time.

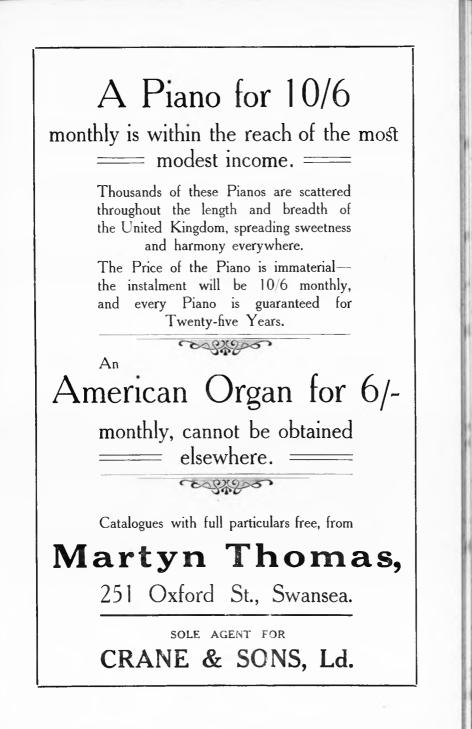
Seventy-six new pupils have been admitted to the school, of whom fifty-four have obtained free scholarships. Nearly every elementary school in the Borough has sent us one or more representatives. The new pupils have settled down well into the school work, and some of them are already as well known to us as if they had heen here three or four years.

Mildred Tarling and May Price have passed the London Matriculation Examination.

The Oxford Local results are better than last year's, 21 seniors and 19 juniors having passed, five of the latter and one of the former obtaining honours.

Our first venture in the commercial world has been successful, 23 candidates obtaining certificates out of 24 sent in.

Fortunately for teachers the hard work of educating is occasionally enlivened by gleams of unintentional humour. We would recommend any teacher who feels that life is not worth living to set a General Knowledge paper, and mark it. Such a paper is responsible for the statement that Goliath was killed by Jack, the giant killer, and that a locum-tenens is a place for tennis. One pupil naïvely rebukes the questioner who wants to know how much a dog tax is by the reply, "We have never had a dog," and another, when asked what European country has no coast, suspected a trap and replied, "Every country has some kind of coast." Varied opinions were disclosed as to the meaning of "Spiritual Peer"; he was



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#### FORM VI.

A good article might be written on the antiquity of schoolgirl excuses, especially those for neglect of homework. "Lost my book," "Forgot to take my text-book home," "Had a headache"; these are venerable excuses, but, in spite of their age, mistresses still seem to doubt the truth of them. Might not a little more originality be introduced into the excuses offered but rarely accepted? A suggestion might be made that the homework "was stolen by burglars during the night," or that since the recent strike the family had become so impoverished that to the "deepest regret of scholar and parent the exercise book had been used for fuel."

"NOVELTY."

Many changes have taken place in our school since last year. Our new room is, on the whole, pleasant, except that at times we hear strange and unusual sounds from the playground just below, where we now have gym. lessons in fine weather.

Our library is larger and more varied than that of last year. A fine of one halfpenny has been imposed on all girls who forget their library books. With this money we intend to purchase new books to increase our library; this is a good plan which can be adopted by other forms which have a small library or one inadequate to the needs of the girls.

#### FORM VA.

Already one disaster has befallen VA. We have had to change rooms. We thought we were ensconced for the year in one of those rare things, a cosy room. But alas! it was not to be. The powers that be decreed that we must be transported to a large, lofty room copiously supplied with draughts while its former tenants occupied our late premises. We are getting inured to changing rooms now, it has its advantages in that it affords a change in scenery and a ramble through the school, so we mustn't grumble.

When we old 1VA girls were put up into VA, it was not the thought of hard work that frightened us but that of the time when we should be obliged to sing one by one. Indeed, so terrified were we, that had a stranger chanced to pass through VA cloakroom that afternoon, he would have wondered what the trouble depicted on the faces of some girls could mean, and have heard more than one girl venture to wish she would have a bilious attack at that time. But no such means of escape was offered and the dreaded time came at last. Those who sang showed their nervousness in their faces and voices while others looked up longingly at the register of Father Time. But it seemed as if it were mocking us too, for it needed the clock-doctor. When the bell rang more than one suppressed groan gave place to a sigh of relief, and faces again wore their smiles. Some girls have not yet sung but have that time to look forward to, and we who have, can only pity them from the depths of our hearts, and hope that our next turn looms far in the distant.

#### FORM Vc.

Form Vc is not like Tennyson's "Brook." They do not "go on for ever." One of our number has already left us---Doris Jones--who is now "on Change." We wish her every success. We hope we are not going to decrease as did the little nigger boys.

On Oct. 25th we were invited to a lecture held at the Boys' School. Rev. J. T. Rhys was the lecturer, his subject being "The Gothenburg System."

Vc tried to take down the lecture in shorthand and can actually read some of their notes.

Quite a novel lesson in our form is that of typewriting. At first we were very shy about touching the keys but we have now become used to them and hope that in a short time we shall be able to help with the work of the school by typewriting lists, etc. What with the music of the typewriters with their warning bells and the music of the girls, who now have the pleasure (or agony) of singing individually, we spend a pleasant time in the room where it is, "Late so early!" Another lesson which we enjoy is gymnastics, the gym. this year being quite different from the old club and dumbbell exercises. We like the Swedish drills very much but we do not like our gym. lessons in the recreation ground because it is so cold there with only gym. shoes on. We now have exercises on the rings, and our arms on Thursday morning ache so much that we begin to think we need some more exercise and hope the time for gymnastics will be lengthened to one hour.

R. JENKINS, D. HARDY, M. FISCHER.

#### FORM IVA.

It is hard luck that all the other forms of the junior school have hockey and we do not.

Just lately enquiries have been made to find out what repairs are necessary. Of course there were none in 4a room. A day or so after this, by some mishap or other, the window smashed itself. To add to this misfortune the form mistress's chair underwent the same operation.

After one botany lesson the people in the yard and also in the classroom had a most delicious smell of baked onions.—E.C.

Now that we are in Form 4a we fully consider ourselves an examination class, having the Junior Oxford in view at the end of the year. This will be our first examination of any importance and I am sure we all look forward to good results.

In this form we are privileged by being allowed to go to the class-room without having to "form lines." This is a slight promotion.

In the afternoons we get quite a chorus (from some future "prima donnas" I should think), who insist on "holding forth." We shall miss this little entertainment which is so kindly given, unconsciously, when we settle in our new building.

We are now starting our "terminals." Let us hope for excellent results.

#### FORM IVB.

This term we went for a botany walk with Miss Landon. It was a lovely day so we took the car to Sketty terminus. We then went up Sketty Hill and along the Gower Road towards Killay. We turned down a country lane and entered the Clyne Woods by the Race Course. Here we gathered many fruits. After walking through the Woods we entered Killay and walked by the main road to Sketty where we took the car home after having spent a very pleasant day.

We were all very glad when we heard that we could continue hockey. The tram rides are enjoyed as much as the hockey game itself. Weather has not been kind to us and we have only been to hockey once. We would all like an inter-form match between the six forms that take hockey.

B. WILLIAMS.

#### FORM IVc.

We girls who play hockey want to know if we can have a shield. The six forms who play hockey could have a match to see which form has the best players. We know forms I and II are new comers but they may have a chance of getting the championship. The form which has the best players could keep the shield until they had the championship taken from them. We hope Miss Phipps will consent because we should very much like to find out which form has the best sportswomen.

LILIAN GRIFFITHS.

#### (The shield will not help you to find out.—Ed.)

How fortunate we are! It seems that our mistress has taken into consideration that old saying, "All work and no play makes Nell a dull girl," for we have nearly an hour for gymnasium, which, in fine weather is taken in the yard instead of in the gymnasium at the Boys' School. The other forms have only half-an-hour for this lesson. Not only that; we have two hours for hockey every other week alternately with Form 4b. Concerning hockey, is it asking too much to beg for a challenge shield for the school championship? I am sure that we would all subscribe towards it.

We have had a surprise this term—a General Knowledge Examination, in which most of us kept our wits, but one girl explained that cats without tails come from Greenland.

The terminal examinations will soon be here, and I expect that there will be a keen contest between our girls for the top place. ANNIE HARRIS.

Oh! What melodious strains came pealing through our windows on the 28th of October, when we were having French! It was something like a band, and they were trying to play some music. It is sometimes impossible

for us to do lessons while a woman is shouting "Molly, come here at once," and then a motor horn will start blowing. During singing lessons we are generally accompanied by a child's cries because it has fallen down or something, and then a crowd of children start singing, and every one of them out of tune.

On October 25th we had a General Information Examination, and, indeed, our class could have earned some money by sending some of their answers to "Tit-Bits."

Elsie Thomas.

#### FORM IIIA.

Form I room is gone for ever for us, with its draughts and similar annoyances. Most of us are perfectly satisfied with our present classroom, with the exception of a few girls who complain bitterly of not being provided with "proper desks" as they describe them. We have not as yet experienced the worries of the last year's IIIA, but as a matter of fact we have others—oh yes, heaps! we are very modest so we for the first term intend keeping silent about them, with hopes of remedy in the near future.

General knowledge seems to abound throughout the school, and the part of Monday 21st from 8.30 to 12 o'clock was spent in talking of Popes and politicians, which some old girls informed us we were sure to have. Christmas will soon be here, but what accompanies the season ? Why "examinations," favourites of the school.

#### FORM IIIB.

We have many examples of practical jokes in Form 3b, but the most striking are some of the answers in the General knowledge Examination. Two particular ones are—Who killed Goliath?—Jack the Giant Killer. Who is head of the R.C. Church?—Mr. Asquith. It is never too late to learn, gentle reader. OLGA PHILLIPS.

Forms 3a and 3b are very anxious to arrange a hockey match, but cannot do so without permission.

Seated on the window sill of our form-room is a gymnasium shoe. Owner can have same when she applies to 3b. Does she think it will adorn the window or not?

Two 3b Scholars.

#### FORM II.

Should anyone in the Girls' School want her padlock repaired, application should be made to any Second Formite. In moving the desks the locks often get broken so that we generally have our varied tools in school for our own use. Old staples may be removed, new ones fixed, or locks fitted with keys at a moderate charge.

Laying aside all business interests, however, we offer the following advice—" Beware of spring locks !" At an unguarded moment your fingers wander to the padlock which suddenly shuts with a snap, while inside your desk together with all your books and perhaps your purse and your lunch, lies the little key of the spring lock.

#### FORM I.

We are all sorry we cannot have Morris Dancing and Hockey every week instead of once every fortnight. The week beginning Oct. 28th all the girls were very anxious to know who the girl was that was going up to Form II. At last the time came for us to know who she was, and the name of the girl is Edith Austin, whom we were very sorry to lose.

We have a school library with a number of interesting books and we may have a different book every week.

#### HOCKEY NOTES.

Our usual winter recreation has once again commenced. A meeting was held on Friday, September 28th, for the purpose of electing officers. Miss Landon presided. Miss Balls, to whom the club gives a hearty welcome, was appointed Treasurer; Nellie Pringle, Captain; Winnie Blain, Vice-Captain; and Olive Williams, Secretary. Already a number of matches have been played in the school field, and one between the S.M.S.S. Boys and Girls was arranged for Saturday, October 26th, but the weather proved unfavourable.

There is still one thing that could be improved in connection with the club, that is, the list of members, which we hope will be doubled in a short time.

#### THE LIGHT AND SHADE OF CAMP LIFE.

#### An experience during the summer months.

The day had been oppressively hot, the house was still worse, so my brother and I, unable to obtain nature's soothing balm indoors, decided to camp out. The following day we visited the docks, and struck a bargain with a sailmaker, from whom we purchased a tent.

We hired a vehicle, and soon had all our belongings transferred to our camping ground, Langland Bay. Finding a suitable patch of ground, we commenced the erection of our future summer residence.

Wearied out by our unusual efforts of the day, we turned in early, and resigned ourselves to the gentle arms of Morpheus. We rose with the lark the next morning, and. donning our flannels, we made a bee line for the bay, where we indulged in our first swim. We then returned to the camp and breakfasted.

For two or three days we enjoyed this blissful serenity which, however, was destined to be short-lived, for immediately after tea on the fourth day, we discerned on the distant horizon, a jet-black cloud, heralding a ferocious and torrential storm.

After making the necessary preparations for the safety of our tent, we settled down for the night. Shortly after I had turned in, and was beginning to slumber, I was rudely awakened by a constant dripping on my head. I then made up my mind to turn out and slacken the guy ropes. Oh! the horror of that night; on putting my head outside the door of the tent, I was greeted by blinding sheets of rain which thoroughly soaked me, although I wore an overcoat. The guys, which were exceedingly taut, cut through the skin like whip-cords. Groping back through the inky blackness I stumbled over a rope that protruded somewhat further than its fellows.

Picking myself up, and not in the best of tempers, I vowed that my camping exploits should end at dawn. However, at last, I reached the inside of the tent, wet through and bespattered with mud. I changed my night attire for my ordinary clothes, and once more turned in, heartily reviling the originator of a "Simple Life."

A. E. JONES, IVM.

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#### ENTENDU AU PALAIS DE JUSTICE.

Un prévenu est conduit devant le juge.

Vos noms, prénoms et profession, demande ce dernier d'une voix sévère.

Jean, Frémi, doreur (J'en frémis d'horreur), répond l'accusé.

C'est très bien, mon ami, d'en frémir d'horreur, répond le juge dont la voix s'est adoucie; mais je vous demande vos noms, prénoms et profession.

Jean, Frémi, doreur, mon président, répond doucement le prévenu.

Je vous ai dit que c'était très bien d'en frémir d'horreur, mais ne perdons pas notre temps, car, comme disent nos bons voisins les Anglais, le temps, c'est de l'argent.

Mais mon président, j'ai répondu clairement à vos questions. Mon prénom est Jean, mon nom de famille est Frémi et je suis doreur de ma profession.

Ah ! repondit le juge interloque, il fallait le dire plus tot.

Inutile de dire que le prisonnier, qui n'avait commis qu'une faute légère, fut acquitté.

#### A RUDE AWAKENING.

It was mid-day. Our forces were encamped outside Kirk Killissa awaiting the expected onslaught of the Bulgars. Presently a cloud of dust appeared on our left, which as time wore on, revealed itself to be the enemy's army. At the thought of action my heart began to throb wildly, and sleep that night was as distant as could be. Next morning all were on the alert, and the enemy was observed to be three miles distant. At three o'clock the firing commenced, and the roar of cannon sounded a veritable clamour of death. Our regiment gradually got less and less, and then we observed the Greek allies, with bayonet in hand, make a sweeping charge on our flank. Confusion reigned everywhere, groans and cries rent the air, making the scene that of heaven's wrath against her children trembling below. One of the Greek warriors of herculean strength suddenly engaged me in a handto hand fight, sword to sword. With a deft swing of his left arm my sword was knocked out of my hand, and I prepared myself for the death thrust which would send my soul to its last resting place-when I awoke to hear the clock strike eight.

W. HARMAN, 2b, Form Captain.

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#### "A SHORT HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE TOWN OF SWANSEA."

Swansea, with its large and prosperous works to-day, is a great contrast to the Swansea of a hundred years ago. At that time it was famed for its magnificent bay and surroundings. In Roman times it was of far less importance than its neighbours, Neath and Loughor, on the main road (the Via Julia). Swansea has, however, outlived some of its important neighbours, and surpassed others. The name is supposed to be of Scandinavian origin. The first monastery in Gower was situated in this town. It is not, however, to its magnificient bay, nor to its connection with the monastery that Swansea owed its importance in those ancient times, but to its being the key to the fertile land of Gower. When a Norman Baron, Henry de Newburgh, conquered Gower after the Norman invasion, he built a castle at Swansea in order to The building of this castle about 1099 protect Gower. marks the beginning of the importance of Swansea. The brave Welshmen of Gower repeatedly attacked the castle, and in 1113 A.D. they were successful in burning the out-works. In 1188 the town was visited for the first time in its history by an Archbishop of Canterbury. Swansea Castle was besieged by Lord Rhys in 1192, but the attack was successfully withstood. The castle, together with the lands of Gower, then fell into the hands of Henry II, who subsequently gave them to William de Braos, of hated memory. The castle was in 1215 captured and destroyed by Llewelyn ap Yorwerth. but was rebuilt by John de Braos, with Llewelyn's permission. in 1221, only to be again destroyed by Vychan in 1257, and finally in 1287 its remaining out-wall was destroyed. The site of this old castle is approximately north of the spot were The new castle, which was built the later one was built. after the destruction of the old one, till adorns the town.

The early history of Swansea is chiefly found in the charters, numbering ten altogether, granted to the town by the Lords Marchers, the Kings of England, and Protector Cromwell. In 1332 Bishop Gower, who built the new castle and rebuilt St. Mary's Church (not the present one), founded the Hospital of St. David. This Hospital was situated near old St. Mary's Church, and must have had a considerable revenue. The last remains of this hospital are said to form part of the Cross Keys Inn near the present St. Mary's Church. In 1563 there were only 180 householders in the Parish of Swansea. Sir Matthew Cradock, whose tomb is still preserved in St. Mary's Church, built the Old Plas House in the fifteenth century. When this building was demolished in 1840, a number of silver coins were found in a vessel hidden in one of the walls.

In 1648 Oliver Cromwell came to Swansea in order to survey Gower, and again in 1655 when he granted a valuable charter to the town. The last charter granted was that of James II in 1685. In 1707 the town had increased in size. and the number of houses were about 297. In Mary I's reign an act was passed to prevent the sea from encroaching on the sea-coast of Glamorgan. What alteration took place in the coast line about this time cannot be exactly known, but relics that fishermen have brought in from time to time give confirmation to the legends of a great forest in Swansea Bay. and to the traditions of the lost property of the Angel family. The old course of the Tawe River lay close under the castle where the North Dock now is. There was no bridge across the river, but a ford for cattle and horses, and a ferry for people who crossed from the east for business or pleasure. At St. Helen's, which is now covered by the town, there was a chalybeate well of great renown.

Oystermouth and the beautiful coast beyond was made accessible in the early part of the nineteenth century by the first railway built in England under an Act of George III in 1804. The trams were worked by horses till 1877 A.D.

H. J. ELIAS IV CL.

#### WHAT I SAW IN THE CAVE.

I have always been very fond of ghost stories or, in fact, any "creepy stories." I am held spellbound while reading the tale of some ghost or other supernatural being, and listen with breathless interest whilst anyone relates some "creepy" story.

The incident which I am about to describe occurred to myself last summer holidays. It has nothing to do with ghosts, but nevertheless there is something uncanny about it which, I believe, will satisfy anybody with a taste like mine.

It was a very hot day in August and we all agreed that Caswell Bay would be more pleasant than Swansea iu such weather. Accordingly, immediately after dinner we packed a tea-basket and set out. We followed the usual route— Mumbles train to Oystermouth, then the walk through the woods—and arrived at Caswell soon after three o'clock. 109

Having found a shady nook, I settled down with my book, intending to read until tea-time. My brother and his chum set out "to fish "—they called it, though what for I don't know, because they did not bring anything back. My mother and sisters chattered over their needlework or knitting, and this annoyed me, as I could not give my attention to my book, being tempted to join in the merry conversation from time to time.

I determined te seek an out-of-the-way corner where I could read undisturbed, and announcing my intention to my mother, set off. After a search of about five minutes I discovered a cave which I had never noticed before. There was nobody near it so I entered, feeling quite elated at my good fortune. There was a pool of water at one side, but the rock on the opposite side made quite a comfortable seat and I opened my book for the second time that afternoon, and settled down to enjoy the thrilling chapters.

But I was not allowed to read long undisturbed : I had only turned over a few pages of my beloved book when a slight movement in the water of the pool arrested my attention, and, looking in the directing of the noise I saw a dark object slowly moving towards me. I jumped up and went a few steps towards it, when, to my horror, I saw two great eyes glaring at me from this unknown object. I was held fascinated by them, and clutched the rock behind me. As I stood thus a long arm shot out and entwined itself around me; I now realised that I was in the embrace of an octopus. I was soon seized by another arm, and still another. As I tried to free myself from the horrible entwining tentacles the loathsome creature tightened his hold, sending a thrill of pain through my body. Already I could feel the suckers of three terrible tentacles at work upon me. I felt quite numb and unable to move. The glaring eyes held my gaze, and I failed to close my eyes to shut out the horrible sight. I could feel a fourth arm seizing me, lashing me across the chest like a whip: then another and so on until the eight arms The head of the creature was held me fast. now quite near and I could see the awful mouth gaping open ready to receive me. I knew my fate. I should be emptied into that loathsome resceptacle, swallowed into that fearful monster, then to be dissolved, as it were, into part of itself. The thought of this terrible end, of being swallowed alive by this devil-fish, was the greatest agony, and I longed to die before this could happen. Just when I thought the awful moment had arrived, however, I heard my name called. I then recognised the footsteps of my sister approaching. In another second I heard her laughing voice saying "Come along, sleepy head. We are ready for tea." I looked round startled. The cave was empty save for my sister and me. "But the octopus!" I exclaimed, "It was here a minute ago, holding me in its deadly embrace." "Oh," she answered with a laugh, "the octopus is safe in the pages of 'The Toilers of the Sea' which I see you have with you."

I then understood, and went with her to join the others and partake of the merry meal. Loud was the laughter which greeted the recital of my adventure in the cave.

MAMIE THOMAS.

#### ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

THE SCHOOL V. THE MASTERS' TEAM.

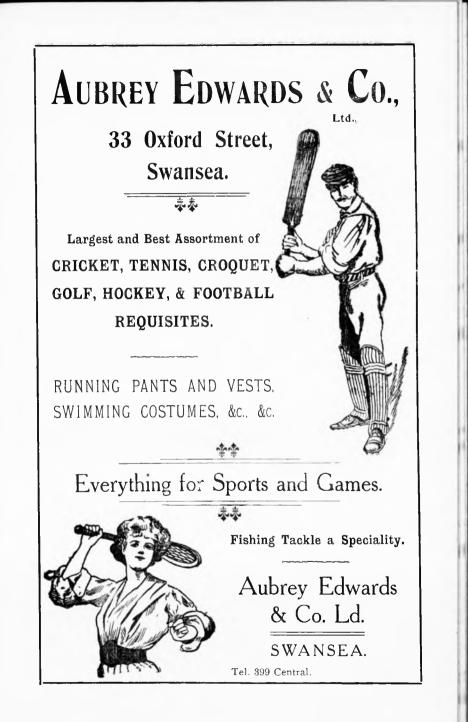
This game was the opening match of the season, and the School Team had great hopes of coming out victorious. The Masters fielded, minus a few players, and consequently pressed the School backs into their service. The attack was taken up by the Masters, who gave the School Team a very anxious time. Early in the game Mr. D. Williams beat Bates (the School's Whittaker) and thus opened the scoring for the Masters. The School rallied, and rushed the ball down the field and bombarded the Masters' goal. Mr. Abraham, in goal, saved splendidly time after time. Eventually Waters equalised. At half-time the score was level (3-3). The scorers for the School Team were S. John (2), and Waters.

In the second half play became keener. Fine form was shown by Mr. Williams, Mr. Mendus and Mr. Jones, while S. John, Howells, Lamont, and Evans played well for the School. Three more goals were scored by the Masters and two by the School before the final whistle. The penalty goal shot by Mr. Mendus was particularly fine.

On the whole great promise was shown by the players, and a successful season is predicted.

#### MUN. SEC. v. MORRISTON C.L.B.

The School Team fielded the full side against a team picked from the Morriston C.L.B. The visitors had the choice of ends, so Thomas set the ball rolling. The game proved to be





a very hard and fast one. The School forwards were really dangerous on many occasions, and their efforts would have resulted in scores more often but for the fine defence shown by the opposing backs. Excitement ran high, for at half-time nothing separated the teams. On the restart Evans supplied the spectators with a fine bit of play. Lamont raced down the touch line with the ball at his feet and transferred to Morris, who ran on in fine style and then returned the ball to Lamont, who made no mistake in beating the opposing goalie. Another three goals were added, two by Waters and one by Thomas. Later, one of the opposing backs kicked the ball towards his own goalie for him to kick; unfortunately for him the ball was travelling fast and as a result he failed to stop it entering the goal mouth. The final score was five goals to two in favour of the school.

#### MUN. SEC. v. LANGLAND BAY.

This match was played at the Mumbles on Saturday, October 5th. Despite the great disparity in the ages of the two teams, the School Team acquitted themselves admirably in drawing with their heavy opponents. The School led at half-time by 2—1, goals being scored by H. Evans and F. Thomas. In the second moiety D. Richards scored and one of our players presented our opponents with a goal—gratis. Final 3—3.

#### MUN. SEC. v. TATLERS.

This match was played at the School Field on Saturday, October 19th. Again our opponents were very heavy, but the School led at half-time by 2—1, goals being scored by Lamont and Howells. In the second half, weight told, and our opponents quickly scored three goals. The total against us would have been greater had it not been for the fine defence of Mr. J. Mendus at back. Final 4—2.

#### MUN. SEC. v. TRINITY.

On Saturday, November 9th, the School Team played Trinity A.F.C. The game was fast and play reached a high standard. By half-time the School had scored three fine goals to which their opponents replied with one. In the second half the efforts of the School were rewarded by three more goals, their opponents scoring two more. The final score was — School 6; Trinity 3. Scorers — Waters 3, Howell 2, Morris 1.

#### RUGBY NOTES.

The present season promises to be of quite an unusual character for the School Team, in that the continual, almost unbroken successes of the last few years will not be maintained.

On Sept. 10th an enthusiastic meeting of players unanimously elected K. Howells (IIIM) to the captaincy, N. Lewis (IIA) being made vice-captain. Most unfortunately, both for the team and himself, Lewis fractured his arm soon after and has not yet been able to resume the place he filled so well in last year's team.

After a few trial games it was found that the team was not likely to be as strong as in former years and the defeats sustained in October were not unexpected.

Already 21 players have taken part in the five games played and it is very probable that many more will receive trials in the near future.

The League this season consists of two divisions and as a result of the first round the school team retains its position in Division 1, having obtained six points out of a possible ten.

Danygraig was the first team met and the result, five tries nil, was in keeping with the play. Fischer opened the score from a scruni close in and during the second half T. Davies, I. Williams (2) and C. Barrett—three three-quarters, added further tries.

On the following Saturday Brynmill was beaten by four tries to one try. S. Jones snapped up a chance and scored, Chislett also touching down before half time. After the interval, good passing resulted in I. Williams adding to the score, while after Brynmill had scored Daley darted over from the base of the scrum.

The two succeeding Saturdays brought two defeats—St. Joseph's luckily scoring two tries, but thoroughly deserving their win on the day's play and Industrial, lasting better, putting on three tries by brilliant combined work.

The last game played—at the date of writing—was against Hafod. The only real football in this game was shown during the first ten minutes. Scrambling play followed during which T. Davies dribbled over with a try, and Howells after Hafod had equalised, barged his way over from a line-out. The second half was blank, the final score being two tries to one in our favour.

In the forwards the Captain, Donald, Chislett, W. Jones, Trev. Williams, and N. Jones have been the mainstay. The two first named have also figured in the Trial Game for the purpose of picking a Town Team.

Fischer, T. Davies, S. Jones, C. Barrett, behind the scrum have figured in every game. Thus the above ten players may be considered the best available so far. Others who have received trial in one or more games, have been replaced or given a rest so that opportunities may be given to other candidates for positions.

Although not so successful as in former years, the team continues to play the game in the right spirit and shows it can come up smiling after a defeat.

#### THE TRAPPER'S TALE.

Winter had long set in, accompanied by snow and ice, and as the "Wintry Winds" whistled through the pines they caused the inmates of a small "stores" on the bank of te St. Lawrence to shiver. Inside the stores, seated around a large pine fire were a dozen trappers. Pipes were filled, and, a voice having called for a "yarn," a big, burly trapper, Bill Crews, launched forth in the following dramatic way:--" I reckon it was about this time ten years past, in the late spring, when I got my first peep at Indian life. I had come in fresh from the "Old Country" but though full of dreams about my future Indian adventures, did not think they were to begin in such a startling manner. I was at Daleport and after having loafed about for a few days, I went alone into the backwoods for a day's sport. I was returning to the stores, when I suddenly observed three Indians executing a " war dance " immediately in front of me. Being rather foolish and thinking of massacres and such things, I drew out my "Colt" pistol and fired twice in succession, I missed my aim and before I could move, the Indians had attacked me. After disarming me, they bound me securely, and whilst I thought of tortures and such things, I was thrown into a canoe, which was rowed up the river by two Indians, the third gesticulating and making thrusts with an evil looking knife, as if to assure me of my fate. After being rowed upstream for a distance of nearly ten miles, the canoe "shot" a rapid, and I noticed dense forests on both banks. The Indians "rested " on their paddles, and soon the canoe drew alongside a badly constructed pier, made of roughly hewn logs. I was unceremoniously dragged out of the boat and (the cords being taken from my feet) marched through a dense forest, and carefully guarded by two of my assailants, the third having hurried on to tell of

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Soon we reached a "clearing" in the middle of my capture. which was a large log fire from which smoke wreathed up into the darkening sky. Around the fire I could distinguish the forms of a chief and a dozen braves, squatting around and smoking the long "peace-pipes" of the Canadian Indian. On the border of the "clearing" were about a dozen "wigwams," near which, upon a patch of green, a few horses were tethered, thus completing a typical and picturesque scene of "Indian Life." I was roughly thrown into a "wigwam," which bore curious markings upon the flap which served as the only means of entrance or exit. As standing would have caused exhaustion, I sat up, leaning against the side of the "wigwam." My appearance evidently caused consternation, for a group of squaws, who were seated upon the small stools, broke up and left the "wigwam". A lean dog, very curious, attempted to sniff at my boots, but resenting this interference, I dealt him a sharp kick which sent him howling into the opening. Pondering over my position, I fell asleep, and awaking suddenly, I was confronted by a young squaw. She gave me some bread and meat, and whilst I ate, she cut the cords which bound my wrists. Peering cautiously out into the darkness of the night, she took my arm and showed me a path leading out into the woods; scarcely waiting even for directions how to proceed. I hurriedly made my escape, thanking Providence and my "Lucky Star." I need hardly tell you I soon reached home, but I am still in ignorance as to the identity of my fair deliverer." Upon this the friendly party broke up, and Green, a young tenderfoot, received many joking injunctions to beware of the Indians.

C. L. DAVIES (III)

#### FORM NOTES.

#### FORM IIc.

"How did you enjoy your holidays, and where did you go?" everybody seemed to be saying on the day of returning to school after our long, enjoyable but wet summer vacation

The appearance of many new faces carried our minds back over a period of twelve months when we made our first appearance at the M.S.S.

We are now back in the swing of work and are each looking forward to holding the top position in the class, as the result of the term exams. Certainly our French conversation is a credit to us, and I am sure that our form master is as anxious to get us on in that subject (as in every other subject of course) as we are to get on ourselves.

In soccer, our defeat of IR (4 goals to 2) has been our only great achievement so far. We hope to become more successful than that. NEVILLE KILVINGTON.

#### FORM IIB.

We are now looking forward to the term tests, which are likely to produce keen contests. The struggle for Homework marks too is, and will be, a fight to a finish. We all offer our sincerest congratulations to Arthur Williams (IIIcL) upon the election of his father to the Mayoralty of Swansea. Although IIB have three times been successful in obtaining games, yet we have been unsuccessful in obtaining another Form as our opponents. Swimming also is receiving a great deal of attention, and we hope to have one or two representatives in the swim for the Cup, which we hope the School will capture this year.

W. HARMAN, (Form Capt.).

#### FORM IIA.

Our summer holidays have passed and we find ourselves in IIA, much to our liking. This term has nearly expired and we are looking forward to the Christmas holidays. With our school work we are progressing favourably. At sports, which at present is football, we are unbeaten. We have played IIR twice multiplying our majority as we play, our last score being six to two. We have this year the honour of having the vicecaptain of the school team in our class. On Wednesday afternoon some boys go down to the baths to try to be one of the four representatives of our school in swimming. We have two candidates in our class. As we have lost our best boys who are now in II REM. our form notes will lose grand words and fine phrases. But we have still some original geniuses in our form. One boy gave the feminine of peacock as peacockess. and another gave peacock-hen. A third boy distinguished himself in the Oral French lesson; when Monsieur Augustin asked "Que fait le train?" he received the unexpected answer " Il regarde ses parents."

#### G.D. A.C. R.B.

#### FORM IR.

Every other Tuesday, if the weather permits, we leave school at three o'clock and journey to the Recreation Ground where we have a game of football, one half of the form generally playing the other half. The team has also played two matches against IIc in which the latter were victorious. We are anxiously awaiting the time when we shall be able to go to the baths and learn to swim. We have now commenced our terminal examinatons and all are eager to do well. There has been keen rivalry in regard to home lessons, several boys having the same number of marks. A great interest is taken in the work and everyone is anxious to attain the honour of being top boy.

ERIC OLSSON.

#### FORM IB.

#### A FRESHER'S FEARS AND HOPES.

For many years I had heard of the Mun. Sec. School, and now that the time had arrived to try the entrance exam., I was possessed by strange feelings. I wondered what sort of a place it was, what sort of work was done there, and whether the "blue cap" boys were really as nice as they seemed to be. The exam. day found me very downhearted. I was not at all hopeful, as many boys from our old school had previously tried and failed. However I gathered up courage and made for Dynevor Place. Question papers were given out and soon we were at work. I was not encouraged when I saw two boys crying. At all events I stuck to my task and you can imagine my delight, dear reader, when "the letter" arrived stating I had passed. The teachers too at inv old school were glad and they showed it by giving me a number of books and by wishing me every success at the Municipal Secondary School.

Form Master: What does "Je ne sais pas" mean?

Boy: "I do not know."

Form Master: Go to your place and come out when you do know.

Top Boys in Home Lessons for September were Graham Hughes and D. H. Jones; for October, D. H. Jones.

#### CRICKET (Girls' School).

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