

GOREU ARF,



ARF DYSG.

# Swansea Municipal Secondary School Magazine.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES.

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We regret that Mr. Beanland and Miss Phipps have felt compelled to relinquish the duty of editing the Magazine, for it is no light task to succeed those who have done so well in the office of directing the course of the Magazine. We hope, however, that the same assistance may be extended to those now in charge and that our scholars will loyally endeavour to help to maintain the efficiency of their School Magazine. We promise to do our best.

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We shall welcome any contributions which our readers may think to be of interest, and we hope to be able to include articles written by former pupils of the School and by members of the School staff.

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We acknowledge our thanks to all who have contributed to this number; and, though we are compelled to hold over some contributions this time, we hope to be able to include them in our next issue.

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The following names, of successful Candidates at the London Matriculation Examination last year, were inadvertently omitted from the Nov. No. of the Magazine:—H. L. Baynham, W. Davies, T. M. Jenkins, T. F. Meyrick, Gabriel

Williams. To this list must be added the name of S. H. Davies, who qualified through the Oxford Local (Senior) Examination.

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The photos have arrived and the critics are at work. No one, of course, has been flattered, for the wit of man has not yet invented the instrument that could make us out as good-looking as we all think ourselves to be; but Messrs. Holdsworth have tried to tell the truth about us and they have succeeded wonderfully well. All the pictures are quite good, though individual judgment will vary according to special interest and some of the sitters will pronounce some pictures better than others. The Form groups are well done and the grouping reflects credit upon the photographer. The Staff group, the photos of the Science Laboratories (and their contents), of the Art Room, the Assembly Hall, the Gymnasium, of the Orchestra, of 2C Room, of the Rugger team, and (the last shall be first) of the Dinner Club form a combination of which we feel justly proud. We have not attempted to name the pictures in order of merit, but there can be no doubt whatever that the Dinner Club picture is worthy of a real gilt frame. And it was an excellent idea that prompted the photographers to combine the pictures and issue them in book form. We forgot to mention that the photo of the School from the outside is quite the best we have yet seen.

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The Form-group photographs, (taken two years ago) which have been framed and hung in the corridors downstairs, make very interesting pictures and have been much admired. Since the names of the scholars are inserted beneath the photos, these will supply a very useful means of identification in the future.

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Our mid-term holiday was quite happily chosen this time, for the weather was gloriously fine and——well, it was not the fault of the weather if everyone did not enjoy the welcome break.

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The Prize Distribution was this year again a big success. We all feel very grateful to His Worship the Mayor, to Mrs. Williams, to the Chairman of the Education Committee and to Mrs. Gwynne, for the functions they so gracefully performed and for the kind, encouraging and stimulating words they uttered.

In another column will be found an account (furnished by a contributor) of the proceedings.

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Hearty congratulations to Ken Howells, Geo. Davies, Joshua Evans and Tudor Davies, upon their achievement in bringing us, for the first time, the Sir John Llewellyn Challenge Cup. It is a fine trophy; may we keep it long!

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Under "Form Notes, 1.R.," reference is made to the success of William Ross, and 1.R. are justly proud of the success of one of their number. We all associate ourselves most heartily with their expression of congratulation to the writer. The essay appears in another column. Read it! It is a little silhouette, reminiscent of the striking pen-pictures of a Balzac. Though, of course, it lacks the finish of this type of composition, yet it breathes something of the true spirit; though blurred in parts, it marks the outline of an impression so vivid and compelling that the mind holds only the salient points, and from this has emerged a dainty picture of scene and emotion. It is extremely good for one so young, and it should encourage the writer to persevere as it should stimulate others of our pupils to similar efforts.

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There has recently been added to the reference library of the school a valuable little volume in manuscript from the pen of Mr. Burns. It contains an interesting account of the rather bitter controversy that raged around the founding of our school—the Higher Grade School as it was known then—of the prejudices it had to overcome and of the struggles it encountered during the first years of its existence. Those hard years were the stepping-stones to better things and few, indeed, of the pupils who now enjoy the privileges of the school can have any idea of the opposition it encountered. Perhaps, in a subsequent number, we shall be able to tell our readers more about it.

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Please look at the last page. We hope the announcement made there will please our readers.

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Everybody is glad it is the end of Term. We close on the 20th for our Easter Holidays, and return on the 7th April.

## RUGBY NOTES.

In the second round of the League Competition, the School team seems likely to obtain a similar total to that obtained in the first round, that is, 6 out of 10 points.

At present one game remains to be played, should this be completed before going to press, a short account will be included.

Taking the games in order, the first was played v. Industrial on the Cricket Field. In the first half the wrong tactics were employed and the team crossed over a try to the bad. Resorting to forward rushes and keen following up, the team soon wiped off the deficit—Captain Howells getting over in the corner. The game thus resulted in a draw—a fair reflex of the play,

After an interval of many weeks, Terrace Road was met on a very bad ground. The game again resulted in a draw—one try each—W. Jones being the scorer. There is no doubt that the team thoroughly deserved to win this game, as it was only luck which kept the score down to the single try. A hard game, played on a muddy ground, thus ended disappointingly for the team.

On the following Saturday, St. Joseph's again drew two points from our bag. Unlike the game in the first round, they were not value for the full points—a draw being much the fairer result, when the play is considered. The converted goal which settled the issue was the outcome of loose play and should never have been scored.

Brynmill yielded us our first win in the second round. The game was played at St. Helens, and although the captain was away at Aberavon, showing his paces before the W.S.R.F.U. Match Committee, the team managed to get home by two tries. The game was a very pleasant one and our lads had the advantage in weight. Chislett, who played a good game throughout, notched the first try in a melee and T. Davies touched down in the second half, after a stern chase. Fischer, who was 'chief' for the game, had hard lines in not adding to the total.

As far as the town games are concerned, Aberavon, Llanelltyd and Cardiff, have been met.

The first game, played away, resulted in a defeat, the lads being outplayed by superior weight in the second half. Howells (captain) and Donald were our representatives, and the captain converted the only try put on by the junior "All Whites."

The same two players helped the town team to defeat Llanelly on St. Helen's, just prior to Christmas. The score was 1 dropped goal 1 try—nil. A fair result under the circumstances.

Before the next town game a trial was held, when G. C. Davies and Chislett played.

The Cardiff match played prior to the Seniors' game, resulted in a win—2 tries to 1 try. Howells was our only representative, and for the third time captured the Town team.

The International trial game played at Aberavon, resulted in a good win for the Western lads—five of whom came from Swansea. After this game, the National Team to meet England at Leicster was picked. Three Swansea lads figure in the team—one being the Town and our School-Captain, Kenneth Howells. Thus is the succession maintained. Since 1905 every Welsh side has contained a representative of the School, a record which stands almost, if not entirely, alone amongst the Schools of Wales. The list reads: W. J. West (1905-6); F. Jenkins (07); L. Palmer (08); C. Yeandle (09); H. Fisher (10); D. J. Waters (11-12), and L. Bevan (12).

## SCIENCE JOTTINGS.

Scientific experiments can be performed with proper and careful manipulation in such a way as to give uneducated people mysterious and unaccountable impressions. In fact, a great many clever conjuring tricks are really only simple illustrations of chemical and physical actions performed so as to produce illusive effects.

The following striking experiment, which illustrates the transmission of sound through rods, might be attempted by some pupils, especially those of the fourth year form who study Sound.

Connect a tube about 2 or 3 inches in diameter from a room where a piano is situated to an upper chamber where the sound of the instrument, when played, cannot be heard. Through this tube pass a wooden rod, preferably deal, so that the lower end rests upon the sound-board of the piano, its other end being exposed in the upper room. When the piano is being played, place a violin upon the upper end of the rod and the instrument will become musical, not, however, with the vibrations of its own strings but with those of the piano. Remove the violin and the sound ceases. Putting in its place

a guitar or the sound-board of a harp, every note of the piano is reproduced and the strange thing about it is that the sound resembles that of guitar or harp.

Finally, press a plain wooden tray upon the end of the deal rod; this is immediately rendered musical. An uneducated person might well believe that witchcraft or some spiritualistic influence is concerned in the production of this music.

What a curious transference of action is here presented to the mind! At the command of the musician's will, the fingers strike the keys; the hammers thus strike the strings, by which the crude mechanical blow or shock is converted into tremors. The vibrations are communicated to the sound-board of the piano. Upon that board rests the end of the wooden rod, cut off to a sharp edge to make it fit more easily between the wires. Through the edge and afterwards along the rod, are transmitted with unfailing precision the entangled pulsations produced by the shocks of those ten agile fingers. To the sound-board of the harp or the wooden tray the rod faithfully delivers up the vibrations of which it is the vehicle. This again transfers the motion to the air, carving it and chasing it into forms so transcendently complicated that confusion alone might have been anticipated from the shock and jostle of the sonorous waves. But the marvellous human ear accepts every feature of the motion and all the strife and struggle and confusion melt finally into music upon the brain.

A piano is not absolutely essential; an ordinary musical box may be substituted for it.

Before attempting this experiment the student operator is specially requested to ask for permission to drill holes through the ceilings and to see that the damage is properly repaired afterwards.

A remarkable example of the transmission of vibrations through solids is found in a local Chapel. When the pedal of one of the sixteen-foot pipes of the organ in this building is pressed down, not only the note of the pipe itself is heard, but the whole edifice seems to be vibrating and the effect can be felt by the whole audience, especially by those seated in the gallery. This curious effect is produced because this particular pipe accidentally presses upon a piece of timber which receives its pulsations from the motion of the air in the pipe originally, and this piece of timber communicates the vibration to the other portions of the building.

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Those readers who are unable to perform the preceding experiments may try the following device to illustrate the same principle. Two ordinary tins are required with a hole bored into the centre of the base of each—common fruit tins will do for the purpose. Through these holes pass a long wire or cord and fasten the extremities to the tins. The wire must be kept taut in order to get the best results. Place a companion to speak into one of the tins; by placing the ear near the open end of the tin, every word can be distinctly heard. Even the ticking of a watch in one tin is quite audible in the second. The vibrations are conveyed through the wire or cord and the tin at the other extremity acts as a resonator, that is, it intensifies the loudness in the same way as the loudness of a tuning fork is increased by placing the handle to rest on a table. The wire may be of any length. Experiments of this nature led men of science to the invention of the telephone.

E. P.

### MY LIFE—BY A FROG.

The very first thing I knew about anything was when I found myself lying on some marshy ground near a large shallow pond. I was then a very peculiar object indeed. I resembled a mass of jelly rather than the germ which was to become a frog in the near future.

As I said before—I was in shape like a round piece of jelly about the size of a pea, and was in company with dozens of my fellow creatures, in a flat compact mass. I was quite transparent and had a black spot in the centre of me which was in a short time to go through a wonderful transformation.

Gradually this spot grew and grew, until at last I had eyes and a tail.

I was then a tadpole and soon found myself in the water—in company with those of my fellows who were successful in surviving the dangers of the marsh.

Soon legs began to appear and my tail grew shorter—my body expanded and at last to my great joy—while basking in the shallow waters of the pond—I heard a little child who was passing exclaim—“Look at that dear little frog!” Then I was happy, for I knew that I had reached now my manhood or rather my froghood.

H. L. B.

## THE ANTARCTIC HEROES.

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We cannot allow this opportunity to pass without some slight reference to the gallant band of Britishers whose bodies now lie sleeping upon the icebound plains of the windswept, inhospitable, Antarctic. We are thrilled when we think of the splendour of their valour; we are pained when we remember that they died in the hour of their victory. They are made one with the heroes of all time; they have taken their place among the great spirits who have not hesitated to march forth to give of their best at the call of duty. They cheerfully followed the allurements of an ideal across the trackless paths of an unknown land. Theirs was no journey in quest of gold. They risked their lives in braving innumerable hardships through ice and snow that the boundaries of human knowledge might be extended, that another page might be disclosed in Nature's infinite book. Theirs was the spirit that cuts sheer through the dross of materialism, that forfeits ease for toil, security for danger; the spirit of the pioneers of old, of the world's benefactors; the spirit that scorns delights to live laborious days, that quickens the blood to pride when we read it in the records of the brave, the spirit of self-sacrifice without which life becomes a shallow and an empty dream.

Someone has said :

" Verily life with them was joy, and now they have left us woe ;

Once they were . . . and now they are not : and this is the sum we know."

But we do know of their achievement, and of the noble manner of their death; and these are the glorious total of that sum. In that solemn hour when they knew they were for ever to part from the life we know to traverse the paths of " that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns " they displayed a fortitude that must for ever win the admiration of the world. There was no panic, no regret. With calm submission to the inevitable, undaunted in mind, tranquil in spirit, they yielded up their souls to the cause they cherished best. They understood the deeper meaning of the things that matter most with men whose hearts ring true and they have taught us lessons—perhaps much needed in this commercial age—that the golden chain that counts is that wrought of links tempered by love of country, love of home, sense of honour, self-sacrifice, loyalty to duty. They have taught us too that failure sometimes may be infinitely more valuable than triumph.

And who is there that is not moved by that pathetic final letter of Capt. Scott? Its words will stand out for all time among

the most glorious utterances in the annals of this or any country. For the simple eloquence of deep emotion they are almost unsurpassed: "We are weak; writing is difficult; but for my own sake I do not regret this journey, which has shown that Englishmen can endure hardship, help one another, and meet death with as great a fortitude as ever in the past." And when disease had laid its heavy hand upon that other hero, Capt. Oates, his courage never failed him—it remained strong and unimpaired to the end. He would be no hindrance to his friends; he could serve no longer; and he resigned his life a sacrifice for his fellows. Of him Scott says: "He slept through the night hoping not to wake, but he awoke in the morning. It was blowing a blizzard. Oates said, 'I am going outside, and I may be some time.' He went out into the blizzard and we have not seen him since. We knew that Oates was walking to his death, but though we tried to dissuade him we knew it was the act of a brave man and an English gentleman." And when he was gone they were able to resume—but in vain for, ten days afterwards, they themselves found it impossible to reach their camp just eleven miles away. Of Capt. Scott, Capt. Oates, Lieutenant Bowers, Dr. Wilson and Petty Officer Evans what shall we say?—Heroes all who faced death unflinchingly with a dignity commensurate with their heroic purpose; truly "their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth evermore!"

Sven Hedin—himself a distinguished explorer—has in striking phrases summed up the world's opinion of Capt. Scott: "He has reached his goal. He has served his science. He has sacrificed his life. He has honoured his country again. As in Franklin's days England has conquered the first place in a desperate fight for knowledge, and in the pantheon of heroic deeds the British nation may be proud of such a son, of such victories."

In Westminster Abbey, on the cenotaph commemorating Sir John Franklin you will find the following words written by Tennyson:

"Not here! the white North has thy bones; and thou  
   Heroic sailor soul,  
 Art passing on thine happier voyage now  
   Toward no earthly pole."

These noble words might with equal appropriateness be dedicated to Capt. Scott who, like Blake and Nelson, Wolfe and Moore, died in the hour of victory.

## THE MAGAZINE MEETING.

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The Art Room of the Boys' School has a wonderful fascination. Not only have Scholarship and Certificate candidates been pleased—or otherwise?—to sit for their exams. in it but various 'overflow' classes ranging from Geography to Latin have been held between its walls. The latest use to which it has been put is for the Combined Staff meeting of the two schools to discuss the Annual Magazine Report. This meeting was held on the 7th February, Mr. Beanland in the chair.

The report showed continuous progress. The Magazine in its new form seems to be doing better than ever, probably because its readers have a greater opportunity of inserting articles than was possible in the case of the older type of magazine.

At present, the Magazine is issued four times yearly, but the advisability of reducing the number to three—one for each term—was raised. The general feeling was that just now it was better to adhere to our present arrangement. Still, if any desire to have the number reduced is evinced by the readers, this plan shall be adopted.

The Editors, Miss Phipps and Mr. Beanland, tendered their resignations. They regretted their inability to continue in office, though they considered it very pleasant work. They felt that it might be advisable that the post should go to other members of the staff. Accordingly, two ladies of the staff of the Girls' School (Miss Atkins and Miss Thomas) consented to do their share in rotation, while Mr. R. J. Jones, who has the distinction of having been the first editor of the Magazine and of having subsequently undertaken the work for many years, was unanimously re-elected Editor. In such capable hands we feel sure that the best traditions of the Magazine will be maintained.

Mr. D. J. Williams consented to continue his work as distributor for another year.

The treasurer, Mr. T. D. Evans, who has done so well for years, was re-elected.

The best thanks of the meeting were heartily given to all the mistresses and masters who had taken part in the work of the Magazine.

W. B. T.

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## MINE SURVEYING.

When I started mining I had no idea what a colliery was like and how it was arranged underground, and I wanted to go down very much. Arriving at the colliery early in the morning in an old suit of clothes, I was given a locked safety-lamp and went with my "pal" to the top of the pit. Then came the drop down, and I can tell you that is no pleasant experience the first time. Arriving at the pit bottom, I could see nothing, it was so dark; the light of my lamp was of no use whatever, it only gave about half-a-candle power or less, of light. We then scrambled, rather than walked, to a man-hole, after avoiding trams and horses by inches; there we waited for about ten minutes till we got our eyes used to the darkness and were able to see better. We then went into the workings to make our survey. In this particular colliery, the "roads" or "tunnels" were only about five foot high, so we had to walk with our backs bent double. After walking about six or seven hundred yards in this way, we came to our starting place. Having finished our work there, we went to the face and saw the coal being cut from the seam.

To see coal in the "face" of a "stall" or "road," it looks like very hard rock more than the coal we are used to seeing in our own coal cellars, and it is hard too; the men often have to blow it up with powder before they can break it down.

One of the methods of cutting coal is to "undercut" it, that is, cut a hole along the bottom of the seam about 4 to 6 inches wide and as far in as the handle of the pick will allow. To do this, the men have to lie on their sides, then they bore a hole in it with a drill, about in the centre of the seam, and put a shot in and fire it by electricity; this smashes the coal from the seam, and it is filled into trams and sent to the pit bottom and thence to the surface.

Leaving the face, we went back along the road for about ten yards, when the fireman went down on his hands and knees and disappeared into a hole about 18 inches in diameter, and then my pal followed and told me to follow him. We went into the hole lying flat on the ground. I thought my time had come and began thinking of all my sins and of the bad things I had done at school and wished I were back there. However, after wriggling along about sixty yards, we came to another heading or road and went on with our work.

After about four or five hours, we ascended the pit shaft and I went home feeling very brave and proud of myself.

GWYNNE HUGHES (late of 4M).

## ORCHESTRAL NOTES.

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During this term, at Mr. Gordon's suggestion, a string band was formed to assist the choir in its weekly practices. It consists of 15 members, as follows:—

*Violins*, Mr. W. B. Thomas (Conductor); Frank Wheelhouse, 4M.; Trevor Williams, 2R.; Brinley Richards, 2R.; Idris Davies, 2R.; Malcolm Lynn, 2B.; W. Harman, 1A.; J. E. Evans, 1A. *'Cello*, Mr. R. J. Jones; Trevor Arnold, 2A. *Mandoline*, Harold Gibbs, 3M. *Flute*, Ivor Fischer, 2R. *Piccolo*, Frank Dowdall, 4Cl. *Accompanists*, Ivor Sims, 4Cl.; Sidney Evans, 2Cl. Up to the present we have had two practices with the choir. On the first occasion great excitement was created when the band made its appearance before the choir in Rooms 3Cl. and 3M. If at first the orchestra felt shy and uneasy, it was soon the turn of the choir "to face the music." A pleasant practice took place, its originality being certainly an agreeable feature to the monotony of school life.

The band is at present engaged learning several pieces. Some of our favourites so far are Rubenstein's *Mélodie* in *F*; Handel's *Largo* in *G*; Schumann's *Traümerei* (*Rêverie*); and we do not forget our famous undying old Welsh tunes.

The band practices are enthusiastically attended; we all feel that the 'cello part is of great assistance owing to the full body of sound thus given.

As a late note, we are pleased to note that the photograph taken of us last week is exceptionally good and will be cherished for many long years as a memento of happy hours.

MUSIC.

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## CHRONOLOGY IN SIX LINES.

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The children in Queen Victoria's reign learned the names of the English Kings from the following verse:—

"Two Williams, Henry, Stephen, Henry, Dick,  
John, Hal, three Edwards, Richard, three Hals—quick,  
Two Edwards, Dick, two Harrys and a Ned,  
Mary, Bess, James, and Charles, who lost his head.  
Charles, James, Will, Anne, four Georges, and a Will,  
And Queen Victoria who is reigning still,"



## THE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

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This important event took place during the Christmas term on December 13th, at the Albert Hall. Whether rain is destined to fall or whether the singing is the cause we do not know, but it always rains on our prize-day. Maybe the date, 13, had something to do with it this year. The ante-rooms were full to overflowing with excited girls and boys, but after some time all were safely seated either upon the platform or in the body of the hall. The Mayor and Mayoress were heartily welcomed as they with Miss Phipps and Mr. Beanland came upon the platform. The scholars of the S. M. S. S. cheered lustily. The Mayoress and Mrs. Ivor Gwynne were then presented with baskets of flowers and the Mayor opened the proceedings with a short but interesting address. Miss Phipps and Mr. Beanland read the Annual Reports and sighs of relief came from the girls' quarters when they found that hockey had not been mentioned. The boys contributed a very good quartette party and a very amusing recitation; the girls sang "rounds"; and the glee, "Snow," rendered by the Upper School girls won well-merited applause. The prizes were then distributed to the happy recipients by the Mayoress and Mrs. Gwynne. Hearty cheers were then given for the Mayor and Mayoress and one of the girls called for three cheers for Miss Phipps. This was heartily responded to, after which the National Anthem was sung, and "our Prize-day" was over. We call it "our Prize-day" although all did not receive prizes. All cannot receive a first or second but that is no reason why all should not endeavour to do so.

Y.Z.

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## HOCKEY NOTES.

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In spite of the bad weather at the beginning of the season, the hockey team has played more matches than it had during any other season. It seems a pity that the time left is so short, because our first XI, is in such promising condition.

We missed Miss Balls' help very much during her illness, but felt very thankful on her return, although she must only "look on" and not play.

Only one mishap has occurred to us and that is the loss of a set of flags, which has caused much anxiety among the members and those interested. The twelve appear to have taken the "wrong turning" and have, it is feared, been

stranded somewhere on the Devonshire coast, where they will miss the warm shelter so kindly given to them by O. and G. Hounsell.

The results of the different matches have not proved so dreadful as we expected. A few of them are given below :—

Neath County School v. S.M.S.S.—

Neath C.S.	...	...	...	...	10 goals,
S.M.S.S.	...	...	...	...	1 goal.

Terrace Road Boys v. S.M.S.S.—

S.M.S.S.	...	...	...	...	5 goals,
Terrace Road Boys	...	...	...	...	1 goal.

Roseland Villa v. S.M.S.S.—

R.V.H.C.	...	...	...	...	5 goals,
S.M.S.S.	...	...	...	...	1 goal.

Lansdowne v. S.M.S.S.—

Lansdowne	...	...	...	...	8 goals,
S.M.S.S.	...	...	...	...	3 goals.

Clark's College v. S.M.S.S.—

Clark's College	...	...	...	...	4 goals,
S.M.S.S.	...	...	...	...	1 goal.

One function in which members and non-members can join is our "Winding-up Social." This will be held shortly, and it is hoped, will prove a great success.

"FLAGBEARER."

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LOST, STOLEN, OR STRAYED.

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It is with much regret that we deplore the loss of our hockey flags. We played a match on the sands, but before we had finished a drizzling rain came on ; no doubt, if it had been fine we should have had ample time to collect these essentials.

We shall have to watch the ships coming into the docks to see if they are flying our flags, which may have been washed out to sea and picked up by them.

We hope the treasures will be returned, otherwise we shall not be surprised to see them fixed on one of the stalls on the sands as a kind of decoration.

If any of our readers could give us any information about them it would dispel the gloom which has fallen upon the unfortunate hockey team which is left to mourn their loss.

"HOCKEYITE."

## GIRLS' SCHOOL: TERM NOTES.

## FORM I.

We are improving in some things. The other day a girl in our Form was given an order-mark, her first meeting with that form of punishment. Immediately a friend asked to be allowed to take it for her. We have also learnt that a "catkin" is a young cat.

## FORM II.

Our Form Room is a very large one and therefore has many advantages. When the windows are shut the room becomes very stuffy; and when they are open to allow some fresh air in we have some rain in as well. All this is not very pleasant. Moreover, we cannot hear the bell very well, so that we generally lose part of our recreation time. We enjoy Hockey very much, except when the ground is slippery, for then we take more time falling down and getting up again than we do in playing. We had a General Knowledge examination the other day and learnt that when young we have "Temperate Teeth" (∴ we never take sweets, etc.!!!) and that a "catkin is a cat without a tail.

G. W.

## FORM IIIA.

Much excitement has prevailed during the past few weeks, for examinations have come round again. Lessons were resumed at the beginning of the term with very many good resolutions for good work and attention throughout.

O.P.

## FORM IVA.

## A MISTAKE.

A teacher, in trying to explain the word "offence" brought forward the following illustration: "Suppose you were to put a piece of string across the road and cause a blind man to fall, that would be an offence against the blind man."

A few days later came the examination, and one of the questions was:

"What is an offence?"

The greater part of the class made the following reply:

"An offence is a piece of string stretched across the road to make a blind man fall down." [Collapse of teacher.]

R.M.A.

FORM IV<sub>B</sub>.

We were all disappointed that we did not win the Shield, but never mind. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Form IV<sub>B</sub> password—"Come to Swansea and live."

FORM IV<sub>C</sub>.

We've won a match against IV<sub>B</sub>!!  
Do you not think us clever?  
We now shall strut about the yard  
With prouder air than ever.

This happened one day in last term,  
When we went to the field;  
The object of this special match  
Was, I suppose—the Shield.

We then were told that smart Form I.  
Would play against Form II.  
They did; and in that jolly game  
Form I. had "how d' ye do."

Form II. then played against IIIB,  
Of course, the IIIB's won,  
And they were dreaming of the Shield  
Until WE fought and WON.

We now have got the Championship!!!  
We now do rule the day,  
Some merry, merry games we played,  
So shout Hip! Hip! Hooray!

A.M.H. (IV<sub>C</sub>)

## FORM VI.

On the morning of February 11th, when we reached the corner of Trinity Place we could not see the school. How we wished it was not there, and that the fog had really swallowed it up! But as we walked in the direction of the venerable building we soon saw the sombre reality loom before us, with the front door wide open to receive us, and the fog which sailed in and upstairs without finding the least obstruction to prevent it in its gliding along the cool, stone-paved corridors. The fog, in imitation of the London "veils," still leaves intact our Abode of Bliss.

ONE OF FORM VI.

## FORM Vc.

The organ grinder must think we prefer music to composition. Every Friday morning about 11 o'clock he pays us a visit. As he strikes up so our thoughts begin to wander. On Wednesday mornings we do not rest so contentedly. We are all on the "qui vive" dreading to hear our names called to sing the dreadful time exercises (hot "Ragtimes"). We confess that we need to write composition as much as we need to practise when some girls write of "humble bees," meaning "bumble bees."

Our class is still diminishing. Two girls have left this term. One is at the "Telephone Office" and the other at a bookseller's in High Street.

C.B.

---

We have now reached half-term and have only a few weeks to prepare for our examination, which takes place the first week on our return after the Easter holidays. We already feel rather nervous having never taken a speed examination in shorthand before. We will all try our best, this being the first of its kind to be entered for from the Girls' School. We all heartily thank Mr. Jones and all the teachers who have worked so hard to prepare us for the dreaded week. The examination is to be held during the evenings of the week. We come back after the Easter holidays and after the fortnight's break we shall have to spend the remaining time at the subjects we are taking.

---

 FORM VI.

May we offer the suggestion that a tennis club be formed for next term? This game might become as successful as hockey or cricket. We could play in the field and obtain permission to use the net. Hoping that this will receive consideration.

W.B.

The agonies of this term's return to school were mingled with the pleasures (?) of essay writing. We had three subjects from which to choose :—

- 1.—A day in the life of a stray cat.
- 2.—The different ways in which animals are useful to men.
- 3.—Why it is cruel to keep a bird in a cage? Most of our number however, seemed to be stricken with the stray cat fever. The two who recovered with the best results were Doris Bowen (from the Upper School) and Isabel Slade

(from the Lower School), to whom we offer sincere congratulations. They received the reward of their labours on Saturday, February 15th, at the Albert Hall, which part of the programme it is to be hoped they enjoyed more than the preceding one.

One of our number has not yet completely recovered from her attack of the special fever. The other day she led a little stray dog into the form room and very reluctantly, upon the remonstrance of the mistress, carried him out of the building.

P.B. VI.

#### FORM VA.

The rumour has reached us that some of the forms have lately been favoured with a few additions to their library books. We should be exceedingly pleased if some such additions were made to ours, as many of us have read every one of those we now possess.

T. J.

Let it never be said that the residents of VA room will die of suffocation! The various ingenious ways in which draughts enter the room are little short of marvellous. Some seem to issue from behind cupboards, pictures, and other pieces of furniture, in addition to the ordinary window draughts. Naturally, the teachers suffer equally with the girls.

### BOYS' SCHOOL: TERM NOTES.

#### FORM IVCL.

We returned after a wet Christmas Vacation to continue our work for the "Oxford Senior." This examination is looked forward to with great concern (?). However, come what may, we intend to uphold the record of the year 1912. We are strongly represented in the School Debating Society, the School String-band Society and also in the School "Soccer" Team. Our room, which is one of the smallest class-rooms in the School, is much too small for us, with the result that we have to migrate to other class-rooms. We are also situated in the coldest part of the School, no warm sunbeams penetrate through our window. We are all glad that the "sweet perfumes" of sulphuretted-hydrogen have not found their way into our room. Evidently the cracks in the wall have been filled up, because in former days the room was famous for its odour. There is a rumour, that a certain form intends to present us with a black-board. At present we have a black-board, but owing to its prominent position (?) it is

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used only as a last resource. We now use the wall as a black-board.

The Form has a Basket Ball team which has not been beaten, for the simple reason that it has played no matches. We intended playing against IVm Basket Ball team, but owing to the absence of the referee, the game was abandoned. The latest system of teaching Geography is by lime-light views of the various countries. We have had three of these lectures, which were greatly appreciated by the Form. The different lessons are sometimes enlivened by amusing answers,

Question: Il n'y avait qu'une trentaine de personnes à l'église?

Answer: There are only about 30 people in England.  
Another pupil had the audacity to say, "that it was possible for a man to fall down a crevasse without knowing it!"

H.J.E.

---

#### FORM II B.

We returned to our labours after the Christmas holidays on January 7th. All looked well, and nearly everyone had the question asked him as to where he had gone for the holidays. When we returned we were removed to our new quarters according to previous examination marks. These results produced many surprise packets, as those who were previously regarded as certain firsts or runners up found themselves in a rather undignified position. We have now a miniature orchestra at our school (Municipal Secondary enterprise again) which gives a charming accompaniment to the singing, also rich in quality. "Oh! listen to the band." Many such ejaculations were heard on its first inharmonious attempt at melody. Games are receiving strict attention from 2b as Mr. Beanland has already remarked. In four matches with 1a we have won one and lost one and drawn the remainder, this comparative failure owing to the fact that their Form-master rendered them valuable assistance. I will not, however, attempt to disguise the fact that good talent is to be found in 1a if I may be credited with such judgment. The stately 2a received a rude check in being lucky enough to draw with us, after we had had much the better of the play. The first attempt at photographing our Form turned out a failure owing to, as one member of the Form expressed it, the beauty existing in some 2b facial expressions. The Easter term tests are now upon us and all hope for good results (and many I dare say more gratifying results).

W.M.H.

## XMAS GIFTS.

During a French Conversational Lesson Monsieur Augustin asked the following question—"Q'est ce que vous envoyez à vos amis à Noel." He was rather amused to receive the following answer—"J'envoie ma face."

## FORM 1A.

We had to return to school this term without J. Buckland, who had met with an accident. We are glad to say that he is now much better.

The Form is doing well at football and holds an unbeaten record. Victories have been gained over 1B, 2C, 2B, and matches with 1A and 2B have been drawn. According to a boy in the Form, "Chemin de fer" means "This way to the fair."

We all offer our congratulations to Ken. Howells upon his selection for the International team. T.R.

## FORM 1B.

Top Boy Last Term—D. H. Jones.

Home Work. January—Emlyn Evans.

February—Emlyn Evans.

Are you fond of Swimming? To address this question to some boys in our Form is to court instant disaster. They don't like it. It grates on their nerves and worries them. They would prefer to talk of the weather, of books, of football, anything but *that*. Strange too, 'twas but a few short weeks back that they had words for nothing else. Whence this sudden change? Well, you see it's like this. There were some boys who wanted a wash, a warm wash in preference. They had towels, soap, and sponges, but never a *bath* could they get. Hinc illæ lacrimæ. E.E.

## FORM 1R.

This term the R.S.P.C.A. held an essay competition which all the schools of Swansea were entitled to try. Our Form had the honour of winning two prizes, Wm. Ross taking first prize for the school, and also the special prize for the best essay from all the Swansea schools. We are very proud of this great achievement, and offer Ross our hearty congratulations. On the morning of our half-term holiday we played a football match against 11C, but the game ended in a draw. Mr. Beanland has kindly arranged for our Form to go down to the baths this term, and the boys are very pleased.

C.J.

## VARSITY LIFE.

There are so many phases of Varsity Life that it is very difficult to choose one upon which to write an article. That being so, it may be best to say something about each phase and leave it to my readers to consider which they would prefer if they were at the Varsity.

Cambridge Town itself is very old and dates back to the time of the Romans. It was then known as Camboritum, but under the Saxons the name was changed to Grantaceaster. Between the years 870—1000, it was greatly troubled by the Danes; and when William the Conqueror came to England he built Cambridge Castle, in order to overawe the inhabitants of the Isle of Ely.

The University originated with Sijebert, King of East Anglia, and was revived by Edward the Elder. It is made up of twenty colleges, including two for ladies (Girton and Newnham). All are under one supreme authority, but at the same time each is ruled separately by its own statutes.

Lectures generally take place in the morning and thus the rest of the day is left open, so that the students may do just as they please. There are three terms in the academical year, Michaelmas, Lent, and Easter. Boating takes place all the year round; Rugby and Association are played in the Michaelmas, Hockey and Association in the Lent, and Cricket and Tennis in the Easter term.

Boating is looked upon as holding the most prominent place amongst sports, and it is the ambition of every "fresher" to strive to obtain the coveted "blue." Boat races take place once each term. In the first term, each college holds races known as the "crops," and as a result of these, men are selected to represent their college in competition with other colleges during the Lent Races. It is very interesting to watch inter-collegiate boat-races. The banks are lined with undergrads, who shout and gesticulate and do all manner of things in their endeavours to urge on their respective boats to victory.

Rugby football is very popular, and each college has at least one team. Inter-collegiate matches take place twice and often three times a week at the beginning of each year. A "freshers" match is held, and as a result of this match, vacancies are filled in the University team.

Association football is also popular. A league, with two divisions, has been formed, and there is very keen rivalry

between the colleges as is evidenced on the days of the matches. As my readers are doubtless aware, the University Rugby team defeated Oxford, while the Association team made a draw.

Each college, including Newnham and Girton, has a hockey team; and like Association, there is also a league in connection with this branch of sport.

As the May term has not yet commenced, I shall leave the Summer sports for a future article.

The oldest college in the Varsity is St. Peter's College or Peterhouse, as it is called. It was founded in 1824 by Hugh de Balsham, Bishop of Ely. St. John's College is interesting because at one time the poet Wordsworth was a student there. In the kitchen of the college is a memorial to the poet. Wordsworth wrote a short poem describing the position of his rooms:--

"The Evangelist, St. John, my patron was :  
Three Gothic courts are his ; and in the first  
Was my abiding place, a nook obscure.  
Right underneath, the college kitchens made  
A humming sound, less tuneable than bees,  
But hardly less industrious ; with shrill notes  
Of sharp command and scolding intermixed."

Pembroke College is worthy of notice from the fact that William Pitt and the poets Gray and Spenser, were undergraduates there.

An article on the University would not be complete without some reference to the river Cam. A more picturesque river it would be hard to imagine. To one poetic mind it appeared as:

"A streak of silver through a garb of green."

The banks are lined with willow trees, whose drooping branches touch the water beneath them. Near the river and within sight of the Bridge of Sighs, is the famous walk of the poet Milton, A more delightful spot it would be difficult to find, just the spot for the imaginative mind of Milton.

Before closing this article, I should like to take the opportunity of wishing the staff and scholars of the "Old School" every success in the future, and I hope that soon I shall have the pleasure of welcoming a number of present scholars when they enter Cambridge University for their three years' course.

E. C. HANSON,  
Selwyn College, Cambridge.

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## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STRAY CAT,

The sun rose, glaring mistily through a typical London fog; few people were about. Only a thin wisp of smoke arising from an obscure chimney proclaimed that the householder had arisen. A poor, pitiful, bedraggled object mewing piteously had arisen from a corner and, evincing a painful limp, it was prying and peeping into holes and gutters in search of food—and what food! Bits of old meat and bones not fit for any animal, were routed out and consumed with avidity.

The cat—if such it can be called—of a tortoiseshell colour, with shifty green-grey eyes, shivering with cold and lean with hunger, crept about on three legs (the other was broken) to exist as best it could. As the murky pall arose, signs of life showed. Here, a butcher's boy, pausing only to throw a stone at whatever unlucky animal came his way, walked on, basket in arm, whistling; there a man going to business—gladstone bag and bowler hat, with a cheap cigar between his teeth—bestowed a compassionate glance on the cat. A shrill-voiced female, singing a coarse song, was washing the steps of a dingy house, the prototype of every other in the street. With four steps, a "front garden," green door, bay-window and two windows on top, the houses bore nearly all the name 'Acacia Villa' or 'Rose Cottage'; but the servant, having done with the water, threw it over the cat and returned indoors. Gradually, the quiet street became a scene of bustle and activity, and before this noise the cat quailed and hid in an empty cart drawn up by the road side; and the carter, with an oath, slashed the cat's quivering body and sent it off, a poor helpless creature driven from pillar to post, forlorn, forsaken and half dead, slashed by a heavy carter's whip. In just one small act the whole nature of the man was shown. He could easily have picked it up and placed it on the ground, but his brutal nature had not thought of that. Some boys, seeing the cat, chased it up the street, pelting it with stones. Its poor little frightened heart beat wildly, but it evaded its pursuers, and so it lived on till nightfall—chased, beaten, kicked and starved; hunted; slowly, inevitably, being starved to death! "Only a cat" people would say, "What is a cat? Let it d.e." That was all they thought of it. . . .

About nine o'clock that night a cat lay in an alley sobbing out its weary life on the cold hard stones.

WILLIAM ROSS, I.R.

## ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

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

This was a keen and interesting game played at Morriston, on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Our players were handicapped on account of the uneven nature of the ground ; but, in spite of this, splendid football was played by both teams.

We played two reserves and both showed promising form. The advantage of the slope fell to the lot of the School team during the first half. Scores were registered by Evans and Waters before "lemons," but it was evident that the margin was not sufficient to ensure safety.

On the change of ends, the Church lads immediately took up the aggressive and forced the play considerably. Bates in goal saved splendidly on many occasions although he was very hotly pressed by the shooting of the opposing forwards.

The feature of the School's defence was the fine back play of Thomas and Evans. Three goals were scored by the Church lads before the call of time. The secret of their success was their superior adaptation to the prevailing conditions. Final score—3-2.

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### MUN. SEC. v. MOUNT PLEASANT SCOUTS.—Nov. 23rd.

This match was looked upon prior to the game as a certain victory for the School Team although several reserves were to play.

In the opening half, Morris rapidly netted two goals in favour of the School. No further scores were registered by the School Team against the equalising goals scored by the Scouts. During the second moiety, poor form was displayed by the School Team. Two more goals were scored by each side, thus leaving the game drawn. The scores were—Morris 2, Lloyd 1, Waters 1.

The back play of the School Team was for some reason of a very inferior character. It would appear that the School Team had an "off" day.

---

### MUN. SEC. v. THE FORESTERS.

The School Team were again unfortunate in having to play this game minus the services of several regular players. The weight of the opposing team told during the major part of the game. The rushes of the Foresters were almost irresistible and their efforts met with success on no fewer than four



occasions. The second half proved to be much more even, and Evans livened matters considerably by scoring a goal after some pretty play on his part.

The School's second goal was netted by Lamont. The back play of the School Team was again far from being good. Final—4-2.

Bates played well in goal and it was not his fault that four goals were scored against us.

#### SCHOOL v. LANGLAND BAY A.F.C.

This match was played on the school field in glorious weather. The visiting team were a very heavy lot, and at the outset it became clear that the match was going to be a strenuous one. The School Team were at full strength and, throughout, the game was played with great determination. The School set the ball rolling and penetrated well the ranks of their opponents. However, the visitors succeeded in preventing the School forwards from scoring. Play now became very keen, with the result that both teams scored goals, the visiting team being the first to succeed. The failure of the School goalie to clear the goal was due to the muddy condition of the goal mouth. After the first goal had been scored by the visitors, the School Team combined splendidly, with the result that the forwards succeeded in rushing a goal. Both teams scored other goals and at half-time, the score stood : School 3 goals, Langland Bay 2 goals.

After the interval for lemons, Langland Bay set the ball in motion and worked their way up to the School goal. The School and half-backs defended well, preventing many a rush of the opposing forwards. The visitors however, succeeded in penetrating our last line of defence and scored. The play thus continued until the School forwards succeeded in scoring twice in rapid succession. The visitors seemed to be disheartened until a lucky shot secured a goal for them. This goal encouraged them and they began to bombard the School goalie. However, a splendid rush by the School forwards relieved the goal, and after some exciting incidents, they succeeded in beating the visiting custodian. The visitors returned the compliment. The score now was 6-5 in favour of the School. However, about three minutes before time, one of our players scored an unlucky goal in favour of the visitors. Soon afterwards the final whistle blew. Score—School 6 goals, Langland Bay 6 goals.

Howells, Waters, Richards, Morris, and Lamont, distinguished themselves.

## THE BOYS' DEBATING SOCIETY.

Late in November a Committee was appointed and the following officers were elected to carry on the work of our Society for this session : President, Mr. Beanland ; Chairman, Mr. D. Phillips ; Joint Secretaries, A. Bates and A. Morris.

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"SHOULD WOMEN HAVE VOTES?"

The above subject was under discussion on Dec. 13th. Mr. Phillips took the chair. H. Davies, in a speech brimming over with logic, opened in the affirmative. He was keenly supported by A. Foner. The main argument of the affirmative speakers was that "Taxation without representation is tyranny." A. Bates replied for the negative side. He would not allow that woman was man's equal intellectually. A. Bates was ably supported by H. Sampson in a witty but somewhat sarcastic speech. S. Davies and C. Davies then supported the "Ayes" and H. Elias and V. McNerny the "Nos." The humorous part of the debate came at question time. It is said that A. Bates and Connie Davies were badly mixed up over the theory of evolution. So cogent were the arguments of the negative speakers that they won by 14 votes to 13.

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"IS A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE DESIRABLE?"

On Jan. 24th the above subject was debated, Mr. Phillips presiding. A. Foner opened for the "Ayes" side and was ably seconded by R. Crystol. Their main argument was that a universal language would pave the way to universal peace. A. Morris and H. Elias replied with convincing arguments for the other side. They pointed out the impracticability of a universal language and discredited the affirmative speakers' statement about universal peace. L. Haynes and S. Davies then followed for the affirmative and A. Williams, C. Davies and V. McNerny for the negative side. The vote went in favour of the negative—16 to 8.

The number of different speakers at the two debates was 12, many of whom have become very fluent.

We tender our thanks to Mr. Phillips for presiding at the two debates, and also for the great interest he takes in the Society.

A.B., A.M.

## A STRANGE CRICKET MATCH.

Carson had been selected to play in the "First Eleven" for Morgate School, and Oh! ye gods! it was such a triumph over his rival, Bolson Major, that Carson dreamed of cricket and cricketers all the night following his selection. And this is what he dreamed :—"Going down to the 'Common Room' he went straight to the letter rack, and looking into the pigeon-hole labelled 'Carson,' he was overjoyed to find a letter. Dimly wondering whether it was from home, he hastily opened it, and was surprised to find it contained the following strange message :—'Ye ancienne British heroes and ye famous characters of yore request Edward John Carson to be presente at ye game of ye 'Crickete' and if he bee willinge, let hym bee in ye field at ye halfe houre beyonde midnighte.' Overjoyed at this prospect of combating ancient characters, Carson hastened to the dormitory, and, undressing himself, tumbled into bed. When twelve struck, Carson could be seen getting out of bed and donning his cricketing clothes. He reached the outer door in safety, and peering out saw a clear sky and bright moon which added a dramatic effect to his adventure. The air was brisk and keen so Carson sprinted to the field where he was accosted by two beefeaters who demanded to see his ticket. After producing it, Carson observed Shakespeare approaching him. Shakespeare then introduced him to the various notabilities who composed the two teams. Amongst them were many conspicuous historical persons—Henry VIII., Cæsar, Mark Antony, Richard II., and many other equally famous players. Carson and Shakespeare were to umpire the match, and the former was grieved to find that Henry VIII. and Cæsar were quarrelling as to which team should bat first. When Carson introduced the modern method, he was pained to find that Henry VIII. kept his half-crown. Regaining his equanimity he suggested that the game should be opened. Shakespeare, however, because the weather was sultry, had withdrawn awhile to appease his great thirst, so a beefeater officiated as umpire in his stead. Henry VIII. and Richard II. were first batsmen, while Cæsar and Brutus were put on to bowl. Cæsar took the ball and ran half-way down the pitch. He aimed at Henry VIII., but missing the slim figure of Henry, the ball struck Carson, who howled and hastily fled. As he was a good sprinter, Carson eluded his pursuers and reached home first." . . . Then was heard a bell tolling and poor Carson awoke only in time to escape a well-aimed wet sponge. Hastily dressing, he hurried downstairs, just in time for breakfast; but his thoughts were with his never-to-be-forgotten dream.

A.W. & C.L.D. (III.)

## COMPETITIONS.

We open in this Number a series of Competitions, and hope our readers will worthily respond.

### PROGRAMME.

- 1.—Best Essay (for girls under 14)—  
“ Things I most dislike.”
- 2.—Best Essay (for girls over 14)—  
“ Description of a day in the life I should like to lead.”
- 3.—Open Competition (Girls)—  
(a) Best hem-stitched handkerchief with worked initial.  
or (b) Best chalk and water-colour drawing of Spring Flowers.
- 4.—Best Essay (for boys under 14)—  
“ The School Field ” or “ Our Annual Sports.”
- 5.—Best Essay (for boys over 14)—  
“ Should Prize Day be abolished ? ”  
or “ Should our School Debating Society be encouraged ? ”
- 6.—Open Competition (boys)—  
(a) Best Coloured Map of Wales  
or (b) Best Freehand Drawing (Floral Figure).  
or (c) Group of Models (Shaded).

Prize in each case to consist of *any* volume from the “ Everyman ” Series.

Competitors must send in their work under *nom-de-plume* (and give age) in Competitions 1, 2, 4 and 5; and under a *nom-de-plume* only in Competitions 3 and 6. (Your own name and the name of your Form must not be disclosed.) All written work must be done on *one side of the paper only*. Competitors from the Girls’ School must send in their work to Miss Atkins; and from the Boys’ School to the Editor.

No entry will be received after May 9th, on which day this Competition closes.

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## GEMS OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

*Hookah* (a) is an Indian servant (h) kind of carriage placed on an elephant’s back.

*Sick Man of Europe* is the Kaiser.

*Vodka* is a Russian river.

*Caviare* signifies Italian bandits.

*C.Q.D.* c’est ce que je dis: what I say.