

GOREU ARF,



ARF DYSG.

## Swansea Municipal Secondary School Magazine.

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*Editors—*

W. J. HUGHES.

MISS THORP.

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### EDITORIAL.

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By the time this number of the Magazine reaches our hands, the examinations will be upon us. It is our experience that the approach of exams. divides us into two great classes—the happy and the unhappy. The happy are they who have been diligent in their studies, and have taken an interest in their work, and hence are eager for the battle. The unhappy are they who have shunned their work, or at least have given it a secondary place. We venture to hope that the second class in our midst is very small. In any case we wish every one success and trust that the records of the past will be beaten this year.

The third term is always a difficult one, but this year it has been exceptionally so. The stretch of warm weather has made our class-rooms like so many furnaces and work in such conditions is very difficult. Then again, the War is always with us and it is the simple truth to state that we have spent more time, during the evenings, in devouring the contents of newspapers than ever before, and having spent so much energy on the press, we have often felt very little inclination for anything else. However, we trust that the balance has been wisely kept, and that the forthcoming exams. will bring us a goodly crop of successes.

However, we are reminded that the darkest moment of the night immediately precedes the break of dawn ; so it is fitting that the most difficult term is a prelude to the great release—the holidays. Judging from the pale faces in the Upper School, they will not come a moment too soon.

The Editors wish all, Staffs and scholars, a very happy vacation.

### SCHOOL NOTES.

Many old boys have paid us visits during the term. Two of them have been good enough to send us contributions, viz : E. C. Hanson of Selwyn Coll., Cambridge, and H. Finkelblech of South Africa. Mr. Hanson, who has just proceeded to his degree, gives an account of life at Cambridge. Mr. Finkelblech who has been through the German S.W. African campaign gives us an illuminating picture of the recent Revolt.

It is worthy of mention that one of the Old Boys of our School has been through the whole of the West European Campaign, viz :—Private Myrddin Williams. He was at the retreat from Mons and is still in the trenches. Although he has been a troglodyte for eleven months, he has come out absolutely unscathed. We wish similar fortune to follow him to the very end.

In the recent Entrance Scholarship Examination at the School, one candidate headed his first paper—as Dichtasion—a clear evidence of German influence.

On the blue slips, in answer to the question " Which School would you prefer ? " quite a number of boys answered " either," two said " neither " and one boy was prepared to enter " both " schools, though how he was going to do this he did not explain, possibly by taking " term and term about " on a sandwich system !

A relic and reminder of last term's entertainments may still be seen in one of the rooms. The article has sometimes been described as a cylinder of civilisation but more plainly as a topper. It has doubtless seen better days but has now come down in the world as a " shabby genteel." Must be claimed within seven days or will be sold to defray expenses !

Form 3a were asked to explain the origin of the letters £ s. d. ; one boy led off bravely with *Livre, Schelling* but

stopped dead at the d. A genius came to the rescue with *Deux sous*. After that, the Latin words *Libra*, *solidarius* and *denarius* seem quite old fashioned and out of date.

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Form Ic have long had a grievance against the Chemical department on the floor above. Water or dilute acid, etc. has penetrated their ceiling and descended as a gentle dew upon the place beneath, but with such vigour that the Form have cried for mercy and sent a deputation upstairs to ask someone to kindly turn off the dew.

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An examination of pipes showed that these had been swathed and bandaged in a manner that would do credit to a trained nurse, but alas! in vain. However, the holidays should bring relief—and plumbers.

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Meanwhile the Science department has itself been flooded from above. When one day the rain came pouring in at the Lecture Room window, flooded the floor and descended to Ib room, it was thought at first that the wind and the rain were merely acting in conjunction as allies, determined to give the Chem. dept. a practical lesson. However, on looking outside it was found that one of the shoots was overflowing and pouring its flood down the walls and into the windows. Corporation officials were quickly on the spot with ladders and they reported "a bird hath done this thing," an alien bird, but whether a Taube or other German flier, was not proved. The long spell of fine weather had induced the bird to build its nest in the spouting.

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Certain "noisettes," *alias* knuts, of the Lower School may be seen some two hours beyond high noon in the lower Lavatory endeavouring to fix a straight parting with the help of a small pocket-comb and the panes of glass in the folding doors. Surely the School authorities might aid them in their very praiseworthy efforts to become neat and smart, by fixing at least one real mirror in these lower regions.

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R. H. Norby, who was 3rd on the list in the Final Honours School in Theology at Cambridge, has been offered a Post-graduate Scholarship of £50 at St. Catherine's College and a Steele Exhibition of £30.

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Private Finkelblech brought a genuine South African atmosphere with him on his recent visit. In his presence one felt afraid of pronouncing proper names. The name of the

Capital of German S.W. Africa came as a surprise to some of us, but the word Vindhoek (the second syllable pronounced with a sort of suppressed gurgle) slipped quite glibly from his tongue. He spoke of his life on the Felt (Veldt) with General Bota (Botha). Incidentally a School scribe wrote that our hero had been serving with General Booth in S. Africa.

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Maurice Debaille, after a six months' stay in our midst, has left us and gone to a transplanted Athenée at Sluys (Holland), where certain Belgian Schoolmasters have foregathered and are now opening a Secondary School. We shall certainly miss his engaging smile. Form 4m will remember his presence in the Conversational French Class when the Inspector was present, and the Fifth will not forget his translations from German into French nor the spirited way in which he defended the use of the Past Definite in conversation.

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We are pleased to congratulate an Old Boy in the person of Mr. H. H. Morgan, A.S.A.A., who has recently been elected to the important position of Deputy Borough Treasurer and Accountant of the Swansea Corporation.

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After serving for some years under the Corporation, Mr. Morgan received an appointment under the Woolwich Corporation, but returned to Swansea two years ago. He has passed the Intermediate and Final exams. of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants and the Society of Incorporated Accountants.

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### UNIVERSITY SUCCESSES.

R. H. Norby, B.A. (Cambridge), with Second Class Honours in Theology.

C. Hanson, B.A. (Cambridge), with First Class Passes in History and Theology Finals ; also obtained College Colours for Rugby.

T. Llew. Davies, B.A. (Wales), with First Class Honours in History.

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### PRO PATRIA.

We regret to announce the deaths of two Old Boys of the School :—Privates P. Mesquitta and E. O. Bird. Both were serving with the S. Wales Borderers in the Dardanelles. "They did their duty."

## ROLL OF HONOUR.

## SECOND LIST.

	Left.
O. S. Reg. Barrett, Royal Naval Division ...	1912
Serg. Major R. B. Bates, Welsh Field Ambulance	1907
2nd-Lieut. W. Bevan, 2nd London Welsh ...	1900
Private E. O. Bird, South Wales Borderers ...	1906
Bomb. B. Chanter, 1st Welsh Howitzer, R.F.A. ...	1908
Private J. W. Davies, 6th Welsh ...	1908
2nd-Lieut. T. Llew. Davies, R.F.A. ...	1911
Private J. S. Evans, R. W. F. ...	1907
Private A. Finkelblech, South African Forces ..	1907
2nd-Lieut. G. Fortune, 6th Welsh ...	1910
Private C. Fursland, Army Vet. Corps. ...	1904
Private B. Gregory, Somerset Light Infantry ...	1909
Private M. Gustavus, 7th Welsh Cyclists ...	1906
Rifleman E. G. Hawes, King's Royal Rifles ...	1904
Private D. J. Hooper, Pub. Sch. Batt. R.W.F. ...	1907
Private Percy Lewis, 7th Welsh Cyclists ...	1912
Private Randall Lewis, R.F.A. ...	1910
2nd-Lieut. A. P. Lloyd, 15th Welsh ...	1907
Private Harry Morris, 1st Welsh Howitzers ...	1914
Private H. Phillips, R.A.M.C. ...	1908
Private L. Rhys, (wounded) 3rd Devons ...	1910
Private P. C. Robinson, 7th Welsh Cyclists ...	1907
Private L. Sefstone, R.F.A. ...	1907
Captain Colin Simpson, R.F.A. ...	1903
2nd-Lieut. G. S. Shaw, R.W.F. ...	1902
2nd-Lieut. J. H. Shaw, 6th Welsh ...	1904
Corporal S. R. Snell, Cyclists ...	1900
Private Cliff Thomas, 7th Welsh Cyclists ...	1912
Private Haydn Thomas, 6th Welsh Howitzers ...	1913
Private R. Thomas, 6th Welsh ...	1910
Sapper B. Williams, Royal Engineers ...	1906
Trooper C. Williams, Dragoon Guards ...	1908

## WHY TOMMY ATKINS?

In 1857, when the Rebellion broke out in Lucknow, all the Europeans fled to the Residency. On their way they came upon a private of the 32nd Regiment (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry) on sentry at an outpost. They urged him to make his escape with them, but he refused to leave his post and afterwards was killed. His name was Thomas Atkins, and so throughout the Mutiny Campaign, when a daring deed was done, the doer was said to be "a regular Tommy Atkins."

## BOYS' FORM NOTES.

### FORM V.

The long-expected Matric. is over, and now the "Fifth" breathes more freely. The Form has, or is supposed to have worked hard, and, while hoping for good results, we do not presume to make a forecast. We have been strangers to the field for many weeks, but we are consoled by the fact that we may see it very frequently between now and the end of the term.

One of our boys, G. I. Davies, is Captain of the School Cricket Team, and the men he leads include many from Form V.

Many of our Form will be leaving this year. Though the School is by no means a palace, it will be with deep regret that we shall leave the old place which many of us have learnt to love. However, we extend our most cordial and sincere wishes for the future success of the S.M.S.S. and we give our heartiest thanks to the Headmaster and the Staff which has trained us for the part we are to play in the world, when we go out into it.

P.S. Can anyone account for the erratic behaviour of our clock during the past few weeks?

"BENEVOLENTISSIMUS QUISQUE."

### FORM IV.

Here we are again, yes once again we are here, and for most of us, it is the last time that we shall either contribute to, or receive the School Magazine. During the last few weeks many of the members of our Form have left us to begin to WORK. These industrious persons are F. Chislett, E. J. Davies, G. Thomas, T. Chambers and R. Birchenough. We wish all these energetic friends every success in their new positions.

We still retain the title of being the principal Form of the School (bar the Fifth?). Our sports results verify this statement. We have played two cricket matches and won both. The first match was against the Fifth Form (when, owing to the small representation of both teams, it was agreed that both sides should 'field'). The result was that we won by 15 runs to 10. Thanks to F. Chislett and R. Birchenough who bowled and batted in a most perfect manner. Our other match was against 3a (whose team is supposed to contain some famous cricketers). In this match we had the assistance of

our Form Master, Mr. G. Powell (but even then we were two men short), while our opponents had the aid of their Form Master, Mr. D. J. Williams. The result was that we defeated 3a by 25 runs to 10. Again we have to thank Josh Evans and Ralph Birchenough for their splendid batting and bowling. Well may we say—

“But 'twas a famous victory.”

We wish to congratulate all the successful candidates of our Form in the R.S.A. (all of whom obtained one or more certificates; indeed we had five ‘full’). We hope and trust that the three of our members trying the ‘Senior’ will be as successful as the latter.

Maurice Debaille, the young Belgian refugee (who was very popular with us because he was registered as being a member of our Form) has left for Holland, where he will meet his parents. All of us wish him God speed and the very best of luck, but we hope that if he encounters any Germ. Huns, he will add our ‘little bit’ to that of his own.

We all look forward to our Sports Day, as we mean to make a good bid for the School Shield this year. (*None this year*).

William Harman (who was in our Form early in the School year, and who left to take up an appointment in the “Daily Post” Office) sends his best wishes to his chums in the old School.

Last, but far from being least, we all wish that our old School may not only keep up its old and grand reputation, but even surpass it, and when we are M.P.s, Financiers and what not? we shall look back with pride and joy on our happy Schooldays of yore.

B.M.

#### FORM IIIr.

Our Form is working very hard (?) preparing for the Oxford Junior and we hope we shall equal, if not beat the records of previous years. In consequence of the examination we have not visited the School Field lately and we have also been subject to heavy homework of late. However, we don't mind since we see what is before us.

Who is the robber? This is a problem which remains to be solved. This term we have welcomed (?) about six dusters each of which mysteriously disappeared. Hence the question? Our Form is gradually becoming less and less in numbers and there is fear that very few will return after the summer holidays. We are beginning to grieve. Ah! poor 3r.

H.H.

## FORM IIIM.

Our room is the best in the School, but the one thing lacking is a clock. Every member of the Form would be glad to see one on the wall when he came to School one morning. Couldn't someone arrange this little pleasure for them?

There are seven entries for the Oxford Local from our Form. Every success is wished them from the rest.

We are very proud when our Form Master tells us of a former class fellow who is fighting for his country and School in France, Egypt, or elsewhere.

We are all sorry to lose G. Tucker, who has left this term and wish him every success. We are also sorry to hear of the departure of the Belgian boy who has been our School-fellow for some months. May he find his people at home happy when he reaches Holland.

J.D.W.

## FORM II REMOVE.

We have returned to School after the holidays, and are quite prepared for work. Again it is about time we were looking forward to our annual six weeks' holidays, but before receiving them we are quite prepared to fight for "top." Last term that honour was conferred on D. Washer, but he had better keep on "fagging" or else—. After two weeks of work "we" like other Forms, want "games," and if our Captain's oratory happens to be good, we get them. At cricket we have played Ib, and IIr came from the field victorious. Then we played IIb and they beat us by nine runs. Again we played them, with Masters James and Davies bowling for each side. Again they beat us, *but* only by a run.

Reports have been spread by Mr. Standish, that IIr is the best Form for physical drill in the School (?) (where are the Fifth now).

Les garçons de notre classe veulent un pique-nique, pendant les vacances. The following is French conversation :—Quel est le masculin de canne ?—Le canon.

IVOR THOMAS, IIr.

## FORM IIA.

Again we are called upon to contribute something wise—or otherwise—towards our "Mag." In what proportion the following may be divided we leave to you, gentle (?) reader.

Nothing of importance has disturbed the serene calm of School, except perhaps the visit of the Inspector.



For some of us, the gloomy news has been circulated that the "Fives" Court is to come down. We wonder if this is a sign of the appearance of the new School Buildings?

We are longing to have a peep into what third year's School life is like and are eagerly waiting for the time when we shall start metal work.

Our boys are very fond of bringing flowers to School, so there is always a nice perfume (?) in the room, not counting the perfume of the flowers on our many cardboard pictures.

We ought to have some stories in the Magazine like the ones of three years ago. (Why don't you write them? *Editor*).

The tests at Whitsun have provided some interesting facts in Mathematics and English:—

3 into 7 equals 1 and 4 over, wrote one of our classmates—luckily the 'first year' is full up so is return there is postponed.

"The Pharisees and the parasites were of different nationality" was the bold statement discovered on one English paper.

Other gems were:—"The *parasites* were wanted greatly that day—it was so warm."

"The *palisades* of Charlemagne rode on milk white steeds."

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## FORM IIB.

This term we have been unfortunate to lose two of our boys and in the coming month we shall lose a few more. One of these boys N. Neale, our footer Captain was presented by our Form Master, Mr. Hughes, with a wallet and some sound advice. The other like Mother Hubbard's dog "had none." We were all sorry, however, to lose Neale, for he guided our team through the season, losing only one match and that by 4m A team, two years our seniors, who defeated us by the odd goal in seven after 90 minutes hard play. This Form by the way, claims to be the most important in the School. They must have forgotten IIB. Plentiful excitement prevailed in the Chem. Lab. when Soda Water was made. We did not make the beverage, however, the master having perhaps had past experience of what was done with it by previous second year forms. Some time ago, one Master actually informed us that "pilgrimages were made to Jerusalem to the tomb where Christ was born!" For a long time past, regularly at 4.15 our Form has been invaded by other Formites, armed with pens, rulers and serious countenances. Any reason for this?

Some time ago, two men were seen in the yard measuring and consulting in low whispers. Is the new School really to be constructed at last?  
SUM I.

After experiencing a successful season of football we now commence cricket. Our first three matches have proved successful, defeating IIa once and IIr twice. O. Owens was elected cricket captain and E. Prichard as Vice-Captain. We hope they will look after the cricket material carefully because we do not wish to pay for another bat. This term, E. Tyrell was presented with his Soccer International Cap by Mr. Beanland. We are all eagerly looking forward to the coming term exams. and also to the Metalwork. We have lost our worthy football captain, Norman Neale, who was very popular amongst his Schoolfellows, and on his leaving, we presented him with a pocket wallet and a book. We all wish him success in his new career.

A boy was asked to recite a stanza of poetry and in attempting to improve on it, he said "Short showers last long."  
R.C.H., C.D.

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#### FORM IA.

Again we have to report satisfactory progress made by our Form. We have a Form library, and a fine collection of books, amounting to about sixty volumes. We have only played one Cricket match, against Ib, which resulted in a glorious victory for us. The scores were 92 and 23 runs. We are making a collection of historical pictures to illustrate our history Master's interesting lessons. The latest comparison of good is 'gooder' and 'goodest,' according to one of our budding geniuses. We are all studying hard for the coming examinations. We are all sorry to leave Mr. Knight, who has been a very good Form Master to us.

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#### FORM IB.

This is the last term of our first year, whose three terms we have thoroughly enjoyed. The end of the year brings with it a little sorrow, because it will part many of us from the friends we have made during the first year.

Our lessons have become very interesting and our special enjoyment is our French conversation with M. Claeys.

In cricket our Form has not done as well as in football, for our team was badly defeated by Ia.  
GODGIN.

## DAWN.

The sun arose and cast aside  
 The steel grey cloudlets in the sky  
 Higher he rose ; then flowed a tide  
 Of golden, rosy, sparkling light,  
 Tipping each cloud with rosy sheen,  
 While seas of silver, red and green  
 Showed here and there, the clouds between.

W. D. MINTY, IB.

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### GEMS FROM ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP PAPERS.

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"The North Sea is a great fishing area because of the boats that have been sunk, and then the survivors who have been drowned have been ate up by the fishes and then they stay for some more food."

"Water is so valuable in India during the Cool Season because they wash away their sins in the water."

"The Dogger Bank attracts a lot of fish because it is a good nesting place."

"Next day we sighted a large Iceberg." "Wrong, should be sighted a large shark."

We all went for a nice ride in the *gambol* after dinner.

There were many *gambols* growing in a field.

I have a very bad *gambol* on my neck behind my ear.

A book can't be written but a tale can.

The man had left his *principle* in the bank.

What a *respectable* person he is.

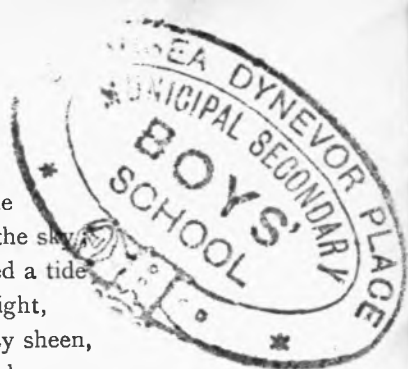
The defeat of Jack Johnson was won by Willard.

The noisy geese were *gambling* round the pool.

The horse is an animal of good principle.

You cannot cause trouble but it can come to you.

*And* is a junction, *high* is a preparison. *These* is present tense, *those* is past.



## A DAY WITH ENGLAND'S HEROES.

Perhaps the greatest honour that has ever been afforded the writer of the present article was the privilege of spending a very large part of his last term at the 'Varsity in the company of soldiers who had returned wounded from the front.

The Cambridge Military Hospital is situated in an ideal spot not far from the river, but yet quite far enough from the hustle and bustle of the town. It is built on the open-air system, and the results obtained have been in every way excellent. A year ago, the ground on which the hospital is built, was the scene of many exciting cricket and tennis matches, but now all games have been forsaken, and the great majority of those who were engaged are playing the greatest of all games on the battle fields of Flanders. The hospital contains in all about twenty wards, and each of them is fitted out with every modern appliance, everything being done for the comfort of the wounded. Soldiers of all descriptions may be seen there—English, Scotch, Welsh, Irish, and Canadians—men, who, like the Roman soldier of old—

*“ Sciebat quae sibi barbarus  
tortor pararet : non aliter tamen  
dimovit obstantis propinquos  
et populum reditus movantem.”*

They receive visitors with great cheerfulness, and it is hard to find a face devoid of a smile. The wards ring with laughter, and of course, are simply clouded with tobacco smoke—for what would Tommy be without his pipe or cigarette ?

The nurses are very kind and obliging and great favourites with the men. A hospital magazine is published and contributions invited from the soldiers, with the result that the magazine contains exciting reading, and is intensely humorous.

Perhaps the most pathetic and yet at the same time the most amusing incident which the writer witnessed, was when a bonnie Scot, who had lost his leg, challenged a brother Tommy on the other side of the ward, to a race along the ward on crutches. The roars of laughter which greeted this challenge and the humorous remarks passed by the bed fellows of the two heroes will long live in the memory of the writer.

Almost every ward contains a gramophone and records of all the latest songs. Needless to relate, when any popular record is started very little of the gramophone can be heard.

Some of the wounded show with great pride pieces of shrapnel which had been extracted from their bodies, and add remarks better left unwritten. Occasionally a solemn procession may be seen wending its way along the side of the hospital. The slow march of the soldiers and the coffin covered with the Union Jack, proclaim the fact that a hero has given his all for his King and Country. Immediately on witnessing such a scene, the words of the poet Horace rise before the mind—

“Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.”

The sight at the hospital, as one passes along the wards, is one which inspires, and in a certain way encourages. The happiness of the heroes and the assurance of ultimate victory given by them, help one to look forward with fresh hope to the future, and a determination to do his duty and thus hasten the day of victory.

E. C. HANSON.

## THE GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

Perhaps one of the finest achievements of any General in History was that of the Conquest of German South West Africa by Gen. Botha in the short time of eight months.

Gen. Botha is the Premier Commander of the Union Forces. We owe Gen. Botha our gratitude for bringing the Union of S.A. out of the distress it was in when the Rebellion broke out, and afterwards crowning his success by placing the Union Jack on the Rathaus at Windhoek, thereby annexing German S. W. Africa to the Union.

General Smuts deserves great credit for the manner in which he worked and for his loyalty to the Flag.

Although strenuous fighting was not experienced in German S. W. Africa, our troops endured great hardships, having to “trek” through large tracts of country which were uninhabited, sandy and without water.

One of the many atrocities committed by the Germans was the poisoning of wells, and our men were compelled to drink water containing Jeyes Fluid and Carbolic Acid or die of thirst. Protests in this direction were useless, and General Botha's appeals to the German Government were ignored. Luckily for our men the poison, except causing our troops to vomit, did not have much effect. The heat was most oppressive being 120° in the shade and if we had not been under

canvas it would have been unbearable. In the middle of the day no one could possibly leave the tent, the heat being too intense; thus it was that strenuous fighting was not indulged in. Notwithstanding the heat, our troops had to build block-houses, and bags of sand were filled for their construction, and owing to the limited supply of water, the men were only allowed one bottle per man per day.

Great sandstorms were experienced, the sand permeating the canvas of the tents. Eventually, huts of corrugated iron as roof on two stones with another two on top to prevent the iron being blown off, were constructed. Sand-dunes were always seen to appear and disappear, and it afforded great amusement to see one looking for an article he had placed down a little while back, and which of course had disappeared. Sand Phthisis and fever were prevalent amongst the troops.

We were obliged to fight two foes, the enemy and the traitor in the camp. Maritz who was a Major in the Defence Force, turned over to the German side, taking with him many young lads in the Defence Force, who were forced to join him or get shot.

General Beyers became another traitor, after relinquishing his post of Commandant General of the Union Forces, and he met with his death in the Orange River from one of our bullets.

Christian de Wet, was captured and received a sentence of six years imprisonment and £2,000 fine.

The most notable battle in the Rebellion was at Mushroom Valley at the latter end of last year. Here the rebels met with a severe reverse, many lives being lost on both sides.

Another great battle was fought at Upington, which is on the Union Border, the 24th January last. The combined troops of the Rebel and German Forces were completely routed, the 18th Mounted Rifles and Cape Field Artillery doing conspicuous work. Our artillery's aim was very accurate, smashing our enemy's Pom-Poms to atoms. We chased the enemy for twelve miles, capturing over two hundred prisoners.

We may safely say that this battle put an end to the Rebellion. The Burghers did good work outside Windhoek, operations being directed by General Botha himself.

H. Finkelblech,

Medical Orderly,

Parkinson's Light Horse.

## HISTORY OF ALGEBRA.

Problems such as we solve by Algebra are very old. We find them in a book written in Egypt over 4000 years ago, and afterwards copied by one Ahmes about 1700 B.C. The Ahmes copy, made on papyrus, is still preserved in the British Museum. It contains problems such as "Mass, its seventh, its whole, it makes nineteen." We should write this— $1.7\text{th } x + x = 19$ . But Ahmes knew nothing of our algebraic symbols.

It was in the Orient that Algebra, as we know it, had its beginning. The Hindus were much interested in fanciful problems and some that we still find in our Algebras seem to have been first suggested by them. The earliest of these writers was Aryabhatta (about 525 A.D.), who lived at Patna on the Ganges River. He knew how to solve quadratic equations.

The Arabs, beginning about 800 A.D., made much of Algebra. Mohammed ibn Musa al Khowarizmi (Mohammed the son of Moses, the man from Khaawezm, the County about Khiva), wrote a work entitled "*Al-jabr wa'l muqābala*" (The Reuniting and the Comparison). The book contains a very complete discussion of quadratics together with some treatment of words. It became known in Europe in the middle ages and hence the science went by such names as *Algebra*, *Almucabela*, and *Mucabel* and the unknown quantity by such names as the Latin *res* (thing) and the Italian *cosa* (thing). From the latter the science was at one time called the Cossic art in England and the Coss in Germany.

In eastern Persia the poet Omar Khayyām (about 1050) wrote an algebra in which there is some attempt to solve easy equations of the third degree, and one of the fourth  $(100 - x^2)(10 - x^2) = 8100$ .

One of the early European writers on Algebra was Leonardo, of Pisa (about 1200). He wrote on Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry, and was able to solve the equation  $x^3 + 2x^2 + 10x - 20 = 0$ , giving a result 1.3688081075. While yet a boy he went to the north coast of Africa and there studied under a Moorish schoolmaster. At this time the Hindu-Arabic numerals, which we ordinarily use, were known among the Moors but were not common in Europe.

Upon his return to Europe, Leonardo wrote some books on mathematics and did much to make these numerals better known in Europe.

Our present algebraic symbols were mostly invented between 1500 and 1650. The Italian algebraist Tartaglia in 1556 used *22 men* (*22 men R6* for our modern  $22 - (22 - \text{Root } 6)$ ) and *cub p : 6 reb aeqlis 20* stood for  $x^3 + 6x = 20$ . A German Stifel (1553) seems to have invented our root signs. The use of  $x$  and  $y$  for unknown quantities is due to the great French mathematician Descartes (1637). Our sign of equality was first used by an Englishman, Robert Recorde in 1557 and the signs  $>$  and  $<$  by another Englishman, Harriot, in 1631.

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## THE SUBMARINE.

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Although most people know much about the submarine, it may not be uninteresting to give a short and by no means original account of its origin and the long, tedious process through which it has passed in order to obtain its modern state of perfection.

The idea of a submerged boat originated about the end of the sixteenth century, and about a century later we hear of a man attempting to row a boat under water, but little else is known of progress of submarine navigation during that period. About the latter half of the eighteenth century three men became well known for their experiments in connection with submersible boats. One of them, Day, went down with his boat, while the other two, Fulton and Bushnell, after several attempts failed to produce a trustworthy vessel. In 1860 the Plongeur submarine, of French design, was built to be propelled by compressed air, but it was not by any means a success.

Twenty years later we have the first really useful boat launched by Nordenfelt at Barrow. She was of about 200 tons displacement and 120 feet long, and was in shape like a Whitehead torpedo, with flattened ends. She was fitted with several compartments, which could be filled with water or emptied at will. When the compartments were empty the vessel would float, but the admission of water into them enabled the boat to submerge partially. She possessed a steam engine to propel her along the surface, but when submersed, her fires were extinguished by steam, and then the super-heated steam formed, was employed to send her along.

A Frenchman named Gustav Zédé was the next man to distinguish himself. His "Gymnote" and "Gustav Zédé" were really good boats, and possessed the inestimable advantage over the Nordenfelt boat of having electric



accumulators as means of propulsion. The "Gustav Zédé" possessed torpedo tubes, and she made several noteworthy voyages, often remaining submerged for several hours at a time.

About the same time as Zédé, J. P. Holland experimented in America with much success, and his models are generally followed in the construction of most modern submarines. The first British submarines were built on the Holland design by Messrs. Vickers, and were driven on the surface by gasoline, and submerged by electrical accumulators, and carried three torpedo tubes. Later boats than these were fitted with periscopes which enable them to navigate while the boats themselves are completely submerged. During the last twelve years Great Britain has paid great attention to submarines, and has built remarkably efficient boats on original designs. Our submarine fleet is divided into lettered classes A, B, C, D, E, and F, and each class is an improvement on its predecessor. We know little about the F class, but the E boats are extremely powerful. They displace about 1,000 tons and have probably six torpedo tubes, while they have a very wide radius of action and are capable of high speed both afloat and submerged.

Germany has also paid attention to her "Unterseeboote," especially during the last two years. Her latest U boats are probably about the same strength as our E boats, while they are claimed to have a surface speed of twenty knots. America and France have also good vessels, but they are hardly the equal of those of England and Germany.

The modern submarine is indeed a triumph of engineering and naval architecture. Armoured as she is, and mounting guns up to 3 inch., she is practically a submersible destroyer, and bids fair to displace even Dreadnoughts as the chief unit of a fleet.

D.T.J. (V).

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS.

### FRENCH—STAGE III.

#### EXAMINATION RESULTS.

FIRST CLASS—A. E. Fairs, D. T. Jeremy.

SECOND CLASS—C. Ll. Davis, F. O. Dowdall, E. E. Edmunds, W. H. Thomas, A. E. Yelland.

## GIRLS' FORM NOTES.

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Red tape is what a soldier wears on his arm when he has been inoculated.

A white elephant is a useless thing such as one gives to bazaars.

The man of blood and iron is the Kaiser, for he causes the deaths of many women and children and gives iron crosses.

### FORM IIIB.

We did not have a holiday to celebrate Empire Day, but we had the pleasure of hearing four patriotic songs which were sung during the singing lesson. "The Maple Leaf" was sung by five girls, and that also we enjoyed very much. M.L.

We are now looking forward to a good time during the next fortnight. Examinations reign supreme on every side and we patiently await the good results which we know are really due to us. There is still one other thing to look forward to. In three weeks' time all our anxiety and worry will be over, and we shall bid good-bye to School to spend six weeks' holiday in the various holiday resorts. We wish all our girls who are trying the Oxford Examination every success. G.L.C.

### FORM IIIA.

That Form IIIA. is getting famous at Cricket is indeed common knowledge, even to cows. We get their pleasant company every fortnight, and when we achieve a good score they congratulate us by lowing in a most encouraging manner.

That the wise and clever 3rd have mistaken their profession is indeed rather a pity, as they produce such brilliant maps with Plymouth on the south coast of Wales and a new position of England. Of course only our girls seem to have noticed that England has moved since the time of the Armada.

We were very glad to see one of our formites, Alice Ellis, back in school after a long absence. COSY CORNERITES.

### FORM IVc.

The third term is the hardest of the year, because, as well as our usual form examinations we sit for the N.U.T. and Pitman's Shorthand Examinations. Last Wednesday evening, the last day of June, a few courageous girls from our form arrived at the Boys' School to sit for Pitman's Examination. Soon the dreaded papers were given out and we all were busily at work. At 8.15 p.m. we handed in our papers and went home. We are anxiously awaiting results.

D.T.

## OUR NEW SCHOOL.

Through a mist one day,  
 When I was far away,  
 I dreamed that we had  
                     A new School.

It stood on a hill,  
 Within hearing of a rill  
 That gurgled away to  
                     A beautiful pool.

There were four young trees,  
 Just budding with leaves  
 Standing in the corners  
                     Of the yard.

It was destitute of flowers,  
 Of arbours and of bowers,  
 Things which would make  
                     Songs for a bard !

But, it was pleasant and bright  
 And quite rain-tight  
 Yet, it would let in a great  
                     Deal of Sun.

It would be be great boon,  
 If it came very soon,  
 I hope it will quickly  
                     Be done.

The scene dwindled away  
 As the night before the day,  
 And I awoke from my dream  
                     With a start.

I looked, it was untrue  
 'Twas a dream, as I've told you,  
 I was wakened by the noise  
                     Of a cart !

Through a mist one day,  
 When I was far away,  
 I dreamed that we had  
                     A new School.

Then think of my sorrow,  
 When I learnt that to-morrow  
 Would see me again in  
                     The same old School.

E. M. CHILDS, IVc.

## FORM IVB.

The shadow of the Oxford Junior Examination now looms over us, but although people say that "the age of miracles is past," yet "wonders never cease," so we may still hope for numerous successes.

Each form sends eggs to our wounded soldiers every week, but the calamity that so often happens is the untimely smashing of an egg, which has been left to repose peacefully in a pupil's pocket.

Heard in the playground :—

"Mother says that it doesn't really matter if the eggs are not fresh, because they can be fried." D.G.C.

## FORM IVA.

Although the inside of our noble edifice is somewhat dilapidated and the "worse for wear," yet the outside is much improved by the young trees which have been planted on both sides of the street. We are sorry that Maimie Richards is very ill, but hope she will regain her strength rapidly and be with us once again. M.L., Form IVA.

## FORM VA.

Comparatively speaking, this term has passed uneventfully. Whilst preparing for the Oxford Senior, we have not seen the School Field. We should all like to have a good game of cricket after this examination is over, will the Sixth Form support us in our efforts to obtain it?

Some of our girls, the very ambitious ones, are taking Welsh in the Senior Oxford. Let us wish them every success. Not lost enunciation this term, but lost tongues! A girl in the gymnasium dressing-room one Wednesday morning bewildered us when she ejaculated "Oh! I have pulled my tongue out, and lost it." The most interesting apparatus of the gymnasium this term is the parallel bars. E. LYDEN.

"We live in expectation, but not in hope," as our headmistress once said, of hearing sweet strains proceeding, in the near future, from our next-door neighbour, Form VI. We wish them every success in their effort, but, at the same time, beg them to spare us as much as possible or else to supply the necessary restoratives.

Regarding those trees which have proved such a source of delight to the boys during the past few months, we hope to reap some material benefit from the shade which they afford, during the intervals in our fast approaching examination.

I seriously fear, however, that it will have to be a case of one behind each tree, since they do not throw very extensive shadows yet.

But already they have afforded us some pleasure. It is a favourite pastime, during recreation, to stand at our windows, facing Belle-vue Street, and to enjoy the beautiful scenery (?) we gaze upon. The sight of the leaves beneath us tends to make us forget that we are in school and think that we are enjoying ourselves in the country. But this, alas, is a pleasure only accorded to those possessing particularly strong imaginations.

D. RICHARDS.

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### THE GIRLS OF THE M.S.S.

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A gay society are we  
 We sail life's seas together,  
 As members of one family—  
 Repel the stormy weather  
 For fear our names you should not guess,  
 We are the girls of the M.S.S.

Our union is our strength we know ;  
 We live as sisters should,  
 Helping each other as we go,  
 And work for the common good.  
 The goal of honour is our aim,  
 Glory and praise to our cherished name !

Our energy we bring to bear  
 On work as well as play ;  
 We pay no heed to any snare  
 That comes along our way.  
 We live for each, we live for all,  
 We have our value, great and small.

The time will come when we must part  
 In person from each other—  
 But still there'll be in every heart  
 Great love for one another.  
 'Twill ever make us proud to hear  
 Of honours won by our comrades dear.

And when we present girls have gone,  
 To seek a wider sphere,  
 Others will come and act upon  
 The scene to us so dear.

" Keep up the old traditions ! Honour still our game !  
 Be true for evermore to the M.S.S. girls' name ! "

H.H. Va (From my "old School" Mag.)

## FORM VI.

## PENLLERGAER.

At first, there was only a rumour, vague and uncertain; then, a more definite statement; finally, an official announcement that Miss Landon and Miss Hopkins were going to take Forms VI and VA. to Penllegeraer on a certain Thursday. We felt even more pleased, nay flattered, when we were told that Sir John Llewelyn had very kindly promised to conduct us personally over the grounds. Soon the expected day arrived. We set out at 2. p.m. and went by car as far as Cwmbwrla. From there, the two mistresses and most of the girls walked to Penllegeraer, but a few of the less energetic of the party decided to go by bus. The walk was very pleasant, although the road was rather dusty, but the grounds were reached at last.

We had no difficulty in finding Sir John Llewelyn, who was pointing out the beauties of the place to some of the visitors, but he soon gave his whole attention to us. Sir John was exceedingly kind and pleasant, and took the greatest trouble in showing us the most remarkable and most beautiful plants, and in telling us their peculiarities and the countries from which they were brought. Some of these plants were very remarkable indeed, and we were filled with admiration and wonder as we gazed at the extraordinarily large and beautiful daffodils, narcissi, etc. The rockery was nothing but a store of wonders, while the gorgeous plants in the green-houses were also objects of admiration. For over an hour, Sir John conducted us around the grounds, pointing out and explaining clearly all that was interesting. The end came but too soon; we thanked Sir John heartily for his kindness and then we departed to have tea. During the afternoon, we missed a few of our girls, but they turned up at tea-time. (We heard later that there was a Cinematograph man in the grounds; of course, there could be no possible connexion between his presence and their absence; still, the following week, our friends appeared on the screen in a well-known local cinema). After tea, we roamed over the grounds, but soon closing-time came, when we reluctantly left the grounds, and wended our way home.

H. F. VI.

The Sixth Form girls wish to tender their good wishes to Va and IVa in their coming examination and heartily sympathise with them as we have been through it ourselves. We also wish to extend our congratulations to those girls who have been so successful in the commercial examinations. We

hear that many of them have already obtained good positions and are doing well. Several of our own girls have been bemoaning the fact that they were not allowed to take the Matriculation Examination this year, but since some of them will be taking it next year, we must look forward to excellent results.

O.H., F.T.

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### THE HOCKEY PICNIC.

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A slight deviation from Tennyson :—

“ 'Tis better to have played and lost  
Than never to have played at all.”

Were we down hearted? No! The British spirit filled the ranks, victory followed defeat—hence the Hockey Picnic.

One Saturday afternoon, several mistresses and about thirty girls (members and non-members) set out for Caswell. Miss Landon and a few girls cycled and they performed the wonderful but not unusual feat of arriving at Oystermouth slightly in advance of “La Rapide.” Then we walked around the cliffs, to the bay, where, for a short time we amused ourselves with “something” of a ball and a fairly respectable bat. The capable way in which Miss Landon and Miss Holmes provided tea for us, deserves the highest praise. The refreshments were varied—everyone brought her own. Sitting on a bench somewhat ancient, four unfortunate creatures suddenly found themselves in the elegant position of being under it instead of on it. It was rumoured that had one of them not looked around, the catastrophe would have been avoided.

After a very enjoyable tea, some, intent upon collecting botanical specimens, wandered into the wood, others went on to the cliffs and a small party wandered to the windmill where they endeavoured (without much success) to carve out their names with sharp stones. Upon the re-union of these several parties, the sports were held. Those who entered for them did so for various reasons—some, merely for the sake of sport; others, in order to exhibit their art; others, had strong suspicions that the prizes were of no mean value. [N.B. A full list of the winners may be had at any stationers].

The success of the afternoon's outing could not be doubted. We thank the mistresses who came and took such an interest

[N.B. The cyclists, not having to consider the times of the train, succeeded in making two of the members of the party lose the train. Hem!]

## CRICKET NOTES.

With G. I. Davies (Form V) as Captain, and S. John (Form IVcl) as Vice-Captain, the School Cricket Club has this year achieved several creditable performances in its "away" matches. The bowling has been especially good and consistent throughout the season, while, of the batsmen, the most noteworthy is perhaps L. Abraham (Form IVcl), a new recruit, whose doings with the willow have been most surprising and gratifying.

Perhaps the chief weakness of the team lies in its fielding, in which capacity several members are capable of great improvement, but this inefficiency can be remedied by more consistent practice. The season opened with a trial game between two sides chosen by the Captain and Vice-captain respectively, and the match was characterised chiefly by the good bowling of S. John (5 wickets for 15), F. O. Dowdall (5 wickets for 11) and G. I. Davies (4 wickets for 12).

## SCHOOL v. ST. THOMAS XI.

The distinctive features of this match were the good batting and bowling of S. John (our Vice-captain), and the fine bowling of our Captain, G. I. Davies, who captured four wickets for four runs.

M.S.S.	
H. Evans, c Willis b Corfield	10
F. Dowdall, b N. Evans	5
G. J. Davies, b H. Davies	7
S. Johns, c Corfield b N. Evans	27
Williams, c Anderson b Corfield	5
K. Howells, b Corfield	0
J. S. Davies, b N. Evans	2
D. T. Jeremy, run out	1
J. Evans, c Harris b Corfield	2
W. Rees, b N. Evans...	0
C. L. Davies, not out	2
Extras	6

Total ... 67

## ST. THOMAS.

Score—26 runs.

## SCHOOL v. CLAYTON.

This match was characteristic of several of our later games. School batted first, and seven wickets fell cheaply for ten runs. Then J. Evans, going in, got settled and made a stand which brought the School score up to 31, the next two batsmen made an effort but failed to support J. Evans who carried his bat throughout the innings. The most noble result in bowling was that of W. Rees, who took 5 wickets for 6.



SCHOOL.		CLAYTON.	
F. Dowdall, lbw b E. Davies	0	G. Davies, c C. Davis b W. Rees	9
J. Davies, c G. Davies b V. Davies	3	A. Davies, b S. John	0
S. John, b E. Davies	2	G. Parkes, c C. Davis b W. Rees	22
G. Davies, c A. Davies b V. Davies	1	G. Bell, b W. Rees	0
I. Williams, b E. Davies	1	I. Parsons, lbw b W. Rees	2
C. L. Davis, b E. Davies	1	V. Davies, c J. Evans b W. Rees	0
D. T. Jeremy, b V. Davies	0	E. Davies, b G. I. Davies	4
K. Howells, b E. Davies	0	D. Evans, c and b S. John	5
J. Evans, not out	21	W. Bell, b F. O. Dowdall	3
W. Rees, b V. Davies	1	E. Evans, c W. Rees b S. John	0
G. O. Price, b E. Davies	3	W. James, not out	0
Extras	0	Extras	7
Total	37	Total	51

## S.M.S.S. v. GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The beginning of our innings featured a stand by J. S. Davies and K. Howells. After this, scoring was of a scrappy nature, until after the sixth wicket had fallen, a slight respite was offered in a brief stand made by J. Evans and C. L. Davies. The ninth and tenth batsmen, upon whom the game rested failed to maintain their efforts and we were beaten, owing chiefly to our poor fielding.

SCHOOL.		GRAMMAR SCHOOL.	
J. S. Davies, run out	12	R. W. Jenkins, c & b G. I. Davies	6
K. Howells, c & b L. Harris	3	W. T. Rees, run out	3
S. John, c & b B. E. Lewis	6	G. R. Davies, b F. O. Dowdall	10
G. I. Davies, b L. Harris	0	C. H. Davies, lbw b H. I. Evans	21
L. Abraham, c & b B. E. Lewis	1	B. E. Lewis, b G. I. Davies	12
W. Rees, run out	4	A. L. Harris, c & b H. I. Evans	16
D. T. Jeremy, b L. Harris	0	N. Penrose, b S. John	4
C. L. Davies, c & b L. Harris	3	L. Arnold, not out	16
J. Evans, c & b L. Harris	6	H. Anderson, run out	12
F. O. Dowdall, not out	0	G. A. Watkins, b H. Evans	0
H. Evans, b L. Harris	0	C. L. Gunner, c & b F. O. Dowdall	4
Extras	6	Extras	11
Total	42	Total	115

## SCHOOL v. CLAYTON XI.

Once more Clayton defeated us, mainly owing to the fine bowling of E. Davies and of V. Davies of their team. They scored 56 to our 13. The only semblance of a stand was that made for the School by C. Barret, a new recruit, who made seven not out. F. O. Dowdall bowled well, but, owing to catches frequently missed at "slips," did not capture the wickets he deserved to.

## SCHOOL v. LLANDILO.

This was one of the best enjoyed matches of the season. The majority of the team cycled up, and were very lucky in escaping punctures, only one being obtained throughout the journey. The School batted first, and among the individual scores, the greatest two were those of L. Abraham and F. O. Dowdall, who both hit 13 each. The School succeeded in getting 87 runs, and then Llandilo were put in to bat.

The surprising feature was the bowling of J. Evans (5 wickets for 1) and of G. I. Davies (3 wickets for 1), and also the splendid catches made by the captain.

SCHOOL.		LLANDILO.	
F. O. Dowdall, b W. Griffiths	13	D. Thomas, b S. John	... 1
J. S. Davies, lbw b Thomas	7	B. Rees, c & b I. Davies	... 2
I. Williams, c & b Thomas	4	G. Harris, c & b J. Evans	... 0
S. John, b Thomas	... 9	J. Rees, b J. Evans	... 0
G. Davies, hit wkt, b Steevens	12	P. Steevens, b F. Dowdall	... 1
K. Howells, b G. Harries	... 5	J. Roberts, b I. Davies	... 4
J. Evans, b G. Harries	... 0	G. Steevens, b J. Evans	... 0
W. Rees, b J. Rees	... 1	J. Williams, c & b J. Evans	... 0
L. Abraham, c & b Steevens	13	W. Thomas, c & b J. Evans	... 0
C. L. Davies, lbw b Steevens	1	D. J. Thomas, c & b I. Davies	... 0
M. Lynn, not out	... 0	R. Davies, not out	... 0
Extras	... 22	Extras	... 4
Total	... 87	Total	... 12

## SCHOOL v. YSTALYFERA XI.

A strong team was taken up to Ystalyfera, where a two innings match was played. The School batted first and scored 44, G. I. Davies making the chief contribution with 18. Ystalyfera, going in after, made 33 runs, and our bowling was especially good, J. Evans taking three wickets for three runs, and G. I. Davies three wickets for six runs. After tea, the School again batted and after reaching a score of 77, our Captain declared at the seventh wicket. Ystalyfera going in, made 44. G. I. Davies took five wickets for 17, and S. John three wickets for 15.

SCHOOL (2nd Innings).		
F. Dowdall, c & b G. Griffiths	1	
J. S. Davies, b A. Jones	...	0
S. John, c Lewis b A. Jones	...	5
I. Williams, c Lewis b Jones	24	
G. I. Davies, b A. Jones	...	0
J. Evans, c & b A. Jones	...	22
L. Abraham, not out	...	21
A. Gabe, b A. Jones	...	0
C. Barret,	} did not bat	
M. Lynn		
C. L. Davies		
Extras	...	4
Total for 7 wks.	77	

YSTALYFERA (2nd Innings).		
D. E. Davies, run out	...	0
C. Evans, st Williams b S. John	1	
A. Jones, c I. Williams b S. John	1	
S. Jones, b I. Davies	...	12
J. Griffiths, c G. Davies b S. John	17	
W. Lewis, b F. O. Dowdall	...	7
W. Williams, st Williams b Davies	0	
E. Williams, b I. Davies	...	1
G. Watkins, c Abraham b Davies	0	
A. Bodycombe, b F. O. Dowdall	1	
Woodcliffe, not out	...	2
Extras	...	1
Total	...	44

### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.	AV.
W. Rees	3	0	5	5	1
J. Evans	17	1	43	11	3.9
G. I. Davies	41	4	107	26	4.1
S. John	38	4	104	16	6.5
F. O. Dowdall	23	3	94	11	8.5

### BATTING ANALYSIS.

	No. of Innings.	Times Not Out.	Highest Score.	Total.	Av.
L. Abraham	4	1	21 (not out)	40	10
J. Evans	7	1	22	57	9.5
S. John	6	0	27	51	8.5
I. Williams	5	0	24	35	7.0
G. I. Davies	7	0	18	47	6.7
F. O. Dowdall	7	0	13	37	5.2
J. S. Davies	7	0	12	33	4.7
K. Howells	6	0	5	9	1.5

C. L. DAVIES, Hon. Sec., C.C.

## OVER THE BLACK MOUNTAINS.

It is a pleasant and most interesting journey from Swansea to Brecon, over the Brecknock Beacons. The route is by the Midland Railway. We start from Swansea and pass many large works, most of which are occupied in the smelting and refining of metals. On the left side of the line, near Morriston, are the great Landore Steel Works, and directly opposite to these are the Mannesman Tube Works. Further on are several works engaged in the manufacture of tinplates, for which Swansea is renowned. Now and again we pass over the River Tawe, which has been the chief agent in forming the Swansea Valleys. After leaving Clydach, (where there is a large Nickel Works), and Pontardawe, which also produces Metal Goods, the railway line runs along the side of a hill on the right, and parallel with the river on the left. Now and then one gets a pretty glimpse of the river, through numerous trees, which make the glimpse beautiful. From Ynisygeimon Junction we begin to journey uphill, and the engine can be heard puffing away as if it is having a very hard task to climb the gradient. Arriving at Colbren Junction the train comes to a stand, and the engine takes its well earned refreshment from a water crane. Here we wait for the Neath and Brecon train, which conveys passengers from Neath for our train. We continue our journey, and as we sit in the compartment we can see the railway track miles in front of us, winding up the mountain side. Sometimes a signal appears, high up on a crag, looking solitary against the sky. Now and again we get a view of the valley, through which runs the Tawe heading for the sea. Still climbing, we see Madame Patti's residence, which is enclosed by trees, near Craig-y-nos. It is now much colder and at this spot it is generally raining. Down the side of the mountain run numerous small streams, leaping from rock to rock, and they look very pretty in the rainy weather. It is these streamlets joining together which form the source of the River Tawe. The country about here is very wild and very little of it is cultivated. Most of it is used for sheep farming, and from the train can be seen many flocks of sheep wandering aimlessly about the mountain sides. We are now at the highest point of the railway called Pen Bwlch, after having climbed no less than 1,200 feet. As soon as we leave this place we come in view of a large sheet of water, and this is the Cray reservoir from which Swansea obtains its water supply. The train, which is now running down-hill, rushes round this reservoir, and we see the strong dam, which had to be built across the valley, to keep back the water, which forms

the reservoir. If this dam burst, Brecon and the surrounding country would be flooded. Now over bridges and round many big curves, the train speeds on, passing through a beautiful country, which becomes more fertile as we get lower down the valley towards Brecon.

R. JELLEY (IIR).

## MY EXPERIENCE OF OFFICE LIFE.

Having terminated my studies at the Municipal Secondary School, Trinity Place, I shall now endeavour to give a short account of my experience (so far as it has gone) of office life.

The difference between the latter and school life is very great, and although I had nearly completed a two years' course of commercial training, I admit I felt a little nervous and anxious concerning the commencement of my new duties.

Various questions arose in my mind such as "Would my future master dictate too quickly, or if he went rather fast should I be able to transcribe correctly."

Having secured a position in a local office, I handed in my books to the different mistresses with a mingled feeling of regret and pleasure; regret that many pleasant companionships and associations would be severed; pleasure that I was about to start work and earn wages.

The day arrived, and I set out for the office feeling rather down-hearted, and reaching my destination fifteen minutes before the usual time.

For the first few days things seemed very strange, but I was soon given enough work to do, and now after a few weeks I have got quite accustomed to it. The telephone bell worries me no longer, in fact I find it very useful, and if I had the chance of returning to school again, I do not think I should be willing to change places.

M.J. LATE Vc FORMITE.

## NOMINAL 2R.

“THOMAS,” “IVOR” story to tell :—

One of my friends has left Swansea to go to a *Newton* called *Martin* to take on work as a *Mason*. When he arrived at his destination, he found it to be a lovely pleasure resort with nice cliff scenery, and the time being Sunday afternoon, he and his friend, who was very *Rich-ard-ly* ever without money, and very generous, took a walk along the cliffs. At a dangerous spot my friend slipped and fell *Ed-wards* into the sea. Assistance was obtained; he was fished out and taken home. They had tea, for which my friend had his favourite dessert *Jelley*. That (*K*)night they went to *Chapple*, and, by the way my friend was dressed they thought him to be quite a *Hy-man* indeed, and the preacher gave a sermon on *Abraham*. For supper my friend made a *Bad-diel*, but soon revived from the effect. Then he told me that Monday morning, his friend's little girl would not be washed before going out, but her mother insisted on the point that she would *Washer*. But the little one still declined and said that she would not go out *Owen* to the weather being *Reynish*. That was the *Rees-on* and I told my friend *Will-I-am* surprised. That was (*H*)all he had to say, and I thought it was time 2 *Remove*.

IVOR THOMAS, IIR.

## DURING TERM.

1.—“When can their glory fade?”—Taken from Tennyson's *immoral* poem “The Charge of the Light Brigade.”

2.—Description of “Caliban” in the *Tempest*.—When walking he was more crawling than walking and used to hop about like a frog.

3.—The real cause of the war between Germany and Britain is that the former wants more land for her sons to expand.

4.—Who wrote “The Charge of the Light Brigade?”—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

5.—Dickens' character “Little Nell” is a clever description of a little girl, likewise his character “Scrooge.”

6.—Past Tense of “to see”—I used to see.

7.—*Reconnaissance* is the revival of the study of Classical authors of Greece and Rome.

### Royal Society of Arts Commercial Examinations.

- M. Jones—Typewriting, Shorthand, Bk-keeping, Eng., French, Arith., Handwriting & Corres., and "Full Certificate."  
 Freda Jacobs—Typewriting, Shorthand, English, Bk-keeping, Arith., Handwriting & Corres., and "Full Certificate."  
 Winnie Porter—Shorthand, Book-keeping, Arithmetic, English, Handwriting and Correspondence, and "Full Certificate."  
 Rosalind Davies—Shorthand, Book-keeping, Handwriting and Correspondence, English, Arith., and "Full Certificate."  
 Kate Smith—Shorthand, Book-keeping, English, Arith., French, Handwriting and Correspondence, and "Full Certificate."  
 Dorothy Harper—Shorthand, Book-keeping, Arith., English, Handwriting and Correspondence, and "Full Certificate."  
 Ethel Hemington—Arithmetic, Shorthand and Book-keeping.  
 Doris Lloyd—Typewriting and Shorthand, completing qualification for "Full Certificate."  
 Ivor Prater—Shorthand, English, French, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, and "Full Certificate."  
 E. A. Marchant—Shorthand, English, French, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, and "Full Certificate."  
 W. T. John—Eng., French, Arith., Book-k'g, & "Full Cert."  
 T. Williams—Eng., French, Arith., Book-k'g, & "Full Cert."  
 B.A. Richards—Eng., French, Arith., Book-k'g, & "Full Cert."  
 Ben Evans—Shorthand, English, French and Book-keeping.  
 Sidney Evans—English, Arithmetic and Book-keeping.  
 Glyn Evans—English, Arithmetic and Book-keeping.  
 Edgar J. Davies—English, Arithmetic and Book-keeping.  
 W. T. Hodgetts—Arithmetic.  
 E. E. Smith—Arithmetic.

### SHORTHAND EXAMINATION.

#### GIRLS' SCHOOL.

**SPEED CERTIFICATE**—Mary Jones (90 words per minute), Margaret Alice Waller 80, Kate Henry 80, Winifred M. Porter 80, Rosalind Davies 80, Hilda M. Squires 70, Sadie H. Trelevan 70, Jessie M. Barnes 50, Miss Rose Jenkins, an old pupil of the School, passed at 120 words per minute.

**ELEMENTARY THEORY CERTIFICATES**—Beatrice Jones (2nd prize), Marjorie Mallen (3rd prize), Rhona Beer, Elsie Peach, Doris M. Davies, Dolly Morris, Sylvia Moss, Nesta Davies, Gertrude Hill, Dorothy Tyrrell, Lillian Jones, Doris Bowen, Hilda Morris, Edith Maybery.

#### BOYS' SCHOOL.

**SPEED CERTIFICATE**—Ivor Prater (110 words per minute), E. A. Marchant 80, B. Evans 70, Sidney G. Evans 50, T. Williams 50, F. W. Jones, an old pupil, passed at 80.

**ADVANCED THEORY**—J. E. Evans.

**ELEMENTARY THEORY CERTIFICATES**—J. E. Evans (1st prize), C. J. Winston, E. J. Rees, H. Baptist, C. Rees, G. Thomas, W. E. Pascoe, B. McInerny, K. R. Matthey, F. Rees, H. Davies, W. Fairs.

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