

THE Newcastle High School Magazine.

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The Prize Giving.

THE Annual Prize Giving was held on Friday, December 14th, in the presence of a large gathering. The items of the programme, which included German, French and part songs, musical games, duets and recitations, were highly appreciated by the audience, the musical games by Form I. and Kindergarten and the fairy play by V. Coxon, N. Brewis, T. Pearse, deserving special mention, while K. Lambert's rendering of Gabriel Grub was the best recitation we have ever had at school. At the close of the first part of the programme, Miss Gurney, Mrs. John Noble (who had kindly consented to distribute the prizes), Canon Boot, Canon Brocas Waters, Professor Bedson and others mounted the platform, The Archdeacon of Northumberland taking the chair in the absence of the Lord Bishop and Canon Gough.

Miss Gurney, in her report of the work of the school, stated that the inspector had found the progress of the school even more than usually satisfactory. All the pupils (five in the Senior and five in the Junior), who entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations passed, four gaining honours and two gaining distinction in religious knowledge. The school took first prize in two out of three examinations, open to all the Company's schools. Ida Armstrong, having for the second time won the Lord Bishop's prize for Divinity, presented it to the school in the form of books of reference for the use of her schoolfellows in their scripture studies. Miss Gurney then thanked those who had so kindly given prizes to the school, her staff and the local Committee who had devoted so much time to the welfare of the school. Mrs. John Noble, who was presented with a basket of flowers by Flora Macdonald and Arthur Short (two of the Preparatory children), then presented the prizes and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

At the conclusion of the programme, and after the singing of the National Anthem, refreshments were served in the gymnasium, while upstairs the hall was cleared for dancing. The holiday competitions (drawing, painting and needle work), were displayed in the Art Room, and the work of the Preparatory and Kindergarten students in the Kindergarten. Having looked round these rooms, everyone adjourned to the hall to see some fancy dances by Mr. Webster's pupils. After these were other dances in which all could join, and this concluded a most enjoyable evening which all were loath to terminate.

The following is a list of the girls who were head of their Forms at the end of last term :—

Kindergarten

Winifred Nicholson	Form IIIb.	Winifred Dogherly
Form Ib, Muriel Tweddell	Form IIIa.	Dorothy Hamer
Form Ia. Connie Marshal	Form IV.	Alison Nicholson
Form IIb. Dorothy Morpeth	Form Vb.	Dorthea Amsden
Form IIa. Kathleen Padfield	Form Va.	Joyce Robson

STAR LIST.

Form VI. 13.	Form Vb. 7.	Form IIIa. 4.
Form Va. 11.	Form IV. 4.	Form IIIb. 3.
	Form IIa. 2.	

Last Term's Lectures.

Two very interesting lectures were given last term in the hall. They were especially popular as they took the place of ordinary lessons on two half mornings, and we think we may safely say in the name of the school that we hope there may be some more in future.

On the ninth of November, Miss Barker gave us one on Vesuvius. After reading an account of the recent eruption and its effects on the surrounding country, she told us of her visit to the district shortly after. She described her ascent of the mountain, and related the story of the almost miraculous escape of one of the neighbouring villages by the sudden stoppage of a flood of lava.

A large number of photographs and some specimens of lava and other volcanic matter were handed round. At the close of the lecture, Miss Barker invited questions from the audience, which consisted of the Forms from IIIb. upwards, and several of their mistresses; but the limited amount of time prevented much advantage being taken of her kind offer.

On November 20th, the Rev. A. Moore visited the School and gave a most excellent address on Japan, which was received with great interest on the part of the girls. He told them all about the country, the people, and the way in which they spent their time. "The girls," he said, "in Japan are very clever at school, but they leave when only twelve years old, and even put their hair up at the age of fourteen."

In Japan they have several amusing games which are played by the children in the streets, of which Hop Scotch is the favourite, and so that the babies may be able to learn, the players put them in baskets tied round their backs.

The Japanese live chiefly on rice and tea; the former they eat out of small basins with chop sticks. When they go out to see each other they take little boxes with them, in which they put the food that they cannot eat.

Another interesting point of his address was that when they give presents away to each other, the receiver in his turn gives it away to some one else.

Then after his address, he showed the girls many views of Japan, and told them that, if they wished, they might buy them. Then they went to their different classes. Finally, after heartily thanking Mr. Moore for his kindness in giving the lecture, all went home as it was then one o'clock.

Musical "At Home."

The "termly" ordeal of the Musical At Home was gone through by the musical pupils of the school, on December 6th. This function assumes much less terrifying proportions now than it did formerly, the pupils having "got used to it." Some of them are rather glad of being obliged to play to an audience, and so gradually losing their nervousness; others—are not!

A very amusing item on the programme, amongst violin and piano solos, and piano duets, was Nellie Brewis's recitation of "Brer Rabbit and the Tar-baby." May Metcalfe and Irene Pearse also recited.

When the programme was concluded, audience and performers repaired to the dining room, where tea was served.

The Christmas Tree.

The annual Christmas treat for the girls of St. Nicholas' Parish was held on Thursday, December 20th. Two girls were voted for from Forms IV to IIIb, to go down, with the girls from Forms VI, Va and Vb, to make preparations and to entertain the guests.

We started work at three o'clock, or perhaps later. First of all, we arranged all the dolls and toys on the platform, on which stood the tree, which was being decorated at the same time, with spangly ornaments, crackers, small toys and plenty of candles. All the clothes had to be sorted and arranged; a detachment went to the lower regions—name unknown—to cut up bread and cakes, and plums; and another group made little parcels of sweets. When all this had been done, we went out to Carrick's and had our well-earned tea.

Meanwhile the large schoolroom was converted into a tea-room and the feast spread. At about a quarter past five the children arrived, each with her mug. When all were seated the order was given—"Stand! Face this way." Then they sang grace, and scrambled into their places. The tea was served in large bedroom jugs, at least that is what they looked like; it was all ready mixed with milk and sugar so no cream jugs were needed. When the guests had eaten all the cakes and bread they could manage, they partook of preserved plums, and raisins, which they seemed to enjoy very much. It was rather difficult to wait on them as they would hold their cakes on their laps,

under the table. Miss Gurney told them she had bought the cakes at another shop this time and the children all agreed that they were nicer.

After tea grace was again sung, and while the tea was cleared away, the floor swept, and the piano brought, the children went out and played in the school yard. When they came in again they danced the cake walk, making a great clatter with their boots. Then we had a waltz and a polka and some children were discovered dancing with bare feet. These were supplied with shoes and stockings.

Two carols were sung very energetically:—"The First Nowell" and "See Amid the Winter's Snow." The candles on the tree were lighted and the gas lowered.

Kathleen Lambert made a little speech, telling our guests how glad we were to see them, and asking them to come and receive their presents. Miss Dickinson read out their names, and they came up in order to receive either a doll or toy and a garment of some kind. The doll which had been perched on the very top of the tree was much coveted, and several girls wanted it, but of course it was given to the one who asked first. Each child had an orange and some sweets, as well as toys and clothes.

Mr. Grieve then spoke to them, telling them that they ought to be very grateful for their nice party, and they gave us three very hearty cheers. Miss Gurney, in reply, told them that we had enjoyed the party perhaps as much as they had, and this certainly was true. Then they all went home, and we went too, feeling very grubby, but satisfied.

As a good many clothes and a few toys were left, besides the tree, the infants had quite a nice little party with these, a few days later.

The Party given by Form Va.

On Tuesday, December 18th, Form Va gave a party to about thirty invited guests. We were hospitably entertained to tea to begin with. Afterwards we were taken into the hall, and were set to guess the titles of books, enigmatically expressed by actions on the platform. It was very amusing, though very difficult. However, we did our best, and Miss Fawcus, by guessing seven out of twelve problems, won a very fascinating prize, a volume of Longfellow's poems. After this we played musical chairs, and then followed some very amusing dumb charades. We divided into four parties captained respectively by Miss Dickinson, Miss Moore, Miss Richardson and Miss Fawcus. The most successful party made a right guess at the required word after only four attempts.

Dancing was the next amusement, Miss Dickinson, Nelly

and Joyce Robson and Isobel Charlton kindly acting in turn as musicians. After this, light refreshments were supplied, and we then reluctantly dispersed after a most pleasant evening.

Hockey, 1906.

At the beginning of the season the outlook of the hockey team was not very hopeful, as five of last season's players had left, including O. Richardson, the captain. However, a great many girls joined the club, and, to begin with at any rate, shewed a keen interest in the game,

Early in the term the following were chosen officers:—

Captain: M. Cook; Secretary: E. Bedson.

The team consisted of:



Forwards:

M. Cook. K. Charlewood. A. Weddell. E. Dixon. D. Stuart.

Half backs: E. Bedson. G. Davies. M. Hamer.

Backs: I. Charlton. W. Siddle.

Goal: M. Horsley.

The first match was played at Whitley Bay, against Gordon College, and ended in a victory for Gordon College by 3—2.

H. Edwards played as substitute for D. Stuart and the goals were shot by the centre forward. Possibly the defeat was due to the fact that the members of the team were not yet accustomed to playing together.

There was a great improvement in this respect at the second match, played against Sunderland High School on its own ground. This was the first shield match of the season, and ended in the encouraging result of a victory for us by 4—1. As the Captain was unable to play, I. Pickering filled the vacant place. Goals were shot by A. Weddell and K. Charlewood, who did good work on the wing.

The third was a friendly match against the Central High School, ending in a brilliant victory for Newcastle by 7—1. Five goals were shot by A. Weddell, and two by K. Charlewood, our left inner, but the play on the right wing was rather weak.

Unfortunately, it was not this, but the second match against the Central High School, which was for the shield. The match was played early in December, and of course everyone was greatly excited as to what would be the result. The first goal was splendidly shot by A. Weddell. E. Dixon and K. Charlewood also scored, making the score at half-time 3—2 for us. In the second half, one more goal was shot for Newcastle by A. Weddell,

but our backs were unable to withstand the splendid spurts of the Central forwards. The game ended in a defeat for Newcastle by 5—4.

Last year Dr. Lazenby, of Whitley Bay, very kindly offered a silver cup, to be competed for by the hockey elevens of the private schools in the district. High Schools are now allowed to compete as well, so, although we have lost the shield, we still have a chance of gaining this cup.

Basket Ball.

We played two Basket Ball matches last term against the Central High School. The first was in their ground. It was a very close match, but they beat us in the end by one goal, the score being 4—3. Our team was:—D. Rowden, D. Taylor, K. Robson, L. Marsh, G. Hodgson, W. Dogherty, D. Proctor.

The players had to be under form IV. The second match took place in our own ground, on a very cold and windy afternoon. Our team won by four goal to nothing. There were a good many spectators in spite of the bad weather. This time the team consisted of:—K. Charlewood (Captain), H. Edwards, D. Stuart, V. Coxon, D. Gibson, D. Rowden and D. Proctor.

The Old Girls' Club.

There were only two meetings last term, for, though three were arranged, the third did not take place as so very few girls were able to be present.

The first was a social gathering, and the progressive games were much enjoyed: Elsie Bell carried off the first, and Grace Newcome the consolation prize.

At the second meeting a debate was held, when Ruth Nicholson seconded by Alison Leitch proposed the motion—"That common sense is more essential to every day life than imagination." Maud Forman and Hilda Hunter opposed it, and after a long discussion the motion was lost by six votes.

Then there was sharp practice debates: Nancy Cooke proposed "That books have more influence than people," being opposed by Isobel Matthwin. The motion was lost.

The all important question of women's suffrage was discussed at great length, and at last, the motion proposed by Miss Moore, and opposed by Ellenor Frere, that women should have equal rights with men as far as voting is concerned, was carried by the large majority of two. After this the members, feeling that their brains could stand no more, took their departure.

Important Notice.

We hope to hold a Bazaar at school in aid of the school charities. As most of you know, these are :—

1. The two treats which we give every year to the girls of St. Nicholas' school.
2. The support of a cot in a Home at Tynemouth. Jack Calder ("our" boy), is a jolly little chap, eleven years old. I am sure you would all like him; he is always so pleased with his Christmas and birthday presents, and writes such nice little letters to thank us for them.

The Bazaar will probably be held early next term. The last one was great fun and brought in £31. But it is no use saying you are willing to have a Bazaar, and then forgetting all about it, leaving the work to come from no-one-knows-where; so will each of you work *hard* in the holidays, beginning now if you have time, and each Form try to have the best stall?

LESLEY ROBSON,
Hon. Sec. N.H.S. Charities.

Truth (P) is Stranger than Fiction.

Some officers staying on the west coast of Africa decided to go for a day's shooting to a small island a little way out at sea. They started early in the morning, and hired a man to row them to the island. As they neared their destination they saw a number of birds sitting on a tree on the island, and, therefore, looked forward to a good day's sport. But when they landed all the birds flew away. They returned home disappointed, but determined to go again next day.

Accordingly they started on the morrow, but the same thing happened. On the third day the boatman advised them to take some birdlime and put it on the tree, so that when the birds touched it they would stick to the branches. They did so, and returned home. The next morning they started again, quite certain that they were going to shoot some of the birds. As soon as they came in sight of the island they saw the birds on the tree, struggling to get away, but, of course, the lime held them fast. The officers landed, and noticed that the tree was shaking about a good deal; they ran towards it, but before they came within range the united efforts of the birds were rewarded. The tree, with birds, roots and everything on it suddenly rose in the air and floated away over the sea before the astonished gaze of the sportsmen!

The Ghost.

A meeting of the seniors will take place at "Rec" to-day in the fifth Form study. All the Seniors are requested to attend."

At eleven o'clock all the seniors, in response to the above announcement, assembled in the study, looking very excited.

"Well Louisa," they exclaimed, "what has happened now ;"

"Come, sit down and I will tell you. One of the juniors has taken the idea into her head to play the ghost, and last night visited several rooms, nearly frightening the girls out of their wits. So I thought you all ought to know and then you would be prepared for her. I have hit upon a plan, and if it comes off it will stop her game at once."

"What is it ?" they all asked.

"Its very simple and can easily be carried out. Before we go to bed to-night, let's each put a jug of water beside us, and if the ghost comes in, she'll meet with a cold reception. Now don't you think that will be splendid ?"

"Lovely !" "Glorious !"

"Then don't forget," replied Louisa, "and now let's go out, or we'll get no play-time."

All except Louisa, and her chief friend Stella, got up and went out. Stella waited till they were safely out of hearing and then turned to Louisa., "That plan's not half bad, Louisa," she said, but if the ghost comes into my room I shall be too terrified to move."

"Well, Stella, if you hear anyone wandering about the corridor, you can come into my room, for I shall not be at all frightened of the ghost." said Louisa, and, linking her arm through her friend's she led the way to the garden.

By 9.30 that night all were in bed, and all save one were fast asleep; that one was Stella. The slightest noise seemed to terrify her, and at last being able to stand it no longer, she got up, scurried along the passage, quietly opened Louisa's bed-room door, and going up to her, touched her arm.

Louisa awoke, seized the jug of water: and flung the contents over the white form beside her, soaking it from head to foot.

"Louisa !" shrieked Stella.

Louisa stared at her for a minute, and then began to shake with laughter.

"I'm so sorry, Stella," she said, "but I took you for the ghost."