

THE Newcastle High School Magazine.

No. 7.

MAY, 1907.

Fourpence.

Is not the Magazine more interesting when it contains stories, etc., as well as the school news? We are sorry to say that it has not even yet learnt to write them itself, will not the girls come to its aid? Of course it is summer now and no one feels inclined to waste the fine days writing for the Magazine, yet in this country, days do occur when it rains from morning till night, and surely these are favourable opportunities for composing articles.

Perhaps the reason why we receive no MSS. is because the new girls do not know, and the rest of the school has forgotten, that the Editor is always glad to receive any original contribution to the Magazine. Perhaps you think you cannot write nice stories, but you never know what you can do till you try, and you may be a budding author for all you know. Please do try and see if you cannot make the next number really worth reading.

We were very sorry to say good-bye to Miss Moore last term, she had been with us a long time and had improved our Hockey very much. She will, however, be near us, and will, we hope, be able to come and see us, as she is going to train at the Deaconess' Home.

Our new classical mistress is Miss Hirst. She has charge of the Upper Third Form, and Miss Richardson, its former mistress, has been "moved up" into the Fourth.

The following is a list of the girls who were head of their Form in the Spring Term:—

Form VI. & Va.	Dorothy Hooper.
Form V remove.	Phyllis Comrie.
Form Vb.	Alison Nicholson.
Form IV.	Dorothy Hamer.
Form IIIa.	Winifred Dogherty.
Form IIIb.	Gertrude Hodgshon.
Form IIa.	Stella Proctor.
Form IIb.	Connie Marshall.
Form I.	Ida Little.
Kindergarten.	Hilda Maguire.

STAR LIST.

Form VI.	11.	Form Vb.	4.	Form IIIa.	3.
Form Va.	8.	Form IV.	4.	Form IIIb.	1.
		Form II.	6.		

Honour Cards were gained by Evelyn Heron, Winifred Nicholson, Edie Caunt, Stella Proctor, Dorothy Morpeth, Madeline Paul, Connie Morrison.

The Library.

Last term, the books in the Fiction Library were re-catalogued, and those in bad condition were mended, so we start this term in good order. Netta McNeil has presented "Woo'd and Married," by Rosa Carey; Ellenor Frere, two of Henty's books; Miss Ram, "The King's Achievement," and last, but not least, Dr. Bedson has most generously given the three novels of Charles Kingsley which we did not possess, and also some of Mrs. Gaskell's works.

The Rules of the Library are very simple, but, as they are sometimes disregarded, they are printed below.

1. No girl is to take a book out of the Library except in the presence of the Librarian.

2. No girl may keep a book for more than a week, unless she renews it by giving in the number a second time.

The fine of 1d. must be paid on books overdue.

The Reading Society.

Miss Gurney very kindly invited the members of the above Society to have tea with her on Monday, February 11th. After an enjoyable tea, an amusing competition was started, each girl had to think of a question in general literature, aided by any book she might choose. When the time allotted for the purpose had elapsed, the party went to the hall, where the questions were asked and the answers written. A prize had been offered by Miss Gurney for the greatest number of correct answers, and this was won by Ellenor Frere. The girls then played games, and had penny races and a few dances, thus ending a very pleasant evening.

A Musical Recital.

On Monday, March 4th, the Winter Term Musical Recital was held in the school hall, at three o'clock. The musical pupils of the school all took part in the programme, which consisted of

piano duets and solos and also of violin solos. One of the most enjoyable features on the programme was an extract from "As you like it," which the girls of the Elocution Class acted splendidly. Judging by the manner in which everything was received by the visitors, the afternoon was a great success. After the music was over, we all went down to the dining-room, where tea was served.

The Kindergarten Lecture.

One day last term we had a most interesting visit from Miss Mackey, an English lady, who has been a missionary in Japan for some years. She gave us a short account of the Japanese children, how they lived and what they wore. The Japanese live in houses made principally from paper. The rooms can be made larger or smaller by sliding the paper walls backwards or forwards. They have no beds like ours, but sleep on rice-straw mats, which are placed on the floor. Their pillows, also, are very uncomfortable, being a square box arrangement made of thin strips of cane. The ladies use these because they do their hair very elaborately, and only about once a week, and they are afraid of disarranging it. All Japanese women wear a garment called a Kimona, which is rather tight in the skirts and has very long hanging sleeves.

When the children go to school they put a purple Hakama over their other dress. This is a long tight garment with holes for the head and arms. They also wear wooden shoes with enormously thick soles, which they take off before entering school. Their books are wrapped up in a large handkerchief called a Furooski. They begin to read their books at the end, and the words are arranged in columns down the pages, not in lines like ours. The children have to learn fifty-one letters of one kind and forty-seven letters of another kind, before they can read, and to be very well educated they learn 4,000 Chinese characters as well.

We were shown the copy book of a little Japanese girl, it seemed to us nothing but a collection of black smudges, but this was perhaps owing to the fact that the same copy is used over and over again, until the child can write the letters correctly. Then we saw another copy of an older girl, this one was beautifully neat, but looked as if she had been trying to paint birds and different kinds of curved lines.

Miss Mackey showed us models of different things used by the Japanese, and so brought to an end her little chat on things Japanese, and I am sure we were all very sorry she could not stay longer, and hoped that if she ever comes to our dear old Newcastle again she will come and tell us more about those interesting people, the Japanese.

Hockey.

There are three chief points of interest about the hockey of the spring term, three things which we think all the Old Girls would want to know. Who are the possessors of the Shield, who has won the new Cup, and what Form holds Miss Dickinson's Cup?

Of the Shield, we lost our chance last term, sad to say, and the Central High School won it after a not very hard fight with Darlington. The Cup, which has been played for this term for the first time, has fallen to us. Our first match for it, was, curiously enough, against Sunderland, the enemy we seem always fated to meet in the first round of the Shield Tournament. This was an easy victory, 8--1, and not a very good game as the ground was very muddy, and our team far too strong for the visitors. In the final match, we had to play the Central High School and great was the excitement. The match was played on the Medical College ground, and there were many spectators, especially from the Central High School. It was a very good game; our team scored once before half-time, and the Central made the score even immediately after by a good rush down the field. However, we soon scored again, and finally won by 3--1, and so hold the Cup in its first year. Our team had the great addition of Nancy Cooke, as, for the Cup, we are allowed to play with one old girl, who practises with the school; and she was a very great help, her shots are so hard and she is so quick in the striking circle. All the team played up splendidly. M. Cook, the captain, quite surpassed herself on the wing, making some really brilliant runs down the field. A. Weddell has made a very good half-back, and shewed great diplomacy in saving herself for the latter half of the game. We have often in the past urged people to learn to play with their feet, and now we should like to point out that one's head may also be used to advantage in such ways as this. Another player who deserves especial mention is D. Taylor, the goalkeeper; she has only played hockey for quite a short time and won great distinction, saving many hard shots. Goal is a dull place and trying too, and it is always hard to find a goalkeeper, but to have a good one makes a great difference to the confidence of the rest of the team, and prevents the crowding back into goal which so often results in disaster.

Besides the Shield matches, we played one against our Old Girls, whom, much to our surprise, we beat 5--0, and one against Durham. This, too, was a victory, but was not a very good game. The team did not play well together and the backs were very slow, but as two of the usual team were absent, and one playing back who was unaccustomed to it, there was some excuse. It was a lovely day and Durham looked beautiful. After having tea at the High School, we walked round the

outside of the Cathedral but could not get in as it was too late, and so went slowly on to the station, whence we returned home a cheerful party.

The second eleven only had one match. Early in term, they went down to Whitley to play Gordon College, but the ground was so bad they had to come back without playing. Later, they played the Central second eleven and were beaten 4—2.

The chief fault of both elevens this year has been the feebleness of their hitting; some players who are really good at stopping the ball and taking it from an enemy, rarely succeed in getting it right away, because they cannot hit hard enough: this wants much practice. The combination has been fairly good, though there are still some, even in the first eleven, who will wait till just too late to pass, and some, too, are very slow at taking a pass and seeing where it is likely to come. But, considering how many of the eleven were new, they did very well, improved very much in the course of the term, and never lost a match.

The Form matches were played at the end of the term, and Va. carried off the Cup in triumph, and deservedly too, for they produced a very good team. The best games were between IV. *v.* IIIa. and IV. *v.* Vb.; Va. was rather too strong for both VI. and Vb., though both teams played up well. Unfortunately, IIIb. had not enough energy or public spirit to play hockey, and so had no team; it is a great pity that the Form takes so little interest in games. In the other Forms, many girls who do not usually play, played on this occasion and quite distinguished themselves, we wish they would all play regularly.

Our numbers this year have not been so large as last, principally owing to the lack of interest in the lower school. The weather, too, at the beginning of the term was very bad. Still we have had many good games and some of us felt very sorry when the season was over.

G. H. MOORE.

Basket Ball.

During the spring term, two matches were played between Forms VI. and Va. against Forms Vb. and IV. The first match was played in the gymnasium, and resulted in a victory for Forms VI. and Va. The second match was played out-of-doors, and this time Forms Vb. and IV. won. Forms IIIa. and IIIb. also played each other twice. More seniors than before played, but the games would be much better if even a greater number attended. The juniors certainly patronize the game more than the seniors, but it would be well if they passed the ball rather more, instead of throwing it at random.

Exhibition of Pictures.

It has lately been our privilege to see the very interesting collection of pictures which one of our Old Girls, Miss S. Atkinson, exhibited last March, in her studio in the Haymarket. Not being connoisseurs in painting, we feel some diffidence in writing upon that subject, but the Editor's commands must be obeyed.

For ourselves, then, we enjoyed Miss Atkinson's pictures very much. Being almost entirely landscapes, they formed a pleasant contrast to the dust and noise of Newcastle. One especially, of a little woodland clearing with yellow flags in the foreground, gave a delightful sense of refreshing quietude. Many of the scenes were painted at Ford, two of the Rectory garden struck us especially. One of red roses scrambling over an arch, with tall blue larkspurs near, and love-in-a-mist and poppies in the foreground; another of a bed of rose trees and beautiful Madonna lilies. Two others of the same district were Flodden Tile Sheds, a pond shaded by hawthorns, with a meadow stretching away to some farm buildings; and a road near Ford with masses of golden broom interspersed with may.

There were two pictures of Welsh hillsides, painted in the autumn, both brown with faded bracken, the beauty of which lay in the tints which cannot be reproduced in words. Several of a little cove with hills sloping down to its edge, painted on grey days when the water was just ruffled by the breeze, reminded us strongly of the gentle sadness of the fall of the year. Space only permits us to notice one or two more with which we were especially pleased, one of a hillside with just the stems of a larchwood, another a snow scene with a red-berried holly bush, last, but not least, a field of wild hyacinths such as we sometimes see at Plessey. Altogether we spent a most enjoyable half-hour in Miss Atkinson's studio, and we hope that next year some of us may again have an opportunity of viewing her works.

The Meetings of the Old Girls' Club.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday, February 6th, at school. We had tea at 4.15 in the dining-room and afterwards we went up into the hall. There were a few business matters to be decided first of all, but luckily these did not take long. Miss Gurney then informed us that it had been suggested by herself and the Committee that, for our entertainment, each person should endeavour to represent a character in history or fiction, or several persons should select a scene, each character or scene must have a distinguishing feature, or a few words must be said, which would help to identify them. There was a great pile of newspapers, and a great many pins

were provided for our use, we were also allowed to ransack the school on condition that we put back the things into their proper places afterwards. We were only to have twenty minutes for dressing up, and at the expiration of that time we were to re-assemble in the hall; everybody then departed to some secluded class-room to puzzle their brains to select their character. Time seemed to fly, and even at the end of the allotted twenty minutes the bell rang for quite a long time. Gradually everybody re-assembled, decked out in pieces of newspaper, curtains and all sorts of things. As each person or group of persons went on to the platform we wrote down what we thought they represented.

The first group was Miss Moore as Edward III, pardoning the Burghers of Calais (who were dressed in newspaper sack-cloth) at the request of the Queen, Miss Fawcus. Then Sophie Atkinson, wearing a tartan coat, a red shoe-bag for a cap, and a short skirt instead of a kilt, marched up and down the platform playing the bagpipes, otherwise the compasses. She was Macphairson Conglocketty Angus M'Clan. Among other characters were "Mrs. Gummidge," "The Heavenly Twins," "Queen Victoria being informed of her accession to the throne," "Mr. J. Chamberlain," "The Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots." Miss Dickinson chose to do the "Silent Reader," which was very simple, as she merely walked across the platform reading a book very attentively. When we had seen all the characters we voted for the best, and while Miss Gurney counted the votes everything was made tidy by the rest of the party. Sophie Atkinson won a hat-pin, the prize for the best costume, and Sybil Lister a box of sweets, for guessing the most characters.

After the prizes had been presented, Miss Gurney suggested that we should sing, so Miss Dickinson very kindly played some tunes out of "Gaudeamus" to which we sang with great vigour, but perhaps not always in very good tune. However, it was getting late and was time for the meeting to break up, so we departed, everyone feeling that it had been a very pleasant evening, and that the entertainment had been most novel and amusing.

To the second meeting, Miss Gurney very kindly invited the members of the Reading Society, as a lantern lecture on the Roman Wall was to be given by Dr. Collis. So after tea we all assembled in the Kindergarten, which had been darkened for the purpose.

Dr. Collis's lecture was very interesting indeed. He told us what the Wall looked like when it was complete, and also how it came to be built. He told us all about the coming of the Romans to Britain, and how they gradually spread northwards and at last built the Wall near here, to protect the country from the raids of the Picts.

The lantern slides accompanying his lecture were very good, some of the views of the Wall were magnificent. The pictures of the camp near Chollerford shewed the construction of the Roman houses very well, the ones shewing the heating apparatus of the houses being exceptionally good. He told us about the various ditches and fortifications behind the Wall, which were called the Vallum.

The lecture was extremely interesting altogether, and we think that most of us learnt a great deal more about the Roman Wall than we ever knew before, although we live so close to it.

News of the Old Girls.

Sophie Atkinson held an Exhibition of her pictures last term, an account of which will be found in another part of the Magazine.

Queenie Atkinson is in Dresden, studying the 'cello under Herr Stenz.

Ida Armstrong is studying at Salisbury College.

Elsie Bell played Hockey for the county last season.

Flossie Brewis is studying French and Music in Paris.

Isobel Charlton is at school in Germany.

Leila Cochrane is working at a Horticultural College near Lewes.

Connie Edwards is a private governess at Pelton.

Leslie Frere is at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

Ethel Hardy is teaching at the West Jesmond Council School.

Violet Lindsay was married on May 23rd, to Mr. G. F. St. Claire Harden.

Connie Lunn has lately become engaged to the Rev. Colin Scott-Moncrieff.

Ida Lunn is a student at the Newcastle School of Cookery.

Elsie Mathwin is our Cricket coach this season.

Ruth Nicholson is studying at the College of Medicine.

Winnie Potts and Ada Tweddell are at the Armstrong College, where Connie Kirkup is studying art.

Ruby Thistlethwaite is First Form Mistress at the Bolton Church Institute School.

Marion Yeld is English Mistress at Hendon Hall School.

The Secretary of the Old Girls' Club is still awaiting many subscriptions. She would be glad of items of news for insertion in this column.