

# THE Newcastle High School Magazine.

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## Prize Giving.

The distribution of Prizes took place in the School Hall, on Thursday, December 5th. There was a larger gathering than usual of parents and friends to witness this important ceremony. After songs and piano duets, Miss Gurney gave a satisfactory report of the year's work. The results of the examination and the general standard were good.

A basket of crimson and white flowers was presented by Howard Phillips and Phyllis Cooper to Mrs. Straton who then gave away the prizes to the girls.

The Elocution Class acted in costume "The Tennysonian Oratorical Society" which afforded much amusement, and after more music the National Anthem was sung, and the visitors descended to the gymnasium where refreshments awaited them.

Meanwhile the hall was cleared and two fancy dances were executed by Mr. Webster's pupils, followed by dances for all the girls, while for the more serious minded, entertainment was provided in the form of an exhibition of holiday competitions, drawings, paintings, and kindergarten work done by the pupils.

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It was with much regret that we said good-bye to Miss Ram last term. After having been with us for many years she has left us to go to Cairo, having accepted a post in a school there; we are glad to say, however, that it will probably not be "good-bye for ever," since Miss Ram expects to be in England again next summer, and will if possible visit the North. A travelling bag was presented to her by the girls.

Miss Kelly is now mistress of Form IV, Miss Hirst of IIIa, Miss Claridge of IIIb, while Miss Dagleish has come to take Form II. Miss Fawcus is now mistress of form Vb. We may add that Miss Fawcus has just taken her M.A. degree at Dublin.

There is a noble record of gifts bestowed on the School by generous well-wishers, who have remembered both the serious and the lighter side; the following is the list, which, owing to lack of space, cannot be given in greater detail.

Dr. Bedson; "English Literature, an Illustrated Record." Violet Coxon; "The World of To-day." Rev. H. Yeld; prize for English. Elsa Bedson; prize for mathematics. Miss Wilson; prize for Swedish drill. Mr. White; golf trophy, for both old and present girls. Mrs. Louis; cup for junior sports. Lord Armstrong presented his mathematics prize as usual.

A competition was arranged for the Christmas holidays, the entries to be given to Deaconess Mary's Sale of Work, in aid of the coming Pan-Anglican Conference.

Ellenor Frere, who edited the Magazine last term, is no longer a regular pupil of the school, so the Magazine has again changed hands. The present Editor is Joyce Robson; Treasurer, Betty Burnell; Secretary, Margaret Hamer. The Staff has tried to make the Magazine more attractive than ever, and solicits articles upon any subject from old and present girls for the next issue.

A School Choir has been formed this term, which will be responsible for the singing at Prayers. This has been going from bad to worse, until at last the volume of sound produced by the whole school might be supposed to proceed from half a dozen girls. Every girl should feel it her duty to sing; the Choir's work is to lead, not to supply all the sound.

The Choir consists at present of twenty-one members, two from Form II, one from IIIb, four from IIIa, two from IV, three from Vb, six from Va, and three from VI. Choir monitresses have been appointed in each Form; they will write the number of the hymn and psalm on the form-room blackboards every morning before prayers.

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### St. Nicholas' Treat.

Not the least pleasant of last term's events was the entertainment given to the children of St. Nicholas' School on Thursday, December 19th. As usual it took the form of a Christmas Tree. Quite a large number of girls went down to entertain the children and to distribute the dolls, toys, books and clothes, of which there was a plentiful supply. A good many ornaments had also been given for the Christmas Tree so that it looked very bright and pretty. The events of the evening were much the same as usual, first tea, then games and dancing, the cake-walk being a prominent item. Finally every girl was called up in turn and received a doll or toy and a garment. Mr. Grieve thanked us in the children's name and all then dispersed.

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### Presentation of Medals in Form II.

At the Newcastle High School, on December 13th, Colonel Coulson came to give Form II the medals which Miss Edmunds had made for those who had saved animals—the members of the Claws and Paws Society. Colonel Coulson also told us some interesting stories. One was this: He was going up to the Cat and Dog Shelter one day, and when he got there he saw a lot of men and boys laughing at something, and he went in among them and saw a poor rat in a trap, and the men had sticks and were poking it. Then he said, "Do you not think it is very cruel of you to do that to a poor timid creature?" Some of the men were nice and said, "I did not think of that," and then

Colonel Coulson said, "I will kill it straight off and then it will not have so much pain." Another story was that there was once a gentleman who was very much troubled with a fly on his brow and nose, so he put his hand on his brow and caught the little fly and put it in his hand and out of the window and let the little fly away, saying, "Go into the wide world, there is room for you and me." Colonel Coulson also told us not to wear feathers or birds in our hats.

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### The VI, Va, V Remove Forms' Party.

Several girls in Forms Va and V remove, having been able to sign their names in the Excellent Book, and Form VI having had most stars, Miss Gurney gave permission to these forms to hold a party, to which each girl invited three friends. It was arranged for the evening of December 17th, three days before the end of the term. Every guest was asked to bring with her a photograph of herself as a baby.

Great interest was shown in this mysterious request, and everyone looked forward eagerly to the coming party.

At 4.30 the guests arrived, and the photographs were collected by members of Va. After having had tea in the dining-room, the visitors were marshalled upstairs to the hall where the portraits were arranged round the walls, each having a number affixed. Then paper and pencils were distributed and the visitors were left to wander round the room vainly endeavouring to recognise in the babies' faces some slight resemblance to those around them. After some time had elapsed the papers were collected, Miss Dickinson reading out the numbers of the photographs and the names of the people whom they represented. The guests were then requested to wear their portraits for the remainder of the evening. The prize was gained by Miss Richardson, who guessed nineteen of the photographs.

The whole party then joined in a musical chairs tournament, when after many exciting rounds Ellenor Frere gained the prize. Dancing and games were then indulged in, followed by Gaudeamus songs; the singing of Auld Lang Syne ended a very enjoyable and successful party.

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### Games.

At the beginning of the season the outlook of the Hockey Team looked a little more hopeful than usual, only two of our girls having left; our centre half, A. Weddell, and our right back, W. Siddle. It was sad for our Club to lose Miss Richardson and Miss Moore who have always been interested in the games. However, we are not quite destitute, as Miss Dickinson and Miss Claridge are still with us.

The team chosen was as follows:—goal, D. Taylor; backs,

P. Comrie, P. Brown; half-backs, L. Haigh, E. Bedson, M. Hamer; forwards, M. Cook, A. Nicholson, E. Dixon, H. Edwards, D. Stuart.

Captain: Mildred Cook. Secretary: Elsa Bedson.

We decided at the beginning of this season to get more matches fixed than usual, because in former terms we have only had an average of about three or four matches per term.

We were most unfortunate at first, our two first matches against Central N.H.S. Seniors and Gordon College having to be scratched owing to the bad weather. We played our first match against Sunderland, on November 12th, on their ground and beat them, 3-2. In the first round for the Shield we were drawn against Durham. We played on November 16th, on the Medical College ground, and beat them, 6-0. The following week we went to Durham to play a friendly match, and only beat them 3-0. Their team had been very much changed and they played a much better game. In the second round for the Shield we played Darlington, on November 30th, and beat them 7-1. We were glad to see a great many spectators at both Shield matches, and are encouraged to see that the hard battle for the Shield is keenly followed. The final is to be played against Stockton this term. It will need hard practice and much enthusiasm if we mean to bring home the Shield to adorn the Hall once more.

The last match of last term was played on December 3rd, against the Central. To our great joy we beat them 3-0. This match is always one of the hardest, owing to the keen rivalry between the two schools.

If Basket Ball is to be played well it should be played with more spirit, and the practices should be attended by more girls.

The irregularity of the attendance is also a great drawback; a girl will perhaps come to one game and will not appear again the same term.

There have been no matches in the past term, and therefore the skill of the players has not been tested; it is to be hoped, however, that when the next match is played we shall see that the play of the girls has not fallen from its usual standard.

### Old Girls' Club.

At the Committee Meeting, which was held at the beginning of last term, Miss Fawcus was elected to fill the vacancy on the Committee caused by Miss Richardson's resignation.

The following is a list of the Officers of the Club with the date of their election;—President, Miss Gurney, elected 1905; Secretary, Miss Dickinson, elected 1905; Committee, S. Lister, elected 1905; N. Cooke, elected 1905; E. K. Bell, elected 1906; E. Brentnall, elected 1906; A. Tweddell, elected 1906; Miss Fawcus, elected 1907.

The Club numbers 89 members, one of whom, Miss Ram, is in Cairo, and another, Mrs. Scott-Moncrieff (C. Lunn), is in

New Zealand. The subscription is now 2/- a year, due in January, for this the Magazine is sent to every member, except in the case of sisters who share one copy. The Secretary's accounts at the end of the year showed a credit balance of £4 13s. 0d.

The first meeting of the Autumn term was held on October 16th, when Dr. Collis gave a lecture on the "Return from Moscow." The lecture was much enjoyed. Dr. Collis succeeded in impressing us with the horrors of Napoleon's retreat without unduly harrowing our feelings.

By kind invitation of the President, two Social Meetings were held at her house on November 13th and 14th. As it was impossible for Miss Gurney to entertain all the members on one evening, the more ancient were invited on the 13th, and the rest on the 14th. The most ancient member of all was present on both occasions and in consequence was condemned to write this article. On both evenings the guests supplied music and recitations, which were much appreciated. The musicians were S. Lister, S. and Q. Atkinson, G. Wood, G. Latimer, M. Gibson, G. Ferguson, E. Maughan, E. Dixon. Songs were contributed by I. Mathwin, E. Latimer and D. Phillips, and recitations by S. East and G. Newcombe. On both nights the Menagerie game was played and a surprising ignorance of natural history was revealed. Some people could not draw such a simple animal as a Jabberwock. At the senior party Sophy Atkinson won the prize for having guessed the largest number of animals. Her drawing of a bookworm was excellent, but she refused to allow it to be entered for the prize awarded to the best drawn animals, and this prize was awarded to Elsie Bell for a beast which the writer believes was meant to be a shrimp. Elsa Bedson guessed the largest number of animals at the junior party, and the other prize was awarded to Joyce Robson for a most ferocious looking pig.

On the evenings of December 10th and 11th the Old Girls' Dramatic Club gave its annual display of histrionic talent, and presented to large audiences "The Betrothal of Lady Betty," and "A Wonderful Woman." The production, in aid of the Cathedral Nursing Loan Society, was a great success, the acting being excellent and enhanced by the good scenery and stage properties. In the first piece the principal parts, Ralph Darrell and Lady Betty Childe, were capably acted by Gladys Ferguson and Queenie Atkinson; Karin Ericsson played Mine Host most naturally, and Edith Ericsson gave a delightful Phoebe. In the second piece the successes were scored by Grace Newcombe as the Marquis de Frontignac, and Sibyl Lister as Crepin the Cobbler; the Viscount de Millefleurs, played by Margaret Rome, was a vivid illustration of the gentlemen of the period. Ada Sopwith made a charming Madame Hortense Bertrand, and Queenie Atkinson, as Cécile, showed a character in direct antithesis to the repressed

passion of Rodolphe, Kathleen Lambert. The minor parts did not give much opportunity for display of talent doubtless lying hid.

During the intervals music was played by an orchestra conducted by Mr. Ellison Fenwicke. The results of the efforts made by the Club were most satisfactory, and a hearty vote of thanks is due to the members for their enjoyable entertainment.

In January, Sophy Atkinson sailed for Corfu, where she intends to stay for some time with a friend and paint.

Connie Lunn was married on September 26th to the Rev. Colin Scott-Moncrieff, M.A., the newly appointed Head of S. John's College, Auckland, New Zealand. On November 23rd Connie and her husband sailed for their new home, which they hoped to reach in the second week in January.

Ruth Nicholson has passed the third year examination at the College of Medicine.

Cicely Davies and Laura Pullen have passed the higher certificate examination of the National Froebel Union.

Kathleen Lambert has gained an open Cookery Scholarship at the School of Cookery. She is at present acting as Miss Gurney's private secretary, a post which was filled last term by Alison Leitch, during the absence of Nancy Cooke.

Arthur Shortt, who is in the Kindergarten, is the second generation of one family to attend the School. His mother, *née* Florence Williams, is an Old Girl.

Marjorie Stuart is at the Royal Holloway College reading for a London B.A. Degree.

Primrose Stuart is taking the Art course at the Armstrong College.

Ada Weddell is left half-back in the County Hockey Team.

## **New Castle. To Those who Do Not Know It.**

Never been to the old Keep of Newcastle! Really? Why! You ought to take all your visitors there, and just let them know that we've got the finest Norman Keep in the country. Certainly it's true that we often don't know our own town as well as a strange one. I suppose we say "Oh! old Newcastle! Can explore round here any day of life. Let's see something new;" and so we miss something old which would interest us far more than something new; something as old as old, and yet not as old as the foundations of our own town which dates from before 120 A.D., for there was already a settlement there when Hadrian built a great military station and called it after the bridge over the Tyne, Pons Ælii.

When the Romans left England naturally the Station was neglected and decayed, and Pons Ælii was then called Monkchester, because monks had lived there in the Saxon days.

The eldest son of William I, William Curthose, built a fortress at Monkchester and called it the New Castle. That was

in 1080, so that the present name of our town is over eight hundred years old. After this William Rufus built a strong castle in the place of his brother's and that is our New Castle. Not a very true name, is it? Yet so it has remained, unchanged, ever "new."

The Keep of this Castle is all that is left, but it is in such good preservation that it makes us realize that our history books are not all fiction. It is a rather square building, with four turrets; a flag tower is on one of these and the top of it is 107 ft. from the ground—a good look-out place! Our old ancestors must have been sly dogs, for they made the south-west corner look as if it were weakened by having a stair-case in it, whereas it really hadn't, and the walls there were much thicker, about 18 ft.

When you do get inside the keep it is rather creepy and ghostly, excepting in the great hall which has old armour and weapons and other things in it, and a gallery all round. There are lots of small rooms round the central hall; one is the well-chamber where the garrison used to get its water during a siege; the well is tremendously deep and there is always a great deal of water in it—between 40 and 50 ft. out of 94.

Then there is a dungeon where prisoners were kept, chained to rings in the wall; this is a gloomy room, but if you leave it and go to the chapel you are greeted with the most beautiful carving on the roof and walls, which is rather a contrast. There are weird little rooms in the thick walls, and narrow dark stair-cases leading to the roof. There is only one other really big room, used now as the Library of the Antiquarian Society, and you can imagine all those learned folks sitting round the big table antiquarizing.

Now isn't it much easier to understand history by coming here and hearing about the uses of all the old rooms, and stories of things that have happened here, than by staring at a page of your book and murmuring, "William the Conqueror, 1066-1087. Ugh! hate history! William II, called Rufus, 1087-1100. Oh dear!" and sighing fit to blow your family out of the window? Just imagine the Keep in the time of, let's say, Edward I, the "Hammer of the Scots." Newcastle is busy with archers continually passing through; the Keep must be always kept well garrisoned and provisioned, for the Novocastrians never know when the Scots may decide on a surprise visit, and must be prepared for all emergencies. Crowds of men are seen here, there and everywhere; the Keep bustles with life; here is a tall broad soldier sitting with his comrades, engaged in cleaning his armour; "Ha there, Ludovic!" he shouts above the din to his neighbour, "hurry thee up with the armour polish! and you, Slow Silas, hand over the rubbing clout; I would willingly be done ere Michaelmas." "A truce to thy jesting," answers Ludovic, "why in so great haste, friend Thomas, hey? Ah! doubtless he would fain be at the butts, a-practising the art of killing our

enemies, the valiant Scots yonder." But their laughter is suddenly silenced, for here comes the Governor, and they must stop quarrelling, and share the plate polish amicably,—ANON.

### A Meet.

Flash through our country lanes darts our motor one glorious day in November ; we are off to the opening meet of the Percy Foxhounds. It is one of the days when one feels extra glad to be alive ; the sun shines on the hills and woods, which are bravely clad in autumn tints, and in the motor excited people talk, using the phraseology of the chase, telling how " Mrs. Smith was out cubbing," and " took a fall " in front of everyone, " how blind the country still is," how the master has a splendid new mare, and so on.

Round the corner we come across an old man and his son, jogging along on a couple of sober, steady horses ; whiz ! we are past them, and catch up a gallant in pink, who vainly tries to lift his hat and at the same time curb his rearing horse ; on we go, passing more men and some ladies, and reach the quiet little town of Alnwick.

At the Castle gates we leave the motor and enter the courtyard, which is full of horses, grooms and pedestrians. We go into the drawing-room and shake hands with our hostess, and then go down to the entrance hall, where the " field " is being entertained to a champagne breakfast. All round us are ladies in neat workmanlike habits ; here and there small girls, who nearly all now ride astride ; while the men in their spotless pink coats seem innumerable ; how dirty many of these same coats will be ere the day is done.

A great buzz of talk goes on, in which we heartily join, until the master takes out his watch, murmurs something to his neighbour, and makes for the door ; everyone hastily does the same. The courtyard now presents a splendid picture ; in the foreground are excited men, women and children, all mounting their still more excited horses ; shouts of grooms and stamping of feet are heard ; one horse bites its neighbour who promptly kicks and adds to the turmoil. In the background, on the grass, is the huntsman with his whips and the pack, all in the pink of condition, and with them are the veteran earth-stopper and his terriers.

The master rides forward, whips and hounds follow ; behind them the large field streams out of the Castle and down the Peth and the hunt begins. We cannot follow the chase, it would take too much time and space ; enough to say that one fox is run into and broken up after a very short run, and another, after a splendid run of a hour, saves his brush by the failure of the scent.

Some have drunk inspiration at the turmoil of London ; the hearts of some have leapt as they stood at Flodden ; but it is at a meet that my pulses have been most deeply stirred, and the cries of the hunting field have the power to send a thrill through my blood.—SURSUM.