



# THE BRECONIAN.

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# The Breconian.

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## EDITORIAL.

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**B**AD weather and the consequence of abandoned matches—the customary complaint voiced in the Easter Term—have changed to a tale of unexpected splendid weather without any School matches being abandoned—or played. The absence of fixtures has deprived us of much of the advantage that such favourable conditions have bestowed on us. Not only in Hockey did we fail to secure any matches. In Fives also Fate was against us. The precedent of a Fives fixture with Hereford Cathedral School was set this term, and we hope to see it followed in the future. Unfortunately an outbreak of mumps in this School prevented the match from being played. The kindred disease, dums, was consequently developed by the Fives teams.

The generosity of the Weather Clerk was responsible for a broken record in the Junior Steeplechase. If we are still favoured, we may hope to see even more records established in the Sports, which give promise of some exciting events.

In the scholastic world, we gladly chronicle the success of C. Ll. Morgan in obtaining a £30 Scholarship at Selwyn College, Cambridge, and his departure this term fills us with deep regret. We are also proud of our successes in the Woolwich and Indian Army Entrance Examinations, in which Fryer (35th place) and G. R. Dunbar qualified for Woolwich, and H. N. Beresford for the Indian Army. All we hope will bring further honour to the old School.

It is once more our sad but glorious duty to mourn the loss of many schoolfellows in the service of their country. The lustre that our Roll of Honour sheds upon the School—though bought dearly by noble self-sacrifice—will live undimmed among coming generations of Breconians. Upon this note of nobility we would end with the hope that their successors may but add to its glory.

## IN MEMORIAM.

EDWARD TREVOR AKRILL-JONES : School House, 1910—15 ; second son of the Rev. D. Akrill-Jones (O.B.), of Bolsover Vicarage, near Derby, Lieut. (Notts and Derby) Sherwood Foresters, attached R.F.C. He was wounded near Thiepval in 1916 and since his recovery had been training with the R.F.C. Quite recently he had received his pilot's wings, and on Monday, March 18th, met his death from an accident while flying in Norfolk. So the war takes toll of our best and most beloved. It was one bright spring term less than ten years ago he came to Brecon, a very small boy with a big head and large wondering eyes. He was christened "The Babe" and continued to be called so long after the title had become obviously inappropriate. A singularly good looking, happy, sturdy, charming boy he grew up ; sound in all his ways, thoughtful and painstaking in School, a keen member of all three teams, above all a loyal friend. His close friendships were indeed proverbial and they endured to the end. In middle of 1914 he was contemplating taking up Modern History with a view to trying his luck at a 'Varsity Scholarship ; but the war changed all that. He was only sixteen, but nothing would keep him quiet at School. He couldn't bear to think that he was out of it, while two of his dearest friends had just joined up. He was determined also to be in it as a volunteer and not as a conscript. So barely seventeen he left in the summer of 1915, chucking up in the middle a promising cricket season in which he was likely to make many runs, and joining the Inns of Court. He found his way out to France in time to take part in the later stages of the Somme Push and was wounded in one of the unsuccessful attacks on Thiepval. He was still so young that he was not sent out again on his recovery and so turned his attention to flying and in acquiring this art he spent the rest of his all too short life. "Akrill," surnamed "The Babe," remained a child at heart always. Death has but conferred on him an immortality of youth.

CECIL ARTHUR COLLINS : Hostel, 1906—7. A dozen years ago he and his two brothers came to us from India and spent rather more than a year in the School. Since then we had lost sight of them, but news now turns up that all three have been doing their share in the war. The youngest is in training for a commission, the middle one has been terribly wounded, and the eldest, the subject of this brief

notice, has given his life for his country. We remember him a dark, keen, active lad ; good, or rather going to be good, at cricket ; a determined protector of his younger brothers ; a vigorous, promising boy in many ways. We know at present no details of his rank and regiment or of the circumstances of his death, and shall hope to supplement this meagre account later.

**BRUCE WALLACE MACAULAY :** School House, 1905—7 ; elder son of Mr. John Macaulay, late General Manager of Alexandra Docks, Newport, and of Mrs. Macaulay, of Clunie, Eskbank ; Lieutenant, Seaforth Highlanders ; presumed killed in action on May 3rd, 1917, aged 28 years. He had been up to 1916 a partner in a Newport Stockbroker's Firm and was making steady progress in his profession. In that year he took a commission, and went out to France in April, 1917, and entered his first and last battle on May 3rd. He has been missing ever since and his death is now presumed by the Casualty Department. He was one of the most charming boys Brecon has ever known ; quiet, friendly, attractive, a boy of striking character and delightful manners. "Not," says one who knew him, "a fighter by nature : but there is no fire till the flint is struck, and he left a quiet calling at home deliberately and cheerfully, to face known hardships and unknown perils on the battlefield. He girded himself for the struggle, believing that the best place in the world is the place where a man can add to the world's helpfulness." The last glimpse of him—related by his servant, now a prisoner—is striking and characteristic. It shows him revolver in hand fighting to the end, brave and undaunted in the face of the enemy who surrounded his men in overwhelming numbers. Clearly he met a hero's death : it is a splendid picture of the man, with no animal love of fighting for its own sake, yet dying with his back to the wall 'incapable of his own distress.' Bruce Macaulay was not only beloved at School, but wherever he went. He had innumerable friends, many of whom he delighted with his skill as a musician. His regiment, in which his younger brother is still serving, held him in affection and esteem. We shall not readily find a better type of character among Breconians of his or any generation.

**C.O. SPENCER SMITH :** Hostel, 1894-8 ; London Regiment (Queen's Westminsters), was attached to the 21st Battalion of the K.R.R., and was killed, or rather died of wounds, on August 3rd, 1917. "C.O." was the eldest of three "Hostelite" brothers, all Londoners, whose combined careers cover a goodly space of our recent history. The

two elder brothers came here together in Mr. Bayfield's time, and remained for some years under the present Headmaster. "C.O." was not physically strong, and was therefore not allowed to take violent exercise; but he (more or less surreptitiously) entered for Putting the Weight on one occasion and won it. As might be inferred, he was no slacker; he took a high position in the School before he left, besides shining as a member of the School choir and displaying more than an ordinary capacity for drawing. He also held a commission in the Cadet Corps, an activity which he continued by taking a commission in the Queen's Westminsters as soon as he left. He was trained as an architect, and had gone some distance towards attaining success in this career when war broke out, and his services were naturally put at the disposal of his country. He will be remembered here as a singularly gentle and amiable fellow—refined and cultivated, a good influence wherever he went. These qualities he sustained to the end, as the following report will show. It is a quotation from the letter sent by the clergyman to whom "C.O." had entrusted a message to his father that he was "*not* dangerously wounded." Unhappily he was wrong, and in fact had died before this letter was written:—"I know you will be glad to hear how splendidly your son did before he was wounded. I was at another dressing station that night, and an officer came in there and almost the first words he said were, 'Padre, old Spencer Smith was splendid, quite magnificent.' When our time comes to go, may we all go out with a record as good as that! To his family we offer our respectful sympathy, while we hope his School may be allowed to share with them the pride they must feel for one who did his duty so nobly and so well."

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## ROLL OF HONOUR.

### KILLED IN ACTION.

- E. T. Akrill Jones, Lieut., (Notts and Derby) Sherwood Foresters, attached R.F.C.—accidentally in England, March 18th.
- C. A. Collins—Regiment and details unknown at present.
- B. W. Macaulay, Lieut., Seaforth Highlanders—missing in France since May 3rd, 1917; now presumed dead.
- C. O. Spencer Smith, Capt. Queen's Westminster Rifles, attached King's Royal Rifle Corps—died of wounds, Aug. 3rd, 1917.



## WOUNDED.

- P. L. Collins—Regiment and details unknown at present.
- J. B. Cryer, Lieut., Royal West Kent, 2nd time.
- R. H. Davis, 2nd Lieut., K.O.Y.L.I.—Jan., 1918, 2nd time.
- E. M. C. Denny, M.C., Capt., D.C.L.I.—Dec., 1917, 3rd time.
- M. C. M. Denny, Capt., King's Own (Liverpool) —Dec., 1917, 3rd time.
- E. M. Gibbon, M.C., 2nd Lieut., S.W.B.—Dec., 1917.
- W. G. Hodge, Lieut. and Quarter Master, Civil Service Rifles, Nov., 1917  
(wounded and gassed).
- J. C. Low, Private, East Surrey—Sept., 1917 (since rejoined).
- F. M. Pryce, 2nd Lieut. S.W.B., attached Royal Welsh Fusiliers—in  
Palestine, Nov. 30th, 1917, wounded and missing, since known  
to be a prisoner.
- N. Theophilus, Private, New Zealand Division (Otago Infantry), 1917, 3rd  
time.
- W. R. Williams, Lieut., Welsh Horse—in Palestine, Nov., 1917, severely.

## PRISONER OF WAR.

- F. M. Pryce, 2nd Lieut., S.W.B., attached Royal Welsh Fusiliers, in  
Turkish hands since Nov. 30th, 1917.
- N.B.—Capt. G. le Huquet, Wilts, has been released from Germany  
for internment in Holland.

## HONOURS.

## D.S.O.

- T. J. David, Major, R.H.A.

## MILITARY CROSS.

- G. B. H. Jones, Lieut., Welsh Horse.
- J. P. Jones, Capt., R.A.M.C.
- G. J. Pritchard, Capt., R.E.
- C. E. Sladden, Major, Worcester.

## MILITARY MEDAL.

- E. C. Trew, Private, East Kent.

## OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF EMPIRE.

A. J. Harding, Colonial Office.

A. A. Lloyd, D.S.O., Capt. Territorial Association.

## MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

S. W. Best, Lieut. (killed in action)—by the late Sir S. F. Maude.

C. E. Budworth, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O., Maj. Gen. R.A.—for the 8th time  
by Sir D. Haig.

T. J. David, Major, R.H.A.

M. C. M. Denny, Capt. King's Own (Liverpool).

T. R. Williams, 2nd Lieut. S.W.B.

## ROLL OF SERVICE (11th List).

N. Baynam (School House, 1900-03), 2nd Lieut., Hampshire.

H. N. Beresford (School House, 1917), Cadet, Wellington College.

C. A. Collins (Hostel, 1906-7), details unknown.

M. R. Collins (Hostel, 1906-7), Cadet, Wellington College.

P. L. Collins (Hostel, 1906-7), details unknown.

A. C. Crosland (le Brocq's, 1901-8), Cadet, Artists' Rifles.

O. P. Davies (Hostel, 1895-7), 2nd Lieut., R.G.A.

G. R. Dunbar (School House, 1914-17), R.M.A., Woolwich.

K. P. O. Evans, 2nd Lieut. S.W.B. (Brecknocks).

S. Evans (Hostel, 1910-17), Private S.W.B. (Reserve).

W. R. Evans (Hostel, 1891-8), Private A.P.C.

C. P. M. Francis (Day Boy, 1893-98), R.F.A.

R. H. C. Francis (Day Boy, 1895-8), R.A.M.C.

W. G. Fryer (School House, 1915-17), R.M.A. Woolwich.

R. S. Griffiths, 2nd Lieut., R.F.C.

A. G. Henshaw (School House, 1913-16), Cadet, Wellington College.

D. Hoskins (School House, 1916), R.F.C.

C. P. Howells (School House, 1913-16), Cadet, Artists' Rifles.

R. Lloyd Davies (School House, 1909-11), Private, Royal Welsh Fusiliers  
(Garrison).

J. S. Nicholas (Mathematical Master, 1909-11), 2nd Lieut., R.G.A.

- D. Perkins (School House, 1910-12), 2nd Lieut., Shropshire L.I., attached Oxford and Bucks L.I.
- G. J. Pritchard (School House, 1902-5), Capt., R.E.
- D. W. Saunders-Jones (Day Boy and School House, 1910-16), 2nd Lieut., I.A. (Punjabis).
- N. Theophilus (School House, 1904-8), Private, New Zealand Division (Otago Infantry).
- C. Thomas, 2nd Lieut., R.F.C.
- M. G. Thomas (School House, 1912-15), Wireless Operator, R.N.V.R.
- T. Thomas (Hostel, 1910-17), Midshipman, R.N.V.R.
- J. G. Tudor (Day Boy, about 1896), Gunner, R.G.A.
- G. E. Watson (School House, 1910-16), 2nd Lieut., R.F.C.
- O. H. Watson (School House, 1913-16), Midshipman, R.N.V.R.
- F. P. Whiteley (Mathematical Master, 1916), Naval School Master.

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## GAMES COMMITTEE.

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Meetings have been held :—

(1) Tuesday, February 5th. Present :—The Rev. A. E. Donaldson (President), Mr. G. H. Isitt, the Rev. G. I. R. Jones, T. Ll. Price, C. Ll. Morgan, T. R. Daniel, D. W. R. Thomas, I. Ll. Oxenham, and D. G. Morgan.

The Steeplechases were arranged for Saturday, March 16th. A challenge to a Fives Match from Hereford Cathedral School was discussed and cordially accepted. It was resolved to find out the nature of their courts, to suggest home and home fixtures, to fix the age of the Junior Pair at 15, and to endeavour to make the match an annual one. It was also resolved to call a meeting of the School to elect a Fives Captain, who should have charge of the game during the term.

The meeting then adjourned.

(2) Friday, March 8th. Present :—As above, except that I. Ll. Oxenham and D. G. Morgan were away.



The Sports Day was selected—Saturday, April 6th : the Heats to be run on April 1st and 3rd. The Sports Officials were re-elected : Mr. Huggonson was appointed Timekeeper and Mr. Durran a judge. Handicapping and other Sub-Committees were selected.

The Junior Football Cups were then awarded as follows :—Backs—R. Marshall (L. E. Harries commended) ; Forwards—H. Lewis. The Committee determined to call attention to the fact that unselfishness and team play were considered of no less importance than individual skill, and that their awards were based on this consideration.

The meeting then adjourned.

A. E. DONALDSON (President).

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## HOCKEY SEASON, 1918.

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We have had to be content this term with League and House games. In these there has been much keen and interesting play, and as far as one could judge, the XI., had it been definitely constituted, would have been very strong in defence, but not so effective in attack. The Leagues produced the best play of the term : for in the House Matches there was, owing to illness, some disorganisation and a decline in the standard of the play. The Day Boys, however, entering a team for the first time for many years, certainly were the most consistently skilful side, and may be specially congratulated, even though they could not win the Cup.

Among many good points in the term's efforts we may call attention to the good goal-keeping of E. N. Morgan, Livsey, and H. Lewis ; to the large number of strong backs, of whom Murray were *facile princeps*, and to several vigorous and successful half-backs, including I. Ll. Evans, K. V. Evans, and others. It is by no means so easy to name efficient forwards, and so-called goal getting, especially in the Junior Leagues, was often a pitiable spectacle.

It is also well to record our failings. These that follow have been noticeable :—(1) Some boys try to hit too hard, a dangerous practice and one usually to the disadvantage of your own side ; (2) The rules are not strictly enough observed, as the frequent penalties for sticks and off-side

have proved : (3) There is a lack of resolution and courage among the forwards, of whom very few hustle the opposing backs and move up and down in touch with the game.

Some matches would have done us any amount of good in polishing up the general style of play, but they were not to be obtained. We must be satisfied with a season of restricted but keen effort, in which play attained a fairly good, if not a very good, standard.

We must not forget that much Football has also been played ; and Mr. Ifor Jones must be thanked for so unceasingly giving it his attention. Valuable work has been done in preparation for next winter. C. Ll. Morgan, as captain in both games, has given, it goes without saying, vigorous and efficient services to the School. He decided not to fill up a full Hockey team under the circumstances of the term, but to give four new colours only. The following therefore are the Hockey Colours for 1918 :—

- C. LL. MORGAN—(1917-8).—An energetic player, but scarcely a born forward. His efforts lack finish, and his shooting is not safe enough ; but in keenness he left nothing to be desired.
- T. LL. PRICE—(1917-8).—On his day a dangerous forward, quick individually, and a good shot. Not always consistent in his play and has something to learn about combination.
- I. LL. OXENHAM—(1917-8).—Full back ; plays hard and is very sure in his hitting and general defence. Must be careful not to degenerate into a “slogger.”
- T. R. DANIEL—(1917-8).—Has played both half and forward, and has much skill in each position. He dribbles and shoots well, and is perhaps too individualistic to make an ideal half. He too at times has suffered from the fallacy of hard hitting.
- D. E. MURRAY (1918).—Without a doubt the most polished player on the side, and perhaps our best full-back in recent years. He is exceedingly safe in stopping and tackling ; full of resource and an effective but judiciously restrained hitter.
- D. W. R. THOMAS (1918).—Quick and generally active, he is of the right type for a successful forward, though he has often played half-back as well. Must remember that at close quarters the quiet well-placed shot is more effective than a big slam.

P. C. EVANS (1918).—Much improved, and is clever and distinctly useful in midfield. Has a good control of the ball, but needs more dash in the neighbourhood of the circle. Would perhaps make a good half-back.

E. WILLIAMS (1918).—Has more idea than most of the forwards of how to swing the ball about from wing to wing, and can shoot well at times. Will make a strong player, if he adds courage and persistence to his natural skill.

## THE HOCKEY LEAGUES.

In giving the Tables of Results we offer the following comments :—  
On paper the Submarines had the strongest Senior side, but they were scarcely ever able to put a full team in the field, and so quite deserved their success. The Royal Standbacks had a good but perhaps rather disappointing team, and ought as things went to have won the first place. Among the Juniors there was no doubt of the superiority of the Sunbeams, while the other teams, even the big Royal Standback XI., were as a rule as successful in defence as they were inept in attack.

### SENIORS.

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points.	For.	Goals. Against.
1. Submarines .....	6	4	1	1	9	17	11
2. Royal Standbacks ...	6	3	2	1	7	19	12
3. Sunbeams.....	6	2	2	2	6	17	18
4. Cossacks .....	6	1	5	—	2	12	24

### JUNIORS.

1. Sunbeams .....	5	5	—	—	10	18	0
2. Royal Standbacks ...	5	3	1	1	7	8	1
3. Submarines .....	5	0	3	2	2	0	14
4. Cossacks .....	5	0	4	1	1	0	11

Two Matches were abandoned owing to bad weather.

## HOUSE MATCHES.

## FOOTBALL.

Proved rather uneventful by reason of the tremendous superiority of A-M. Three of the Scores we believe to be nearly the highest recorded.

A-M v. N-Z —81 points to nil.

A-M v. Hostel—84 points to nil.

N-Z v. Hostel —Hostel won after rather unexciting game.  
Score : 50 points to nil.

Ins v. Outs —Thanks to an almost full 1st XV back line  
won by Ins by 82 points to nil.  
[Probable record.]

The A-M Juniors defeated a team from the Rest of School Juniors easily.

## HOCKEY.

Rather disappointing in many respects. On few occasions were the Houses represented by full teams, owing to mumps and other accidents. The standard of play was not good. The Day Boys were the only team to do credit to themselves. Their display in every match was better than has been known of them before.

N-Z v. Hostel —Won by Hostel by 3 goals to nil.

A-M v. Day-boys.—Won by A-M 1 to nil, although the Day boys certainly deserved to win, and were conspicuous by their splendid defence, especially that of Murray, perhaps exaggerated by the weakness of the winners' attack.

Hostel v. Day-boys—Won by Day-boys by 4 goals to 1. Hostel weakened by absentees.

A-M v. N-Z —Won easily by A-M. Six goals to nil.

N-Z v. Day-boys—Won by N-Z by 5 goals to 1.

A-M v. Hostel —Won by A-M by 3 goals to nil. D. W. R. Thomas was conspicuous by his splendid defence.

The Hockey Cup was thus won by A-M, who, though on paper the strongest side, never came up to expectations. their attack being especially weak. The Hostel, had they been more kindly favoured by Fate, might have proved strong rivals.

## F I V E S.

We had hoped to play Hereford this term—an interesting novelty—but the outbreak of mumps caused the match to be abandoned. However, we hope it will be re-arranged next spring and will become an annual fixture. The usual competitions are in process of being played, and despite interruptions, owing to the same illness, have produced many interesting games :—

## JUNIOR SINGLES (Under 15).

## 1ST ROUND.

R. T. Harries	beat Isaac	...	...	15—0	...	15—0
Lougher	„ R. B. Smith	...	...	15—4	...	15—0

The rest were byes.

## 2ND ROUND.

I. A. Lewis	beat Edwards	...	...	15—8	...	15—3
E. N. Morgan	„ Owen	...	...	15—0	...	15—0
Melhuish	„ R. I. Jones	...	...	15—11	...	15—13
Jenner	„ C. du Heaume	...	...	15—2	...	15—2
E. O. Jones	„ Stanton	...	...	15—1	...	15—1
G. Williams	„ N. Thomas	...	...	15—6	...	15—9
D. H. Jones	„ Jeffreys	...	...	15—11	...	15—8
H. Lewis	„ Laman	...	...	15—0	...	15—9
W. P. Morgan	„ Holt	...	...	15—1	...	15—4
H. O. Davies	„ N. Griffiths	...	...	15—10	...	15—12
R. T. Harries	„ Lougher	...	...	15—0	...	15—0
Paterson	„ Protheroe	...	...	15—6	...	15—7
Paton	„ O. S. Williams	...	...	15—11	...	15—10
R. K. Nicholas	„ D. C. Jones	...	...	15—6	...	15—1
L. H. Griffiths	„ Tait	...	...	15—3	...	15—14
F. Marshall	won over D. K. Evans			Scr.		



THE STEEPLECHASES.

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The Steeplechases were run on Saturday, March 16th, under perfect conditions.

The Juniors started off at 2-30. H. Lewis established a lead very early in the race, but was passed by R. T. Harries at Llanfaes Church. The latter retained his lead for the rest of the race and succeeded in breaking all previous records by taking only 25 mins. 44 secs. H. Lewis, 100 yards behind, finished a good second, and then ensued a keen struggle between Laman and F. Marshall, the latter gaining third place by a few yards. The rest of the first ten were Holt, L. H. Griffiths, Stanton, Edwards, D. H. Jones and Gl. Williams.

The Seniors started at 3-15 and went off at a great pace. However, before the first field was reached the regular runners had established their leadership, and when Three Bridges had been crossed, C. Ll. Morgan was leading, followed at a distance of about fifty yards by E. L. Jones and then Murray. This order was maintained, C. Ll. Morgan coming in an easy first, having completed the course in 36 mins. 26 secs., with E. L. Jones fifteen seconds later.

The next to arrive were Murray, L. C. Davies, T. Ll. Price, J. M. Lewis, L. E. Harries, I. Ll. Evans, D. K. Evans, and Meredith. Had Morgan been at all closely pushed, he, too, probably, despite not being in the best of health, would have gone near breaking the record.

## OCCASIONAL NOTES.

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The term began on Wednesday, January 23rd, and will end on Tuesday, April 9th.

At a meeting of the School on Thursday, January 24th, C. Ll. Morgan was unanimously elected Captain of Hockey, and I. Ll. Oxenham and D. G. Morgan were appointed to fill the vacant places on the Games Committee.

On Wednesday, the 6th of February, owing to an arrangement of Fives fixtures with Hereford Cathedral School, it was decided expedient to elect a Fives Captain. This new office also fell to C. Ll. Morgan. Unfortunately, owing to an outbreak of mumps at Christ College, the Fives fixtures had to be abandoned.

The School Prefects this term are C. Ll. Morgan and D. E. Murray. The House Prefects are Couch and T. R. Daniel; T. Ll. Price and E. D. Davies (Schoolhouse); and J. M. Lewis, D. W. R. Thomas and W. M. Jones (Hostel). The latter's long absence, owing to an accident to his eye, is much to be regretted. We wish him speedy recovery.

The Editors of the "Breconian" this term are C. Ll. Morgan, E. L. Jones and E. K. Godby.

We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. D. A. Durrant. To Professor van Emelen, who has left us to take up Government work of importance, we wish all good fortune.

On March 1st (S. David's Day) the School was given a half-holiday.

To C. Ll. Morgan we offer sincerest congratulations on winning an Open History Scholarship at Selwyn College, Cambridge, at his first attempt.

We heartily congratulate W. G. Fryer, G. R. Dunbar and H. N. Beresford on qualifying in the recent Woolwich Examination for the Engineers, the Artillery and the Indian Army respectively.

A half-holiday was given on February 21st in honour of these successes, when we enjoyed a paper chase round the Crug and Llanddew.

Recently another holiday was granted us on the appointment of David Powell, Esq., one of the School governors, whose two sons are old Breconians, to the office of High Sheriff of the County of Breconshire.

Earlier in the term an interesting Lantern Lecture was delivered by Flight Commander N. G. Stewart Dawson, D.S.C., R.N., on the work of the R.N.A.S. and the new Air Force.

Captain G. LeHuquet (O.B.), Wilts Regiment, prisoner of war since 1914, has been released and has arrived in Holland for internment.

The following announcements appeared recently in the "Gazette" with reference to Military Crosses won by O.B.'s. :—

Sec.-Lieut. Eric Montague Gibbon, South Wales Borderers Special Reserve.—"He led his company forward with great determination during the attack, but after reaching his objective came under fire from a strong point close in front. He and another officer thereupon collected some men and started working to the emplacement, but getting ahead of their men in the marshy ground, the two officers rushed the emplacement and captured the garrison single-handed. Their tactical skill and initiative in rushing this important post proved invaluable to the subsequent advance."

T/Sec.-Lieut. Edward Maynard Coningsby Denny, M.C., D.C.L.I.—"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on several occasions. When in charge of the liaison patrols he did gallant work, keeping touch with the troops on his flank under heavy shell fire. Later, when the commanders of the two leading companies had both become casualties, he took charge of the front line and repelled two counter-attacks. On the following day he personally led an attack to recover an enemy trench and recaptured it. Throughout the operations he set a fine example by his personal courage and resource." [M.C. gazetted Nov. 14th, 1916].

The following taken from the same source refers to an old Brecon master well known to members of the 1904 Football XV., and recently awarded the D.S.O.:—

T.-Maj. R. C. Grellet, York R.—"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his battalion through heavy shell fire, and assisted both in the capture and defence of the farthest objective. By the determination which he inspired at all times, and by his energy, coolness, and judgment he raised the highest enthusiasm among his men. As a result of his organisation the battalion within a short period took over and maintained with the highest spirit a new portion of the line under most difficult conditions."

On the last night of last term, a carol service was held in the School Chapel. The singing of the choir was excellent, and we heartily thank Messrs. Donaldson and Webb for bringing the choir to its present standard. Mr. W. H. Webb presided at the organ.

On Good Friday there was a service similar to the carol service, in which appropriate music was sung.

We offer our congratulation and thanks to E. L. Jones for his devotion and success as organist in Chapel services.

Mr. R. B. Lattimer, formerly Housemaster at the Hostel, and President of the Games, has been seriously ill. We are glad to announce that he is making a good recovery. He has been a most zealous special constable since 1914.

The Football Kicking Competition was won last term by D. W. R. Thomas (67 pts.) with I. Ll. Oxenham (66 pts.) a very close second. A Junior Competition on similar lines was won by E. O. Jones.

The thanks of the School are due to Messrs. Donaldson, Jones and Isitt for the keen interest they have taken in the school games this term.

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## LETTERS FROM THE WAR.

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### I.

I was so far recovered from my wound as to return to my regiment. I arrived on Christmas Day in torrential rain and spent both that day and the next in waterlogged trenches, trying to imagine Christmas fare while consoling myself for the lack of it on bully beef, every rag on my body meanwhile being dripping wet. It is most amusing to feel that at home the slightest rain may give one pneumonia and other kindred ills, while out here one endures being almost drowned for a week without getting even the slightest cold as a result.

While I was in hospital my regiment moved up as infantry to the Judean hills. On the march F. M. Pryce joined them and they went into action at Beit-Ur el-Foka on November 30th. This is Beth-horon, where



Joshua stopped the sun and moon while the Israelites fought. My squadron—reduced to 60 men—attacked Foka, and much to their surprise came across 1,000 Turks entrenched with three machine guns at early dawn. When ordered to surrender they began to fix bayonets and then opened fire. The German officers were shot, and our men taking cover behind hedges opened rapid fire on the Turks. Pryce was, of course, with these men. In a few minutes the Turks, shouting and squealing, began to hoist white flags and to wave handkerchiefs as a sign of surrender. The 1,000 men were taken prisoners by the 60 and the village evacuated. Pryce was detailed to shepherd them back to our lines and was given 10 men for the purpose. While he was getting away, Turks from another hill opened fire on the prisoners, killing several. There was a stampede and Pryce has never been seen since. 300 of the prisoners were brought back to our lines. Until the next push Foka was in no man's land, but as soon as the Turk was pushed further back I searched the place thoroughly and found no one resembling Pryce. (Subsequent information has confirmed the writer's impression that Pryce is happily alive, though a prisoner of war.—Ed. of Breconian).

By now you know that Jerusalem has fallen. I have visited it twice and am now camped a few miles north of the city. One gets a fine view of it from Nabi Samwil, the mountain on which is the supposed tomb of the Prophet Samuel. Jerusalem is a very large city, quite un-Oriental and one mass of domes and towers. Everything there is German—hotels, sign-boards, knives and forks ; and nowhere have I seen a better example of German peaceful penetration. The city is mainly built of white stone and the houses have red-tiled roofs. There is a very English-looking church with tower, quite a curiosity to us now. The remaining churches are very German, and there is at Gethsemane a huge Russian church with those peculiar massive gilt domes one sees in pictures of the Kremlin at Moscow. During my second visit I saw all the sights—The Via Dolorosa, the Holy Sepulchre, the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Pilate's Judgment Hall—all now covered by churches. I also went down to the pool of Bethesda, and have numerous curios from the places I visited. I was most struck by the Jews' Wailing Place, where they mourn because they are denied entrance to the Temple—now the splendid Mosque of Omar. A typical Norman Castle is one of the sights of Jerusalem. I also went round all the churches ; every one of them is built on a spot traditionally connected with the Passion—but description of them would fill a book.



## II.

I spent one very crowded day of life in Jerusalem. We got there about 12-30 and left about 5-30. We had a car, so we first of all went to the Mount of Olives. There we climbed a tower with a spiral staircase and 200 steps! We had a magnificent view of the Dead Sea, the Jordan and Jordan Valley. That view really was wonderful; its the finest thing I have ever seen. From the Mount of Olives we went to the Jaffa Gate and saw where the Kaiser had the wall pulled down when he visited the city. Then we got a dragoman and went to the Mosque of Omar. Unfortunately we couldn't get inside, but the outside of the Mosque is beautiful. The walls and dome are all wonderful Mosaic work. This Mosque stands on the site of the original Temple.

The next place we visited was the "Jews' Wailing Place." They come to this place every Friday and wail for an hour or so. The idea is that they will get the Temple restored if they only keep it up long enough.

From there, we went to the Via Dolorosa and saw Pilate's Judgment Hall. The French have built a Church on top of the whole show: you can still walk down the actual street our Lord carried the Cross. It is now some considerable distance below the modern street level. The next place we saw was the Pool of Bethesda, also below ground level; and finally we went to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but did not go inside. It is the dirtiest city that I have ever seen. The streets are narrow and filthy dirty. There is every race under the sun, except Chinese and Japs living there. They are not human beings; they are animals, just animals. It is really a disgusting place, only to be seen once. It is a great experience being out in this place and one I would not have missed for anything.

(From Palestine, March 2nd.)

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III.

I arrived on the Somme early in September, 1916. I was first attached to the Divisional Ammunition Column of my Division, but became very tired of my work in about a week, and being then very "green" and looking for trouble, I asked to be attached to the Trench Mortars and was accordingly sent up to Delville Wood in the middle of a battle to reinforce. Here I had my first experience of fighting and a very hot "baptism" of fire. I was in the position a fortnight and was not

sorry when we were withdrawn and went to a quiet part of the line. We were, however, soon returned to the Ancre, but only did fatigue work, which became very heavy when the Germans retired in the spring and we followed him up to the Hindenburg Line. Here things were moderately quiet until the big attack on the main Hindenburg Line in May. Our lot was to attack Bullecourt. My battery was not chosen to take part, but an officer falling sick, I took his place and went into action with another battery. In this battle I witnessed the most intense fighting since I have been out here—five days of continuous attacking and counter-attacking. The Germans, who were certain crack guards, held the village at all costs. On the 4th day our guns were unluckily blown up and our ammunition set on fire, but we were able to put it out, and got out of action on the 6th morning after the most desperate counter-attack accompanied by gas. From then till August we had a comparatively comfortable time. We next found ourselves at Passchendaele, where we had a lively ten weeks, but there our worst enemy was the awful mud. . . . Much to our joy we were detailed to come to the Italian Front after the recent setback. Here the weather is glorious, and conditions, generally speaking, vastly improved. I am now in action against the Austrian, who, I am sure, is not a born fighter. We have got absolute mastery here and could hold up the whole Austrian Army if it took it into its head to attack. We have put new heart into the Italians, who are very good fellows, especially the "Tommies." Since the Russian failure the Germans have done a tremendous amount of talking, to impress the world and undermine the morale of the Allies. In some degree he has succeeded, but I am sure if the people in England show themselves made of the right stuff we shall easily outstay the Hun.

(From Italy, February, 1918).

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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*To the Editors of the "Breconian."*

There have been one or two occasions this term when umpires in hockey league matches have been in some doubt whether a shot at goal went into the net or not. Has this been the nets' fault? If so, could not new nets be obtained by next year, so that no more doubt may arise.

With apologies for asking, I remain,

Yours, etc.,  
 "WHIZZ-BANG."

*To the Editors of the "Breconian."*

Dear Sirs,—Since this issue of the "Breconian" is the last before the end of the summer, may I suggest that swimming house matches should be held next term? This suggestion has often been made before, but I send in this petition, hoping that it will be more successful than its predecessors.

I remain, yours truly,

"AQUENTHUSIAST."

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We acknowledge with thanks the following Contemporaries :—  
 "Bromsgrovian," "Bristol Grammar School Chronicle," "Cheltonian" (3), "Derbeian," "Fettesian" (2), "Giggleswick Chronicle," "Herefordian," "Johnian," "Llandovery School Journal," "Luctonian," "Marlburian" (3), "Malvernian" (2), "Newtonian," "Pauline," "Tonbridgian."

## WAR MEMORIAL.

A meeting will be called in May. The exact date is not yet fixed, but notice will be given as soon as possible. Suggestions by post will be welcomed in the case of O.B.'s not likely to be in Brecon at that time.



BURROW