



THE BRECONIAN.

Vol. IX. No. 12. DECEMBER, 1918



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The Breconian.

EDITORIAL.

ONE or two events, quite unprecedented in the history of our School, have combined to make a term, never monotonous, one teeming with interest for us and for future Breconians.

The conclusion of any war in which our country is involved, be it only a campaign, must of necessity be a "red-letter" day for us. What, then, have been our feelings upon November 11th at the termination of a conflict whose parallel the world has never known, in which Britain and her Allies fighting for Right against Might have triumphed?

In our joy and thankfulness, however, we cannot lose sight of the fact that this was accomplished by great sacrifice of life, and that on the altar of that sacrifice many Old Breconians have died. We should feel we have been honoured in that "Alma Mater" has been granted the high privilege of helping to pay for that great Day with the lives of her sons.

Convalescence at home fully compensated for the objectionable frolic of the "Flu" germ, which, by making football "taboo" for the rest of the term, has robbed us of school matches. However, as football practice can be continued next term without reducing the standard of hockey, it is hoped that these matches may yet be played, and if this does become possible, good luck to our Captain, T. Ll. Price.

For the present the Golf Club helps to keep us fit, though so far its members have wielded the spade rather than the club, in order that by next term the course may be in good condition. The gap made in our pages by absence of football news has been nobly filled by a number of contributions, which the grateful Editors hope will continue term by term to flood the Editorial "den."

History has made us familiar with the efforts of statesmen to maintain "Balance of Power," a plan which has always proved to be good policy. In view of this, the change in the division of the School House cannot fail to justify itself, and it is hoped that this step will eliminate the type of House-match, which, since its result is a foregone conclusion, is hardly worth playing.

This term our Corps, though by no means idle, has not come so much to the fore, owing to the large number of recruits in its ranks and to bad weather, but after Christmas great things are expected of it.

To turn our thoughts to a more diverting subject, we welcome with joy the resurrection of the Debating Society, which has, like the Phoenix of old, emerged from its own ashes, though after many years, and under a new name. May it have a long and successful career and become an institution, which future Prime Ministers will remember as the scene of their maiden speech. To budding orators we offer this small piece of advice:—Collect your facts and state them simply; far better short and to the point than a peroration of "fluent gas."

And now

"Our charge exactly is perform'd,"

but before concluding, we would wish all Breconians, past and present a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

IN MEMORIAM.

JAMES CASSELS COBB : School House, 1930 : Acting Capt. Royal West Kent ; Killed in action in France on August 21st, after previous service in Gallipoli and Egypt. He spent two terms only here at School, and so will be hardly known to anyone. But even that short stay had evidently endeared Brecon to him, and as soon as he joined the Army, he wrote asking that his name might be enrolled on the Honours List. Just before that he had written a novel called "Struggles," and it seemed that he might have had a successful future before him as an author. He life has gone to pay part of the price of recent victory.

JOHN KENRICK LLOYD FITZWILLIAMS : School House, 1896-98 ; M.C., Major, R.H.A. ; youngest son of Mr. C. H. Ll. Fitzwilliams, of Cilgwyn, and one of several O.B. brothers. He completed his education at Dover College and R.M.A., Woolwich, obtaining a Commission in the Royal Regiment in 1904. From 1914 to 1917 he served on the Western Front, being wounded once and winning the Military Cross in 1915. As he spoke Russian fluently, he was then sent on a Military Mission to South Russia in 1917, and was soon awarded the Order of St. Stanislas for gallantry in saving the life of a Cossack officer. Later he took charge of a British Mission at Kieff, and, amid Bolshevik massacres, conducted the withdrawal of British residents via Moscow and Vladivostok to this country. Appointed to the R.H.A. he resumed his work on the Western Front, and was killed ten days later. He was a very gallant soldier and gentleman.

FRANK JAMES : School House, 1913-15 ; Lieut. S.W.B. ; Killed in action in France, Nov. 1st. It was Frank James' ill-luck to fall just in the hour of victory, and all who knew him will be deeply grieved at the news of his death. No Brecon boy of recent years bore a higher character and left a more honourable name behind him. Studious and gentle by nature, he seemed to have little of the soldier in him ; but he gladly volunteered for service in 1915, and did his part steadily and well. In the same way at School, though not a born athlete, he played all games keenly, and in 1914 was 16th man in the XV., playing in the School matches and doing eager work as a forward. His influence was all for duty and the right. He took delight in the Chapel services, and in every higher department of our life. We mourn in him one of our best and most honoured sons. "Every one," wrote his Commanding Officer, "loved little Jimmy, every-one from myself to the humblest private. Grief at his loss is universal." He was killed by a piece of shell while bringing up rations to the advanced line, and was buried at Vaux Andigny on Nov. 5th. So he rests till the day of Final Victory.

SYDNEY EDWARD LEWIS : Hostel, 1911-16 : 2nd Lieut. R.A.F. ; died of wounds received while flying over the German lines on Aug. 13th. From the day he came to Brecon, a little, active, dark-eyed lad from near Port Talbot, Sydney Lewis was a general favourite. He was not great at his books, but he was at home in every branch of athletics. As a small boy he played "Rugger" with the judgment and skill of a veteran, and was a shining light in the Cricket Leagues. He won his Colours in the splendid XV. of 1915, playing centre three-quarter in one of the fastest and best attacking lines we ever turned out. He was in the Cricket team of

the following summer, and as a Hockey player in the same year, his uncanny cleverness with the stick was a theme of general admiration. His personal qualities also made him a most jolly and likeable companion, whom many were glad to call their friend. In the air service he seemed to have found a vocation well suitable to his alert and agile characteristics. We are not surprised to hear that he had done excellent work in the R.A.F. before his last flight.

E. J. LEYSHON : School House, about 1891 ; Sergt. A.P.C. ; died at Shrewsbury of pneumonia. Better known to this generation as the father of two boys not long since members of the School House. He had been doing his bit at home for the last year or two. In his own day he won Football Colours in the XV., and was always a keen O.B. We offer our sympathy to his two sons, D. Leyshon and H. Leyshon, both of whom are at present serving in the Army.

FRANK W. MUSK : Day Boy, 1912-15 ; Private Grenadier Guards ; killed in France, Aug. 27th. He was one of those boys who had more in him than appeared on the surface, and his war record and final sacrifice are the best tribute to his character. He had few opportunities of distinguishing himself at School : but he did his part in winning victory for us, and Brecon pays a grateful tribute to his memory.

JOHN STANLEY ROBINSON : Mathematical Master, 1911-15 ; Lieut.-Instructor R.N., died of influenza on Nov. 13th in a Scottish Hospital. The sudden death of Mr. Robinson at the very hour of peace and victory seems to us a very real tragedy. He loved peace and the daily routine of quiet duty and all the pleasant intercourse of School life ; he gave all this up for duty's sake, always looking forward to the time when he could conscientiously return to it again. But at the moment when it became possible that his heart's desire would be granted, he had to answer a new call. Everyone in Brecon held him in respect and affection, and he too seemed to have a love for every part of it. He was so gentle, so industrious, so utterly unselfish that few perhaps realised how much hard effort it took on his part to make himself the valuable master that he surely was when he left. And his heart turned back to Brecon at every occasion ; he made long journeys from the North to spend among us brief hours snatched from his scanty leave. Only last summer on Llandovery day he was here ; and as he lay on the threshold of death he was often thinking and speaking (so a relative tells us) "of his beloved Brecon." We can ill afford so faithful and affectionate a teacher and friend ; we shall not readily find his like again.

THEODORE GAUNTLETT THOMAS : Hostel, 1896-1901 ; Lieut. Canadian E.F. ; son of the late Rev. David Thomas, of Pwllcrochan, Pembroke. After a happy and successful career at School he went up to Oxford and entered the teaching profession. He was until 1910 on the staff of the University College of Jamaica, and after that a master at the University School, Victoria, B.C. He had always been a keen Volunteer, both at Oxford and in Canada, and was soon awarded a Commission in the Canadian Forces when war broke out. He did much excellent work in training men in these early days. He was for some time Instructor at Shorncliffe, and then proceeded to France, where he met his death last summer. Enthusiasm and loyal affection for his old School was characteristic of this keen Breconian.

DAVID GETHIN MORGAN : School House, 1916-18 ; drowned whilst bathing at Porthcawl during the recent Summer holidays. We all heard with sincere regret the sad news of Gethin Morgan's untimely death. He was only 16 years old, the son of an O.B., W. D. Morgan, of Ton Pentre, and a keen, active fellow. His abilities were above the average, and a good deal had been expected of him : he had also already won his Football Colours. We offer our sympathy to his parents for the cutting short of a promising life.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

KILLED IN ACTION.

J. C. Cobb, Capt., Royal West Kent—Aug. 21st, 1918.
 J. K. Ll. Fitzwilliams, M.C., Major, R.H.A.
 F. James, Lieut., S.W.B.—Nov. 1st, 1918.
 S. E. Lewis, 2nd Lieut., R.A.F.—Aug. 13th, 1918.
 F. W. Musk, Private, Grenadier Guards—Aug. 27th, 1918.
 T. G. Thomas, Lieut., Canadians.

DIED.

E. J. Leyshon, Sergt., A.P.C.—of pneumonia.
 J. S. Robinson, Lieut. Instructor, R.N.—of influenza, Nov. 13th, 1918.

WOUNDED.

Ll. David, Major, R.H.A. attd. R.F.A.—gas poisoning.
 H. Eynon, Lieut., Welch.
 E. R. Gibbon, Capt., S.W.B.
 F. S. Harries, Capt., Welch.
 C. P. Howells, Private, K.O.Y.L.I.
 R. J. C. Morgan, 2nd Lieut., Royal Welsh Fusiliers—very severely.
 W. J. H. Morgan, Lieut., R.F.A.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

J. V. Bowen, Lance-Corp., Royal Fusiliers (since repatriated).
 R. H. Davis, 2nd Lieut., K.O.Y.L.I.

WOUNDED AND MISSING.

D. H. Davies, details unknown.

INTERNEED IN HOLLAND.

C. Thomas, 2nd Lieut., R.A.F. (since repatriated).

INVALIDED.

- D. P. S. Griffiths, Lieut., S.W.B.—from Salonika.
 J. ans, Lieut., Monmouth—from France.
 D. R. Phillips, Capt., A.S.C.—from East Africa.

HONOURS.

BAR TO MILITARY CROSS.

- J. P. Jones, M.C., Capt., R.A.M.C.

MILITARY CROSS.

- H. T. Maddocks, 2nd Lieut., Machine Gun Corps.

ORDER OF ST. STANISLAS.

- J. K. Ll. Fitzwilliams, M.C., Major, R.H.A.

ROLL OF SERVICE (13th List).

- R. Arnott (School House, 1913-16), Cadet, Artists' Rifles.
 J. V. Bowen, (School House, 1895-98), Lance-Corp., Royal Fusiliers.
 R. M. Glasgow (School House, 1910-12), Corp., U.S.A. Marine Corps.
 A. G. Henshaw, 2nd Lieut., Punjabis (I.A.).
 H. E. L. Jenner (School House, 1913-16), Cadet, Artists' Rifles.
 W. M. Jones (Hostel, 1912-18), Midshipman, R.N.V.R.
 J. A. L. M. Lewis (Hostel, 1912-18), Midshipman, R.N.V.R.
 R. M. Roberts (School House, 1912-17), Cadet, Artists' Rifles.
 J. Ll. Rogers (School House, 1899-1903), 2nd Lieut., R.G.A.
 B. W. Sims (School House, 1912-17), Cadet, Artists' Rifles.
 W. L. Smith (Hostel, 1913-17), Cadet, O.T.C., Oxford.
 G. Tunbridge (School House, 1912-15), 2nd Lieut., Welch.
 C. P. Turner (School House, left 1895), Mechanic, R.N.

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOARD—LOWER CERTIFICATES :—

7 Passes.

I. Ll. Evans—A b f g j K
 E. K. Godby—a c F g j k N O
 W. E. Holt—A c F G j k N o
 J. Griffith Jones—a c f g j K P
 R. W. Marshall—a F g j k n o
 D. G. Morgan—a F G j k N O
 H. Scudamore—A c F g j k N o

The following failed to secure Certificates :—

K. V. Evans—A b f k
 E. H. Holmes—f g k n
 W. G. H. Simon—A b c j K
 R. E. L. Thomas—A b j K
 E. Williams—a j k n

a=Latin

b=Greek

c=French

f=Arithmetic

g=Additional Mathematics

j=English

k=History

n=Mechanics and Physics

o=Physics and Chemistry

p=Chemistry and Mechanics

Capitals signify distinction.

There were no failures in Latin, Greek, and History.

Distinctions (24 in all) were gained : Latin (6), Arithmetic (5), History (4), Mechanics and Physics (4), Additional Mathematics (2), Physics and Chemistry (2) and Chemistry and Mechanics (1).

Griffith Jones' distinction in Chemistry and Mechanics was the only one awarded in that subject in the whole Examination.

CAMBRIDGE LOCAL (JUNIOR) :—

Three Candidates Passed.

T. E. Griffiths, C. D. Jenner and N. Thomas.

GAMES COMMITTEE.

Meetings have been held :—

(1) Thursday, September 19th. Present :—Rev. A. E. Donaldson (President), Mr. G. H. Isitt, Rev. G. I. R. Jones, T. Ll. Price, I. Ll. Evans, E. L. Jones, E. Williams, N. S. Blackall, L. C. Davies.

It was decided to start a Football League for Junior players. It was resolved that House Matches should have fixed dates. A discussion arose over the desirability of changing A-M to A-L or A-K to secure greater equality amongst the House Teams. The question was postponed for fuller consideration.

(2) Thursday, October 3rd. Present as above, except I. Ll. Evans.

Junior and Senior House Matches were arranged, the Captain of Football being authorised to select dates. Further discussion took place on the proposed alteration of A-M to A-L or A-K.

(3) Friday, October 18th. All present.

The question of A-M was finally considered. The Games Committee decided not to settle the matter themselves but to refer it to a meeting of the Upper Forms of the School, the VIth, Upper 5th, Vth and IVth Forms with all School Colours included. The decision of this meeting, given by secret ballot, was to be binding.

A resolution was passed that at the usual Elections of Captains and Committeemen, Old Colours, whatever their Form, should in respect of votes, rank with the VIth Form.

It was suggested that Fives Matches with Hereford should be arranged.

(4) Wednesday, November 20th. All present, except Rev. G.I.R. Jones.

Re-arrangements in Football were made to meet the circumstances arising out of the Influenza outbreak. It was decided if possible to play the School matches in the Easter Term ; to abandon the Football League and Junior House matches for the present : but to play the Senior House matches in December. The Kicking Competition was brought forward for early decision.

The Golf Club was revived and Mr. Isitt and I. Ll. Evans appointed as a Sub-Committee to lay out a new Course.

CRICKET.

HOUSE MATCHES.

1. A.M. 95 (5 wks.) beat Hostel 94. D. W. R. Thomas scored 47 for Hostel and Blackall 43 not out for the winners.
2. A.M. 142 beat N.Z. 41. D. G. Morgan (31) headed A.M.'s score.
3. A.M. 55 (3 wks.) beat Day Boys 14. D. G. Morgan made 38 not out.
4. Hostel 125 (4 wks.) beat N.Z. 41. K. V. Evans made 54 and D. W. R. Thomas 53.
5. N.Z. 52 (1 wkt.) beat Day Boys 49. E. Williams made 27 not out.
6. Ins beat Outs. The scores have not been preserved.
A.M. won the Cup with an unbeaten record.

FOOTBALL SEASON.—1918.

This Season has been sharply divided into two halves, the point of bisection being the visitation of the Influenza germ. Up to the last week in October we had had much busy and successful play; since our return from the unforeseen holiday that then took place, we have under medical orders been more or less marking time. Still we hope that the School Matches will come off after the New Year, and that we shall then resume the promising efforts so untimely frustrated.

T. Ll. Price seemed likely to have a respectable side under his command. The backs were quick and clever, though on one wing and at full back there was a lack of knowledge and experience. The forwards had made progress in wheeling and loose work, but have still a good deal to learn as to scrimmage science. There was a fair amount of material available among them, but none of outstanding merit. However, if all new hands did not reach expectations, K. V. Evans and Griffith Jones were consistently good; and Holmes and Blackall likely to train on well.

We shall probably have occasion to comment on the XV. in a later issue. Congratulations to L. C. Davies on his good play and regrets that he will not be with us next term are all that need be added at present.

The League proved most valuable and interesting while it lasted. The Wild Ducks had no difficulty in asserting their superiority, and when the influenza break came they had won 4 matches, with a score of 132 points to 18. Splendid back play accounted for their success. We have not often seen more promising attacking work among our Juniors. R. T. Harries and L. H. Griffiths were the stars of a fine combination, which did great credit to their instructors, I. Ll. Evans and L. C. Davies. The other Leagues were well matched, and altogether it was a disappointment that we could not continue the games to a finish. A continuance of the League principle in football will do much good to the Junior games.

Mr. Jones deserves cordial thanks for his able and unwearying coaching in both 1st and 2nd games.

A. E. D.

To D.O.R.A.

(With apologies to Michael Drayton).

Since there's no war, come let us kiss and part—

Nay, I have done, you rule no more o'er me ;
And I am glad, yea, glad with all my heart,
That thus completely I am rid of Thee.

Shake hands for ever, cancel every clause,

And if we meet at any time again,

Be it not legal under any laws

That you one jot of former power retain.

Now at the last gasp of Big Bertha's breath,

When, her heart failing, proud Bellona stops,

And Peace is kneeling at her bed of death,

And Winny closing up munition shops,

— Now, when all men for ever give thee over,

Never again thy sway shalt thou recover.

Re C.C.D.L.D.S.

[At the first meeting of the Committee of the above a rule was passed by which all members who did not speak at least once a term had to pay a fine of sixpence.]

I hope I'm not intruding

In your space, by thus alluding

To the meeting we intend to hold next week.

But a few are hesitating,

And with tremors cogitating

Whether they will pay the tanners or will speak.

If a speaker starts debating,

And the "case" which he is stating

Seems by all to be deplorably weak :

And although he's palpitating,

Yet shows no sign of abating,

Then he'd better pay his tanner not to speak.

But there's the instance of another

Who declaims against his brother,

And accuses with a detrimental squeak.

If we cannot find some other

Way his eloquence to smother ;

Well, we'll pay him down a tanner not to speak.

Let us hope, anticipating

We'll improve ; in patience waiting

For the days when each will discourse like a Greek ;

When our enemies checkmating,

By our answers devastating,

We shall all be paid a tanner when we speak.

THE FIRST O.B.

I sing of the ancient monastery
 Past which the river Isca flowed,
 I sing of old King Henery,
 That rotten, wretched, greedy toad.
 No cash forthcoming from the State,
 He ran away with all the plate,
 Leaving, amidst some broken bricks,
 A crowd of frightened Dominics.
 Mayhap some high and mighty lord,
 Bethought the monarch of his station :
 Howbeit by his conduct awed,
 The king made all due reparation.
 Where once had stood the broken bricks,
 Now stands the payment for his tricks ;
 Surely, 'twas worthy of his rule,
 To found for us so fine a school.
 I fear that somewhere in this ode
 There is a line bereft of tact,
 I called our benefactor " toad,"
 But that I gladly now retract.
 Henry the Eighth, a sportsman he,
 Henry the Eighth, the first O.B.,
 May his name be ever great,
 In the annals of our state.
 'Tis true that, by his marriages prolific,
 (Not long the one wife lived, he soon rewed),
 He earned a reputation quite terrific,
 And must have had a conscience made of lead.
 But we, by his beneficence sagacious,
 Made happy (How I hope I'm not mendacious!),
 We'll make our three cheers ring,
 Lest the ghost of that great king
 Rebuke us for our thanklessness ungracious.

THE RATIONAL ANTHEM.

We've beat the German powers,
 Their submarines are ours
 To sink no more ;
 We shall have more to eat,
 Plenty of fat and meat,
 Sugar to make things sweet,
 And cakes galore."
 Coupons we shall not need
 To get ourselves a feed ;
 Full plates alway.
 No longer I'll be thin ;
 To eat won't be a sin
 Puddings with currants in
 On Christmas Day.

O.B. ASSOCIATION.

BALANCE SHEET, 1918.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1917	...	64	14	2	157 Subscriptions at 2s.		
11 New Subscriptions at £1	11	0	0	transferred to Current			
40 " " at 10s.	20	0	0	Account	...	15	14
Interest on Deposit	...	2	14	11	Balance for 1919	...	82
						15	1
	£98	9	1				

CURRENT ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1917	...	18	7	4	County Times (Printing)	12	0
25 Annual Subscriptions					Postage	...	3
at 2s. 6d.	...	3	2	6	Chambers (Half Cost of		
157 Annual Subscriptions					Covers)	...	3
from Deposit Account	15	14	0	Balance for 1919	...	18	18
						5	
	£37	3	10				

A. E. DONALDSON,

Hon. Treasurer, pro tem.

GAMES ACCOUNT.

Statement for Year ending July 31st, 1918.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
By Balance from July, 1917	...	13	15
" Boys' Subscriptions—			
Christmas (£32 10s.)			
Easter (£30 10s.)			
Summer (£32 17s. 6d.)	95	17	6
" Profits from Athletic Sports	...	11	14
" Payments for Photos	7	18	6
" Special Donations to Sports and Cricket Prizes	...	10	0
" Sale of Hockey Badge	1	6	
	£139	7	7

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
To Wages	...	57	16
" Materials for Games	42	19	10
" Upkeep of Premises and Ground	...	11	2
" Photographer's Acct.	8	10	6
" Sports Medals	...	4	5
" Referee	...	1	7
" Hereford Cathedral School—Expenses of Monmouth Match	...	15	0
" Printing	...	2	2
" Rates	...	18	9
" Sundries (Petty Cash, Cheque Books, etc.)	1	7	11
" Balance in hand	...	8	2
	£139	7	7

A. E. DONALDSON, President.

CONVALESCENCE.

"'Tis Devon, Glorious Devon—"

Thus he sang, a British Tommy in the hills of Judaea, to his warrior comrades. I was passing, and heard his swelling passionate notes which came like a soft breeze and freshened my very soul. My Celtic heart throbbed. My eyes for the moment saw Devonian hills and Devonian valleys. The rocky Judæan hill disappeared, the "Wadi" seemed to change. It was an English hill and an English dale that I saw. Fancy soon fled; reality returned, but with it returned to me a freshened soul.

To-day I am convalescent in Devon, invalided from France. Truly the "World is a small place." Daily Devon brings back the strength that other countries and duties have sapped, and what is more, gives strength to what I dare call my soul.

It was with happy anticipation that I ventured on my first real walk a few days ago, through country that is indeed God's own. Freely, and at once, I slowly wended my way through the clean lanes, up a few small hills, through delightful pine woods, and emerged at last into a small heathered moor. I felt myself gasp at the red bloom of the heather. Each country feature had its message to my soul; clean winding lanes, the brook and the wood,—all with their particular unique beauty—apparently welcoming and inviting my coming. But none stirred the happy depths of my throbbing soul more than the small heathered moor, upon which I had come so suddenly. Two years in foreign climes have given me other things and other people, but to-day gives me England and "Demsheer" people, with their beloved heather and moor.

Its exquisite expanse of purple colour, its rough open nature and calm restful atmosphere, set to work the strings of my soul—strings of childish delight, of excited, happy appreciation, of unspeakable emotion. Before I turned to go away I had felt someone speak to me through the medium of the heathered moor. Sermons do not always come from pulpits and human mouths. This tract of my native country in its leaf-green loveliness, in its tinges of purple, violet and grey, in its calm restful glory under the evening kisses of a golden English sunset—all untouched by human hand and the ravages of War—had its sermon for me.

It had brought me to a sense of my Creator, and was calling forth a psalm of gratitude and appreciation from the very depths of my being. Thus intoxicated, I slowly returned to my "Home."

That night as I sat, tired in body, on my bed, watching as the last hues of a blood-red sunset, showing through the black silhouetted leaves of the trees, were stealing away, I was conscious of a "Vision Splendid"—"the purple heathered moor" caught my soul again, with its beauty and its lesson—resting obediently under the skies of Heaven. Yes, truly I knew that night, "God is in His Heaven, all's well with the world." Nature has her sermon and I had heard it that day.

"'Tis Devon, Glorious Devon,"—as Tommy sang in the hills around Emmaus—14 months ago.

Devon convalesces my body and builds new precincts to my soul, to go forth again to battle for the free.—September, 1918.

OXFORD LETTER.

To the Editors of the "Breconian."

Dear Sirs,—

An Oxford letter has been such a *rara avis* for four years that its appearance may come as a shock to you : for ourselves, we plead not guilty to perpetrating this ghastly outrage ; it must be accredited to those who, in an hour of weakness, decided at last to end the war and so allow me to divulge the important secrets we hold. We seem to remember O.B. (Cantab) boasting a few years ago that he could supply a letter in time of war ; we hope to anticipate him on this occasion and herald peace with our return to our accustomed place.

Undoubtedly our first duty is to pay our tribute of honour to those Breconians who have fought and died for freedom ; our debt to them is heavier than we can repay ; more particularly do we regret Brecon's most recent loss by the death of Mr. J. S. Robinson : more facile pens than ours will record his sterling qualities, but we remember him as a man of exceptional ability and genial disposition, with a deep interest in all phases of our school life.

To return to ourselves and the main object of this letter—news of our doings in Oxford :

It gave me more than ordinary pleasure this term to welcome Capt. G. Lance to Christ Church ; he has been sent there by a beneficent Government to study Strategy and Tactics under Prof. Spenser Wilkinson. Rumour has it that the Prof. and his so-called pupil entirely disagree ; but as three other Officer—Undergraduates, after having each copied half of the Captain's essay, are in complete accord with him, the Professor is in an absolute minority. We understand that the Captain never forgets to treat the military authorities with the calm hauteur of a "House" man—but, on his return to Tom Quad, or in the Senior Common Room, always lets everyone know that he is in the Border Regiment—strategic result, he apparently pleases himself. This pleasure consists very largely in going to the Union or to Trinity to inspect Border Cadets, who would much prefer he was at Cambridge. He has also been known to enter Exeter and hold a review of the Jerseymen there ; his calm has only once been ruffled, viz., when he was seized in the High by the Junior Proctor ; peace was only restored when it was discovered that the Prog. merely recognised in him an old school friend. He does not forget Wales and goes to Jesus to see Wilkinson, when he quite forgets the "House" and the Army, and becomes at once a Breconian.

J. L. J. Davies, after an unsuccessful attempt to leave at the beginning of the Term owing to a serious attack of Flu, is really going this week, and hopes to be ordained at the Advent ordination ; he has the reputation of being the backbone of the Keble choir ; unfortunately we have had experience of his vocal powers, and consequently have a poor opinion of the aforesaid choir ; it was rumoured early in the Term that he was engaged, but the fair lady who appeared with him

in the High was eventually discovered to be none other than his sister; it appears that he is taking a keen interest in music, judging by the weird instrument we have seen in his room since Nov. 11th.

W. H. H. Williams has returned to Keble after good service in the Army. On Armistice night he performed great feats of valour: the ceremony of dedicating to the "Bonner" his "old oak" (a delapidated cake-stand of uncertain age) was undoubtedly a feature of the evening; those who had eyes to see with might have noticed him later proceeding to Keble under a heavy load of trophies, which at present adorn his room. Although Oxford is noted for its numerous attractions, he has just succeeded in deceiving the examiners in Group B ii., we offer him our hearty congratulations.

W. L. Smith (Christ Church) is at present a Cadet in New College; we believe it is false to state that he was concerned in painting the figure outside the Sheldonian, and trying to remove the beak from Brasenose, since it was from other pockets that the 'Varsity Chest was enriched by a goodly sum; but he was to be observed on Armistice night embracing Wilkinson in a most affectionate manner in the Corn.

C. Ll. Morgan, though an alien, was admitted to Lincoln as a Cadet; his stay was short and we saw but little of him, but we know that he played Footer for the R.A.F. on several occasions.

D. F. Chesters (Non. Coll.) passes a retired existence in Walton Street, and is rarely to be seen; but he says that he pays frequent visits to Bagley Wood, presumably to guess the age of the old oaks there, though his intention to enter the India Forest Service may afford a better explanation.

W. D. G. Wilkinson (Jesus) may be seen in Oxford in certain places at stipulated times, when the effect of a scholar's gown adds only to his personal beauty; on one solitary occasion he played Footer for the O.T.C. against Radley College; the result of his rashness was a day in bed; the *coup de grace* came when he heard certain diminutive youngsters guess his age as not more than twelve—this of a staid third year "man." His loaded shelves bear ample testimony to his labours in "Greats," and he may be seen any morning proceeding to lectures with a worried look on his countenance.

The Varsity in general is sparsely populated by Undergraduates; we hope, however, soon to chronicle the return to normal times.

We must encroach no further on your valuable space; with best wishes to all at Brecon.

We remain, Yours etc.,

O.B. (Oxon.)

THE CADET CORPS.

There has been an unusually large influx of recruits this term, with the result that the corps now musters seventy-five, the greatest number since its recognition in the Spring of 1916. On the other hand, more than half of this number have been members of the corps for less than a year, and will have to make considerable improvement if they are to take their place in the platoon drill next term.

There has, however, been a most gratifying improvement in the work of the older Cadets, who are apparently beginning to realise that a smart drill is a far less tedious affair than some of the indifferent performances in which they have indulged in the past. The improvement is especially marked in the case of many, though not all, of the N.C.O.'s, the majority of whom can now be safely entrusted with the care of a squad. Our Senior Sergeant in particular deserves special commendation; it is to his excellent example that much of our progress is due.

Several changes and innovations should be mentioned as having occurred in the last twelve months. We were fortunate in being able to persuade Mr. Durran to take a commission in the Corps, and he has been indefatigable in wrestling with many squads of the rawest of recruits. Sergeant Norbury found that his duties at the Barracks compelled him to give up his work with us, and we have been remarkably lucky in obtaining so excellent a substitute as Sergeant Dwyer. A section-drill shield was provided to stimulate competition among the sections, and was won with ease by the section under the command of E. Williams, who produced wonderful results with what at first sight appeared to be rather poor material. A map-reading class was revived for the senior cadets, but owing to the ravages of influenza has done comparatively little work this term. Its efforts at surveying one of the College fields by means of the plane-table and the service compass certainly did not meet with any remarkable degree of success! Shooting has been brought to a temporary standstill by the difficulty in obtaining ammunition, but the scores in the competition for the House Cup were well up to the average. The success of A-M was due more to the relative strength of their "tail" than to any unusually high individual scores, the best efforts in this respect being those of T. Ll. Price (N-Z), and I. Ll. Evans (Hostel).

In conclusion, we hope that with the cessation of hostilities, Public School Cadet Corps will receive more encouragement from the Army authorities. Our ambition is to be converted into a Junior contingent of the O.T.C., in which case we should be able to proceed to the more interesting forms of military training from which we are now debarred by lack of opportunity.

The N.C.O.'s at present consist of the following:—Sergeants E. Williams, T. Ll. Price, L. C. Davies. Lance-Corporals Godby, Blackall, I. Ll. Evans, J. G. Jones, Holmes.

G.H.I.

THE DEBATING, LITERARY AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY.

At a Meeting of the Fourth, Fifth, and Upper Fifth Forms, on Saturday, the 26th October, 1918, Rev. A. E. Donaldson being the chairman, it was decided that the rules of the Society should be as follows:—

1. This Society shall be called the Christ College Debating, Literary and Dramatic Society.
2. It shall consist of members of the Sixth, Upper Fifth, and Fifth Forms, with such others from the Lower Forms, as shall be elected by the Committee.
3. The officials of the Society shall be:—A President, 2 Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer; with 4 other members to form a committee with them.
4. The Society shall meet in the Library or Big School, once every three weeks on Saturday evening; but a Debate may, if necessary, be adjourned to the following Saturday.
5. At least 8 Debates and 1 Literary or Dramatic gathering shall be held each term.
6. The Committee shall have the power to expel a member for sufficient cause. It shall select and cause to be posted the subject for debate or literary and dramatic performance not later than the Monday preceding the next meeting. Any member, however, may send in subjects for the Committee's approval.
7. Every member must make every term at least one speech of two minutes duration; failure to do so shall incur a fine of 6d. No speaker shall exceed 15 minutes.
8. Vacancies among the officials or in the Committee shall be filled up at a General Meeting.
9. The usual rules of debate will be observed.

At the Meeting the following officials were elected:—President: The Reverend the Headmaster; Vice-Presidents: Rev. A. E. Donaldson and the Captain of the School; Secretary: E. L. Jones; Treasurer: L. C. Davies. The other places on the Committee were filled by: E. K. Godby, H. Scudamore, W. G. H. Simon, and E. H. Holmes.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following, with apologies for any inadvertent omissions: "Cheltonian," "Derbeian," "Fettesian" (2), "Giggleswick Chronicle," "Johnian," "Luctonian," "Malvernian" (2), "Newtonian," "Pauline" (3), Tonbridgian.

THE CHRONICLES OF THE TRIBES.

And it came to pass that as the days of End of Term drew nigh, it was made known among the Tribes that the time was at hand for the passing through the Gates of Testz. And a murmur arose and certain of the tribes trembled in their hearts and wept sore, for they had not laboured diligently with the scrolls.

And behold the first day of the passing through the Gates of Testz was nigh. And they laboured diligently for the first week. But they waxed tired, and there were lamentations and wailings among the tribes, and their hearts were heavy within them, for they had yet seven days before that they passed through the Gates of Testz. And the tribes called in a loud voice: "Would that we could abide in the land of our fathers, where there are no cruel taskmasters; but peradventure the Chief Elder may take compassion on us and let us once more journey to the land of our fathers." But others answered, saying: "Not so, O ye foolish ones."

But still they laboured on, and behold they were in sight of the Gates of Testz. And on they worked, and at last they passed through the Gates. Then there was great rejoicing, and the Juniori were exceeding glad, and danced and found favour in the sight of the Elders.

Now the day was almost nigh when the tribes should depart to the land of their Pair-Ents to keep the feast of Kriss-Muss.

And behold the day of Departure was nigh, and on the morning of that day there was much hewing of Bredd and drawing of Te, lest peradventure the tribes should wax hungry on their journey.

And after they had sung praises they assembled in the tabernacle called Bigskoolrum, and their Elders assembled with them. And behold the Chief of the Elders read aloud some scrolls. And the tribes hearkened unto them. And behold it came to pass as they had willed, and the Chief Elder said unto them: "Truly, I say unto you, ye shall return to the land of your Pair-Ents, there to abide for some days. Lo! I have spoken." And the hearts of the tribes were made exceeding glad, and they said in a loud voice, "Holi-Dais." And behold they arose and departed on their journey into the land of their Pair-Ents.

"YE CHRONICLER."

THE F.G.

I believe we first met after a visit to a friend's house when I had been deceived into coming out without a top coat. It was a cold evening with a chilly east wind blowing, while the streets glistened in the moonlight after a recent fall of rain.

However, our acquaintance did not ripen very rapidly, as I took a dislike to him from the first, sternly repelling him with a woollen scarf and some tabloids.

After a few days he again assaulted me, but I met him with barricades of waistcoats, quinine, and mufflers, while for my offensive I relied on the "Sunshine Barrage," which was highly recommended by other combatants.

Then the weather, often a decisive factor in great conflicts, took a hand, and by four days of dry frost caused my adversary to withdraw his forces. My spirits rose accordingly, and friends remarked upon my triumphant countenance and lithe and active step, but alas, my pride was soon to have a fall, for my apparently inactive foe was quietly undermining my defences all the time. His first victory was a blow on the head, resulting in a cranium that felt as though it contained a demon-smith busily turning out sword blades at victory speed.

This my energetic enemy followed up by a blow, literally, below the belt, which caused me to forgo even the trivial comforts derived from the lightest refreshment, while simultaneously he set fire to my blood.

At these attacks, my "morale" collapsed, and when a cowardly blow at my back and spine followed, I gave in and signed the Armistice terms by retiring to bed with "flu."

O.B. ASSOCIATION.

The Association has passed triumphantly through the difficulties of the war and has a larger membership than ever. The accounts published in this number show that it has considerable funds in hand, but Old Boys who have not yet joined are urged to do so, so as to put it in a still stronger position.

We have no space to print the usual complete list of Members, but append the names of *those whose subscriptions become due in January, 1919.*

A. C. S. Butcher
W. M. Best
A. B. G. Biggerton Evans
A. H. Coppage
V. Coppage
C. B. Colson
B. Couch
Rev. F. J. Davies
V. G. Davies
W. L. Gwyn Davies
J. C. Davies
W. B. Davies
M. C. M. Denny
R. L. David
L. Eaton
S. Evans
W. L. Edmund
D. C. L. Fitzwilliams
G. H. L. Fitzwilliams
E. D. Glanley
D. P. S. Griffiths
O. H. Gurney
S. R. Gibbon
J. W. Gibbon
R. Green
C. J. B. Hughes
W. A. Hunter
G. Howell
W. L. Hoskins
P. B. Hughes
A. Henshaw
R. B. Hunter
I. S. Jenkins
H. Jones
W. Jones Williams

G. B. H. Jones
D. L. Jones
H. E. Jenner
H. I. K. Jones
O. H. Jones
A. H. Johns
G. L. Low
D. Leyshon
J. M. Lewis
J. V. Martyn
Dr. E. Morgan
T. T. Macartney Filgate
J. S. Nicholas
G. F. North
I. L. Oxenham
C. G. Phillips
D. R. Phillips
R. V. Powell
G. Powell
T. G. Powell
C. F. Parry
T. Parry
S. R. Phillips
A. B. Price
W. Prosser
I. M. Powell
H. B. Pratt
F. M. Pryce
W. A. Ross
E. L. Reynolds
A. J. L. Rees
T. Roberts
H. W. Richards
H. L. Richards

R. J. Richards
J. V. Rees
T. Robertson
S. G. C. Rich
J. D. H. Richards
R. M. Roberts
P. Spencer Smith
H. E. R. Stephens
C. W. Singer
H. Saunders Davies
E. T. Sims
G. P. B. Shapland
T. W. Stevens
D. W. E. Thomas
L. M. Thomas
T. F. Thomas
Rev. H. Thomas
G. Tunbridge
S. E. Thomas
C. Thomas
A. L. Thomas
G. Thomas
D. J. Walters
W. T. Wootton
Aid. T. Williams
E. V. Watkins
M. H. Wake
H. H. Williams
H. B. Williams
G. Wilkinson
G. Yendoll
R. Yendoll
I. J. S. Yorath

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The Term commenced on Wednesday, September 18th, and will finish on Friday, December 20th.

At a meeting of the School held on Friday, September 20th, T. Ll. Price was unanimously elected Captain of Football for the season, and E. L. Jones, L. C. Davies, E. Williams, and N. S. Blackall were elected to fill the vacant places on the Games Committee.

The Editors of the "Breconian" this term are E. L. Jones, E. K. Godby, and E. H. Holmes.

On Monday, November 4th, a half-holiday was granted to the School in honour of C. Ll. Morgan's History Scholarship at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

On Saturday, October 19th, at a meeting of the Senior School, owing to the inequality of the sides for the House Matches, it was decided that the two School Houses should be in future A-K and L-Z, instead of A-M and N-Z.

The following are House Prefects this term :—School House : T. Ll. Price, L. C. Davies, E. Williams, E. H. Holmes, and E. K. Godby. Hostel : I. Ll. Evans and K. V. Evans.

This term, Influenza visited School for the first time this year, and caused a break of a fortnight about six weeks from the end of the term. Luckily there were no very serious cases, and most of us were glad of a few days at home.

Owing to this epidemic, the School Matches had to be abandoned this term, but we hope to renew the fixtures for next term.

A House match was played on Saturday, October 19th, when A-K beat the Hostel by 90 points to nil.

At a meeting of the School held on Friday, October 25th, L. C. Davies was elected Captain of Fives for the term.

On Saturday, October 26th, at a meeting of the Upper School, a Dramatic and Debating Society was formed. The first Debate was to have been held in the Library on Saturday, November 9th, but, owing to the outbreak of influenza, it has been postponed until next term, much to the relief of the speakers.

Owing to the partial prohibition of Football and Fives, the Golf Club has been re-opened, and its members have been busily engaged in the making of the greens.

Lieuts. J. V. Evans (O.B.), E. T. Sims (O.B.), and I. Powell (O.B.) visited us during the term

We congratulate C. Ll. Morgan (O.B.) on winning the Brigade Marathon Cup for his Battalion in the R.A.F. Sports, held at Hastings on August 3rd.

Death.—We regret to announce the death of D. G. Morgan, only son of W. D. Morgan (O.B.), who was accidentally drowned at Porthcawl on Tuesday, August 20th, 1918.

Lieut. W. L. Hoskins (O.B.) has been appointed "Brigade Education Officer" under the new Army Education Scheme.

Lance-Corpl. J. V. Bowen (O.B.), Royal Fusiliers, returned on Monday, November 5th, to his home at Cefn Coed from captivity in Germany. He received a patriotic reception, being escorted by torchlight through the village and welcomed at the Drill Hall by a Reception Committee. He had served from 1914 until taken prisoner in 1916, and received the usual severe treatment from the Huns.

2nd Lieut. Cecil Thomas (O.B.), R.A.F., has returned to England, having been released from his internment in Holland.

Captain Le Huquet (O.B.), Wiltshire, has also been repatriated.

2nd Lieut. F. M. Pryce (O.B.), S.W.B., has been released by the Turks.

Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Gurney, D.S.O. (O.B.), East Yorkshire Regt., has been awarded a bar to his D.S.O. for setting a splendid example to his troops during a difficult night withdrawal.

2nd Lieut. J. B. Cryer, Royal West Kents, has been awarded the M.C. for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during an enemy attack. He set a splendid example of courage and determination by remaining at his post, although severely wounded, throughout the attacks.

Captain J. P. Jones, M.C., R.A.M.C. (O.B.) has been awarded a bar to his M.C. for the most conspicuous ability, cool courage and devotion to the care of the wounded in an advanced dressing station throughout the ten days of the battle.

The Hon Mr. Justice Atkin (O.B.) has been made Chairman of the Certificates of Naturalisation Revocation Committee, and also Chairman of the Committee to investigate the Relation between the Wages of Women and Men.

The Librarian wishes to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of books from Mr G. H. Isitt, C. Jenner and T. H. Peck.

A copy of the "Guardians of the Gate," a brief History of Serbia, was recently presented to the Library by the Author.

We congratulate the boys of the Private Side Dormitories in the School House, on having collected last holidays the sum of £4 9s. 3d. for the Red Cross

T. G. Powell (O.B.) has passed the Final Law Examination with honours.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the "The Breconian."

To the Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men.—We hope that we are all aware of the fact that, in due course of time, the Cadet Corps will be turned into an O.T.C. The drill of the Corps, to our minds, has improved greatly during the past term or so. We seem, with the exception of a few idiots, to take more interest in our drill, but alas it is not so in our dress. Let us give five extra minutes to this and fall in looking like Soldiers, not like Porters.

Yours, etc.,

CATTERICK BRASSO AND POLLY.

To the Editors of "The Breconian."

Dear Sirs.—We are the Strapbutton Brothers and we live at Private X's hat. Just at present, however, we should not advise you to call, as our faces are dirty, disgustingly dirty. Being mere buttons, we cannot wash, and seeing the comparatively clean faces of our other comrades, cannot speak for jealousy. That, even that, we might have stood, but the other day one of us was mocked in front of all the other buttons. Mr 4th-Button-from-the-bottom-of-the-tunic looked up, and seeing one of us on the left, cried, "Oh! My, what a face!" That, our brass will not tolerate, and, after the fashion of the times, we will strike, unless something is done for us in our misfortune.

We are, Yours faithfully,

THE BROTHERS STRAPBUTTON.

To the Editors of the Breconian.

Sirs,—In the course of the football season I have noticed that many players outside the first fifteen possess a great deal of promise, but they lose heart before they really understand all the phases of "rugger." Is it not possible for a second fifteen to be formed? It would encourage harder play and more competition, thus producing for future years skilled players. Hoping this matter will receive due consideration,

Believe me,

I am,

"A RUGGER ENTHUSIAST."

[A team without opponents is not much good. Find suitable opponents and a 2nd XV. will at once spring into existence.—Edd.]

To the Editors of the Breconian.

Dear Sirs,—I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Rev. A. E. Donaldson and the Rev. G. I. R. Jones for their kindness in helping so much in the 1st game by refereeing and coaching the XV; Mr. Durran for officiating at the 2nd game, and Messrs. Donaldson, Jones and Isitt for refereeing during the league games.

Yours sincerely,

T. LL. PRICE.

To the Editors of the Breconian.

Dear Sirs,—Shall we be considered indiscreet by intruding upon your valuable space?

During the last few terms the interest taken in occasional evening concerts seems to have entirely vanished.

For the sake of "Aukl Lang Syne" may we suggest a re-introduction to "Orpheus" (with or without his lute)?

Yours, etc.,

T. ENOR AND S. OPRANO.

"THE OLD, OLD FIRM."

To the Editors of the Breconian.

Dear Sirs,—No team can be respectable without practice. I understand that there will be a Fives fixture next term with Hereford Cathedral School. As, at present, the Fives Court is very seldom used, an advisable plan would be to compel likely members of the Fives Team to play regularly, as in no other way can proficiency be attained.

Yours truly,

L. C. D.

[Certainly: it is the Fives Captain's duty to take such measures.—Edd.]

Answer to Correspondent—C. HILLY and C. OLD.—Apply to the proper authorities; or, better still, be patriotic and put up with a little hardship.



Bunker