



# THE BRECONIAN.

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# The Breconian.

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## EDITORIAL.

THE characteristic Easter term, consisting as it does of a Hockey season and Fives Competitions, of a period of training for the Steeplechases and the Sports, and the usual parades of the Cadet Corps, is generally voted far from interesting. As we reflect upon the past term, however, we find a pleasing contrast, in so much that a football season, the outcome of which was a hard fought victory over our rival school, has almost entirely replaced hockey; the precedent of a Fives match with Hereford has demanded a Fives season properly so called; and the Golf Club with a respectable course has been in full swing.

Football this term has been guilty of a great crime, but has paid penance to the full. It has usurped the rightful claims of hockey, but it has reared a team which, by defeating Llandovery, has left a lasting mark on the annals of Christ College Football. With very great pleasure, we offer, on behalf of the school, our heartiest congratulations to T. Ll. Price and his followers on that day; by sheer determination they performed a feat unaccomplished for ten years; they have wrought yet another link—a link that will not readily be forgotten—in a long chain of victories.

The Hockey season, if it can be called such, has been truly "matchless." It is with little or no satisfaction that we look upon its results. Two and only two, practice games have been played in the First Game, while the League, interrupted by football, and sadly hindered by the weather, succumbed at a young age to its cruel treatment. The Fives Season, more deserving of its name perhaps, has been productive of much practice, but of little fruitful result. The standard of play was hardly ever high, while in the Hereford match—but silence is golden.

The Steeplechase courses, however, have never been in a worse condition than this year; the stream near the farm was swollen till it resembled a small river, while the fields were more or less swamps. Few, therefore, were sorry, when medical advice prevented us from running—or walking (?)—them. Fine weather, however, is eagerly awaited for the Sports, which are hoped this year to produce some excellent results, both in Senior and Junior events.

The Cadet Corps is making passable progress in every direction, but interest centres chiefly around the latest novelty, the "blooming bugle band." The honourable, though somewhat deafening offices of band-master and bandstand have been conferred on Mr. Fenner and the Cricket Pavilion respectively. The band is at present in process, as it were, of being "broken in," though one would imagine that there was a congregation of donkeys rather than a set of schoolboys, in the Pavilion of an afternoon. Still, even as we put our fingers in our ears, we look forward, in happy anticipation, to the time when we shall be able to keep step to its lively tunes, and when possibly, we shall rise to the dignity of an O.T.C.

Unfortunately, we have to call attention to a noticeable interruption in the flow of contributions, which was poured upon us last term. The "Breconian," we would remind our readers, relies largely for its sustenance on articles of various kinds. If literary ability is not extinct in the school, there is no better outlet for it than in the pages of this magazine. We would end, then, with the hope that the contributions which are so much needed but so little in evidence, will begin, and continue, to litter the deserted floor of the Editorial "den."

## IN MEMORIAM.

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WALTER B. DAVIES : School House, 1901—08. Walter Davies was a remarkable boy. From an early age he revealed exceptional gifts and earned the nickname of "Genii" for his equal facility in Classics and Mathematics. It was soon realised that nothing but ill-health could prevent him winning high honours in Scholarship. His career of School successes was unbroken, and in due course he entered for the "Balliol," and only just failed to win it, and a few days later carried off the Senior Open Scholarship at Trinity, Oxford. His Oxford career was less consistently brilliant, but his health to some extent failed him, and no one doubted that his great gifts would eventually re-assert themselves. When the war broke out, he was in Germany learning the language, and suffered much from the ensuing harsh internment. He managed to find his way home in 1917, and at once joined the Army as a private. He took a Commission a little later ; but his health was uncertain, and it was perhaps scarcely a surprise, when news came that an influenza attack had proved fatal on a return journey from India. So a career of great possibilities has been cut short. Davies was no athlete by nature, but he played games with zeal to the limits of his physical abilities. He was a School Prefect and deservedly popular in the School. He is the second of two Breconian brothers to have given his life in the War, while the third has been severely wounded. Our sincerest sympathies go out towards his sorrowing relatives.



## ROLL OF HONOUR.

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### DIED OF DISEASE.

W. B. Davies, Lieut., 3rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

### D.S.O.

C. E. Sladden, M.C., T/Maj., 9th Worcesters.

### M.C.

H. Ll. Richards, Lieut., 12th Lancers.

D. J. Walters, Lieut., R.G.A.

### AIR FORCE CROSS.

E. H. du Heaume, Lieut., R.A.F.

### SPECIAL PROMOTION.

C. E. Budworth, C.B., etc., to be Maj.-Gen.

M. Browne, M.C., to be Brevet Major.

### ORDER OF BRITISH EMPIRE.

D. Valentine Rees, Maj., T.D., Officer in Civil Division.

### MEDAILLE DES EPIDEMIES.

A. F. S. Sladden, Capt., R.A.M.C.

### MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

G. S. W. Evans, Lieut., S.W.B. (by General Milne).

G. C. W. Parker, A/Capt., R.F.A. (by Lord Cavan).

### MILITARY MEDAL.

A. Tudor, Private, 4th Royal Fusiliers.

### ROLL OF SERVICE.

P. V. Beatty (School House, about 1896), Major, A.V.C.

G. R. Dunbar, 2nd Lieut., R.G.A.

W. G. Fryer, 2nd Lieut., R.E.

C. Ll. Morgan (School House, 1911—18), Cadet, R.A.F.

R. J. Richards (School House, 1910—13), Lieut., Dragoon Guards.

H. E. E. Thomas, Lieut., R.A.

G. Thomas, 2nd Lieut., R.E.

## OXFORD LETTER.

DEAR SIR,

Outside, rain, torrential rain such as only Oxford and perhaps Brecon can boast, and howling winds ; no prospect further than a College wall, grim and forbidding ; inside, such warmth as a controlled fire will allow ; and what would you ? News, an Oxford letter, you say ; but again objections arise, protestations are on our lips : in hackneyed phrase, we have nothing to say ; and a sense of justice forbids us applying to you for straw for the bricks required of us ; but we will proceed, without further exordium, to say our nothing.

But no, not yet can we advance : for of a sudden appears a telegraph boy, and we learn that Brecon has defeated Llandovery : our drab surroundings vanish ; we are carried back in thought to the old school, and we picture the joy we know is there at this moment, and wish that we could be there ; but we share that feeling, though far off, and heartily congratulate the team and those who have coached it on this success, and now "in media."

Capt. Lance still remembers all the tricks in Footer, and has been busy imparting his knowledge to the combined team of Christ Church and Jesus ; we hear he still waxes wroth with the back who persists in making for the touch-line, but whether he puts the delinquent in the scrum for his sin we cannot say.

J. V. Evans has made a very welcome return to St. John's, and has signalled his reappearance with his customary energy and vigour ; particularly has he made his presence felt in the resuscitated Welsh Society, of which he is the Secretary. Before this august assembly he has already delivered an impassioned address on his native land, and he was mainly responsible for the great success of the dinner held on St. David's Day. At this great function, with his father, who was a guest, he sang Welsh airs with enthusiasm. Unfortunately, his Army experiences have necessitated a special diet, and he could not enjoy the good things he had provided on the menu. His rooms are adorned with various pretty photographs, some of which we recognise, and he possesses a bust of the Prime Minister, to touch which is sacrilege. We have expressed a hope that his idol will not of itself fall in pieces.

W. H. H. Williams is at present exploring the mysteries of Political Economy, in preparation for Group B III. He was one of the Keble men chosen to play Soccer in a 'Varsity trial match, but we insist on pointing out to him that it is no honour to play this awful game ; he, however, strenuously denies our assertion.

D. F. H. Chesters is not such a recluse this term, and may be seen any afternoon on the river, rowing stroke in the Non-Coll. boat, which he hopes, in vain we fear, to bring to the head of the river. He hopes soon to be attached to one of the Colleges.

W. D. G. Wilkinson is a most harassed person this term. He makes himself heard in the Welsh Society in spite of his un-Celtic name (but his accent, which he prefers to call intonation, he has been told, would betray him anywhere), and on one occasion when he spoke there, almost caused a riot by his revolutionary views. He performs

charitable work for the Workers' Educational Association, of which he is College Secretary, and has on many Saturdays been seen hurrying to Wolvercote, there to enlighten (?) a number of paper-makers, to whom he appears, quite wrongly, an authority on Industrial matters. He is in process of capturing Johnny Evans as an ally in the work and study of problems connected with the education of the working classes. "Shon" visited Jesus lately to see him, waving a Brecon shield, which he afterwards brandished in the astonished faces of several Llandoverians.

In conclusion, we would wish you a successful Sports Day, and trust that out of the period of Reconstruction that is upon us the School will emerge triumphant, to carry on with yet more vigour the good work it has already done in the past.

Yours, etc.,

O.B. (Oxon)

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## CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

It is so long since a Cambridge O.B. letter was written that I fear my hand has rather lost its cunning in the art of being interesting and funny—under compulsion—which is the usual recipe for an O.B. letter.

As I feel tempted to display the classical learning I never possessed, I will say that at long last we have all, like Cincinnatus, returned to our ploughs; in other words we are almost all back from the war, rather more interested in the "piping days of peace" than when we went away. So far none of us have had any Exams. to worry us. So we have had no "Examiners to deceive." That art, as far as my recollection of Oxford O.B. letters goes, is an accomplishment monopolised by O.B.'s at our sister University.

A. H. Johns is in residence in the full bloom of his second year. His voluminous library is the envy and despair of his visitors, but fulfils a useful as well as ornamental purpose, when there is a lack of chairs.

W. P. V. Thomas had us all to tea at the beginning of the term, but since then has neither been seen nor heard,

We are expecting to welcome G. S. W. Evans next term.

C. Ll Morgan arrived when Term was well advanced, and seems to have played every kind of game that he can be provided with. He has also played the game with the Bolshevist elements of the 'Varsity, and is rumoured to have offered his aid gratuitously in cutting the hair of, and in forcibly bathing, the undesirables. He is now grumbling that his disinterested aid was not appreciated. Some men are never satisfied.

G. B. H. Jones has little time for anything but a little work. Hence perhaps there is little to be said of him at present.

We were all delighted to hear of the Llandovery victory, and celebrated it fittingly. Now that it has been discovered that it is not impossible to beat Llandovery in football, you must go on from victory to victory. Some of us intend to put in an appearance at the Steeplechases or Sports, and we wish to all "pot-hunters" success, and to other sufferers a peaceful, painless ending.

Yours, etc.,

CAMBRIDGE O.B.



## GAMES COMMITTEE.

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Two meetings have been recently held :—

(1). Wednesday, January 22nd.

Present : Rev. A. E. Donaldson, Mr. G. H. Isitt, T. Ll. Price, I. Ll. Evans, E. L. Jones, N. S. Blackall, E. Williams, and D. R. R. Roberts.

It was decided to play the School Football Matches, should our opponents be willing to do so. The Junior Football Leagues were dropped for the present, but House Matches were arranged. Fives Matches with Hereford Cathedral School were fixed, and besides the usual Competitions, one for Open Doubles, with a new draw each round, was arranged.

It was resolved to give Medals again as Sports Prizes.

Members of the Golf Club, in view of the fact that some sort of a course was now in existence, were to be asked to pay the usual 2/- subscription.

(2). Wednesday, March 5th.

Present : as above.

Monday, April 7th was appointed Sports Day : Saturday, March 22nd the day for the Steeplechases.

Sports officials were re-appointed. N. S. Blackall and D. R. R. Roberts were selected to form the Steeplechase Sub-Committee, and Mr. Isitt, E. L. Jones and I. Ll. Evans were appointed as Handicapping Committee. Some discussion took place about the Sports Programme, but no change was made in it, and the proposal to add an Open Half Mile to the Senior Challenge Cup was lost.

Junior Football Cups were awarded as follows :—

Backs : L. H. Griffiths, R. T. Harries (commended).

Forwards : S. J. Edwards.

The meeting discussed the question of how far a Captain was justified in awarding extra Colours for some special reason. There was a difference of opinion on the subject and no definite view was agreed to by the Committee.

A. E. DONALDSON, President.

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## FOOTBALL SEASON.—1918-9.

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The efforts, so untimely interrupted by the Influenza last November, have been successfully resumed this term and were crowned with victory in the Llandovery match. With a dearth of capable reserves and the weather very unfavourable, it cannot be said that the XV shaped at all well in its practices as a rule : but it rose to the occasion on the day of the match and played with fine determination, and this amply atoned for previous shortcomings. Price, rather overburdened with official duties, seemed a bit slow in getting his side together, but on the field of play his cheery leadership was once more very inspiring, and he had a large personal share in the success of his side.

The forwards are admittedly a very scratch pack with little or no combined skill; however they fought a desperate fight in the match. But most of them must not forget that they have very much to learn next winter. The backs are by no means a bad combination: the halves and centres are well up to the average, and Godby is a promising, if somewhat raw, wing threequarter.

This team is to be congratulated on breaking our over-lengthy spell of failure in the Llandovery match. It may well learn from that game one precious lesson, viz.:—That the most determined side usually wins. Next year with increased experience and more favourable opportunities for practice, we must aim still higher and add skill and consistency to our present attainments.

The Junior games have been much hampered by the weather and there is not much need to comment on them this term.

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### THE XV.

- V. MORETON (Full-back)—1918.—Very young and inexperienced, but has improved enough to hold out hopes of future usefulness.
- E. K. GODBY (Right Wing Threequarter)—1918.—Has strength and some speed, but not sufficient knowledge of the game to make full use of them. Must keep his position better on the defence.
- L. C. DAVIES (Right Centre)—1918.—His sense of combination is scarcely equal to his individual skill and pluck; but he did good service and was much missed after Christmas.
- T. LL. PRICE (Left Centre)—1916-7-8.—A good all round three-quarter. Has a splendid pair of hands and runs with dash. Excellent in combination and thoroughly reliable in kicking and tackling. A successful captain.
- E. WILLIAMS (Right Centre)—1917-8.—A very useful forward, especially clever with his feet. This term he has filled Davies' place with much credit. A fine kick and good alike in attack or defence.
- E. L. JONES (Outside Half)—1918.—A neat and effective attacking player, who is likely to become still better with increased strength. Tackles well, but is a bit shy of sitting on a rush at present.
- I. LL. EVANS (Inside Half)—1918.—Excellent in all phases of defence. He is fearless in checking forward movements and in tackling. Very slow, however, in passing out, though often handicapped by ragged heeling.
- I. H. OSBORNE JONES (Forward)—1917-8.—His weight and skill in hooking have made him invaluable in the scrum. Outside he should use his pace and strength more effectively. With more "headwork" might be really good.
- K. V. EVANS—1918.—A hard-going forward, slow but sure. Tackles wholeheartedly and pushes hard, and has generally led the footwork of the forwards.



- J. GRIFFITH-JONES—1918.**—Useful in the scrum and has advantages of height and strength that have also served his side well in the line-out and loose work. Next year might be distinctly good.
- E. H. HOLMES—1918.**—Plays very keenly and has done well in the line-out. Another year's experience should make him very useful.
- W. E. MORETON—1918.**—Promises to be a sound player, since, despite accidents and lack of experience, he has already learnt enough to be of considerable value to the pack.
- G. A. NICHOLAS—1918.**—Only available up to Christmas, when he showed himself a vigorous, if clumsy, forward, and a sound tackler.
- W. E. HOLT—1918.**—Very light, and so chiefly valuable at present for the keenness and persistency of his efforts.
- N. S. BLACKALL—1918.**—Another light forward and not as yet very robust in his play. But he was useful in the front row, and kicks well with the left foot.

The following played as substitutes in the Llandovery match :—

- J. DAVIES (Forward).**—His weight filled a gap in the middle row of the scrum, but he is neither alert nor vigorous enough in the rest of his play.
- E. D. JONES (Left Wing Threequarter).**—Has some pace, but insufficient courage and resolution, particularly in defence.

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## MATCHES.

### CHRIST COLLEGE V. LLANDOVERY COLLEGE.

Played at Brecon on Shrove Tuesday, March 4th. The Llandovery match in the Easter term is something of a novelty, but we had been so sadly disappointed last term that the inconveniences of the arrangement were willingly endured. As a display of football the match no doubt suffered ; but it provided a keen and vigorous game not unworthy of the traditions of this occasion.

Blackall made a good reply to the kick-off and we established ourselves in the enemy's quarters from the start. The ground was very heavy and rain fell almost all the time, but while the ball was comparatively dry, our back play was good, and three or four times we attacked in promising fashion. E. Williams nearly went over, but could not hold the ball, and another movement to the left found that wing scarcely resolute enough. But Price clinched a well-sustained attack by gathering neatly in the loose and scoring a capital try.

Llandovery equalised with unexpected rapidity. Failure to handle the drop-out let them into our "25," and while we were still in some confusion, their left wing got away unmarked and scored after a good run.

Fortunately this tempted Llandovery to essay further passing, in which they showed little skill and before long Price intercepted a dropped pass and dribbled half the length of the field through the defence. Skilfully avoiding two converging defenders he touched down behind the posts—a brilliant individual effort. The kick failed. Our lead was well maintained at half-time and was thoroughly deserved, as we had played better football and generally held a territorial advantage.

The second half was a hard struggle. We got off the mark less promptly and were mainly on the defence. Forward play monopolised the game and after a while we were content to hold on to our lead without much attempt to increase it. Llandovery pressed us severely at times and twice were all but successful in scoring, but our forwards held on gamely and the centres and I. Ll. Evans saved fearlessly. E. Williams especially helped with some good kicks, and the team as a whole made no mistake in its tackling. The final whistle was decidedly welcome, however, as the forwards had evidently almost reached the limits of their resistance. If Llandovery could claim the honours of this period of the game, they could not find skill enough to rob us of the fruits of our previous efforts and unflagging determination. So we celebrated "Victory" year with a most appropriate triumph by 2 tries to 1.

Our forwards surprised everybody by their resolute display. We had hardly thought them capable of holding up a heavier pack so long and well as they did. Osborne Jones, Griffith Jones and K. V. Evans were great workers; W. E. Moreton, Holmes and Holt deserve a special word of praise. I. Ll. Evans never spared himself in defence; alike in tackling and saving he was in the thick of it throughout. E. L. Jones, less suited by so muddy a day, tackled well. The centres were splendid in pace, resource, and resolute defence, and Price took his two golden opportunities of scoring unerringly. Godby, who was most strenuous in tackling, was much the better of the two wings. A word is due to V. Moreton for his coolness. With little to do, he was never at fault.

We have seen better Llandovery teams. Their backs as a line were only moderate, and their forwards scarcely made the most of their chances. The right wing, the inside half and the full back, perhaps, did best individual work. Mr Schofield was referee.

Christ College :—(Back), V. Moreton; (three-quarters), E. K. Godby, T. Ll. Price, E. Williams and E. D. Jones; (half-backs), E. L. Jones and I. Ll. Evans; (forwards), I. H. Osborne Jones, J. Griffith Jones, K. V. Evans, W. E. Moreton, E. H. Holmes, N. S. Blackall, W. E. Holt and J. Davies.

#### CHRIST COLLEGE V. I. J. S. YORATH'S XV.

On Saturday, February 22nd, I. J. S. Yorath (O.B.) brought up a team against the School. This match was regarded somewhat in the light of a "trial" match, since up till then the XV. had not had any opportunity of testing their power.

It was a wet day, but still the school three-quarters were able to do some good work. The visitors were heavy, but lacked combination, though their forwards played with great vigour. The School had the ball well under control from the start, and at the conclusion of the game the score was 35 points to 3. Tries were scored for the School by T. Ll. Price, E. Williams, Osborne Jones, Godby and E. D. Jones.

The following represented the School :—V. Moreton (back); A. duHeaume, E. K. Godby, E. Williams, E. D. Jones (three-quarters); I. Ll. Evans, T. Ll. Price (half-backs); I. H. Osborne Jones, J. Griffith Jones, K. V. Evans, W. E. Moreton, W. E. Holt, N. S. Blackall, J. Davies, H. O. Davies (forwards).

## CHRIST COLLEGE V. S. R. PHILLIPS' XV.

On a dry day, Saturday, the 8th March, the School took the field against a heavier and more skilful fifteen, captained by S. R. Phillips (O. B.), which defeated us by 3 tries to 1 drop goal. The School were greatly handicapped, as T. Ll. Price, their captain, was unable to play. In the first half the visitors certainly had the better of it, and scored twice by unbroken bouts of passing along the three-quarter line to the wing, who was left with an open run. Although in the second half our opponents scored again, the School generally pressed hard, and were once within an ace of scoring, when L. C. Davies was held up on the line. Soon after, however, E. Williams dropped an excellent goal, the only score on the School side. The whistle blew for "no side" with victory in the hands of the visitors.

E. Williams in the backs, and in the forwards Osborne Jones, who more than once saved the side by good tackling, deserve special mention.

Christ College : V. Moreton (back); E. D. Jones, L. C. Davies, E. Williams, E. K. Godby (three-quarters); E. L. Jones, I. Ll. Evans (halves); I. H. Osborne Jones, K. V. Evans, J. Griffith Jones, E. H. Holmes, W. E. Moreton, W. E. Holt, J. Davies, N. S. Blackall (forwards).

## FIVES.

There has been a fair amount of activity in the Fives Court this term but the standard of play remains low and can only be raised by persistent practice and the encouragement of promising youngsters. The Competitions, to which an Open Doubles has been added, are still in progress; but of two matches with Hereford the first took place in the Brecon Court on Wednesday, March 19th, and resulted in an easy victory for our opponents who won all 9 games and made 135 aces to 24. We were quite outplayed, though the under 15 pair put up a good fight and were chiefly beaten by the harder hitting of their bigger adversaries. The games were as follows :—

## 2ND PAIR.

|          |                                      |             |                                   |                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hereford | { J. G. Richards<br>D. W. Richards } | beat Brecon | { E. D. Jones<br>N. S. Blackall } | 15—1<br>15—1<br>15—0 |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|

Jones made a good shot now and again but as a pair were outclassed by a very capable Hereford combination.

## UNDER 15 PAIR.

|          |                        |             |                                   |                      |
|----------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hereford | { W. Raw<br>F. Cross } | beat Brecon | { R. T. Harries<br>E. N. Morgan } | 15—9<br>15—3<br>15—8 |
|----------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|



We started by getting to 5—0 in the first game, but having once lost this lead were always fighting a losing struggle. It was, however, pretty well fought. R. T. Harries, except for a tendency to "poach" and to bring the ball too often off the side into the open, played a capital game. Morgan was rather more inconsistent but is promising for his age. The Hereford pair were bigger and hit harder and lower.

#### SENIOR PAIR.

|          |                            |             |                                 |                          |
|----------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hereford | { K. Lloyd<br>E. Addison } | beat Brecon | { T. Ll. Price<br>E. Williams } | { 15—1<br>15—0<br>15—1 } |
|----------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|

Another runaway victory. The Hereford players, though never pushed, seemed very capable. Price, we thought, played better than usual, hitting hard and making some very effective shots; but he got no help to speak of from his partner.

Generally speaking our players have much to acquire in activity and resource, and the low hard shot against the front wall needs cultivation. A poor class service is also a noticeable source of weakness.

## HOCKEY SEASON.

We have had no matches and only one 1st Game this Term. The usual Leagues were started, but were so much interrupted by the weather and the claims of football that it was not found possible to play the fixtures out. Our Hockey, therefore, has for the most part been in abeyance and will need reconstruction next spring; but there are not a few promising players available in the Junior Games.

The two old Colours left from 1918 were T. Ll. Price (captain) and E. Williams. Colours have also been awarded to I. Ll. Evans, E. L. Jones and K. V. Evans, all of whom are sound defensive players. We wish we had some more good forwards in the School.

## OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following, with apologies for any inadvertent omissions: Bristol Grammar School Chronicle, Bromsgrovian (2), Derbeian, Fettesian, Herefordian, Johnian (2), Malvernian (2), Newtonian, Pauline, Tonbridgian.

## OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The term began on Tuesday, January 21st, and will end on Tuesday, April 9th.

The School Prefects this term are T. Ll. Price, I. Ll. Evans and E. Williams.

E. H. Holmes, E. K. Godby, E. L. Jones, N. S. Blackall, H. Scudamore (School House) and K. V. Evans (Hostel) are the House Prefects.

At a meeting of the School on Wednesday, January 23rd, T. Ll. Price was elected Captain of Hockey and Captain of Fives. T. Ll. Price has now been Captain of Football, Cricket, Hockey and Fives.

At the same meeting, D. R. R. Roberts was elected to fill the vacancy on the Games Committee.

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

The Christ College, Debating, Literary and Dramatic Society is living up to its grand title. It has been the source of much diversion this term and its debates have been looked forward to with great pleasure by all its members. The Junior members have at last found a place where they can cheek a Senior without receiving the usual chastisement and they are making the most of their opportunities.

On Wednesday, January 29th, there was a meeting of Old Breconians to discuss what form the proposed War Memorial should take. It was decided that the matter should be placed in the hands of a committee, with the Head Master in the chair, which could correspond with O.B.'s, and obtain their opinions.

The Football Captain and members of the Fifteen accepted the Rev. A. E. Donaldson's kind invitation to tea on Saturday, March 8th, and celebrated the victory over Llandovery College in great style. After tea, the Football Captain (T. Ll. Price), on behalf of the rest of the XV., tendered his heartiest thanks for the unbounded generosity of Mr. Donaldson.

Now that the greens have been at last completed, the Golf Club is fast gaining favour in the School and we hope to have some very good play in the Golf Competition.

Owing to medical advice, the Steeplechases, which should have been run off on Saturday, March 22nd, have been abandoned.

We heartily thank the Organist, E. L. Jones, and his assistants, K. V. Evans and E. H. Holmes, for the valuable assistance they have given the choir in the execution of their duty.

Dr. A. F. S. Sladden (O.B.), late Captain in the R.A.M.C., has received the appointment of Pathologist, under the new Act, at the Swansea Hospital. He was recently given a French decoration in recognition of great service in the war.

Evan Williams (O.B.) sat as a representative of the Coal Owners Association in the recent Coal Special Commissions. He is the Chairman of the Conciliation Board of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Coal Trade.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Atkin (O.B.) has been made a Lord of Appeal and a Privy Councillor.

C. Ll. Morgan (O.B.) has been given his Rugby Colours for Selwyn College, Cambridge.

W. H. H. Williams (O.B.) played in the Oxford University Association Trial Match recently. We congratulate him, but with surprise and regret that he should be cultivating the wrong game.

Congratulations to O.H. Jones (O.B.) and to H. Scudamore on their success in the recent London Matriculation Examination.

Marriage.—Griffiths—Troughton. On Wednesday, Jan. 8th, 1919, at the Parish Church, Higher Bebington, Cheshire, Douglas P. S. Griffiths (O.B.) to Phyllis, elder daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. L. W. Troughton, of the Vicarage, Higher Bebington.

Extract from Order of the Day, General Headquarters, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force :—"Temporary Major Cyril Edgar Sladden, M.C., of the Worcestershire Regt., handled his battalion with marked ability and daring throughout the day under most difficult circumstances. When the troops on his left flank had withdrawn, he skilfully extricated his command from an awkward position inflicting heavy loss on the enemy who greatly outnumbered him. His conduct was worthy of the highest praise." This is an official description of how Major Sladden won his D.S.O. at Baku last September.

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## THE CADET CORPS

Drill continues to flourish in the hands of two very capable Officers and also a very capable Sergeant-Major. The weather, as usual, has done its best to prevent drill and has succeeded to a great extent. The following have been promoted this term :—Sergeant E. Williams to be Company Sergeant-Major ; Lance-Corporal Blackall to be Corporal ; Private R. Thomas to be Lance-Corporal (of the band). We most heartily congratulate Sergeant-Major Williams on his promotion. Anyone who is familiar with his efficiency in all departments of the work of the corps, will not doubt that his promotion was well deserved. He has been indefatigable in his efforts to improve the standard of the Corps, and it is to him that such progress as we have made is chiefly due.

The band, in process of formation this term, is under the tutorship of Mr. Fenner, and is hoped to be reasonably in tune by the middle of next term.

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## THE CRAZE FOR ACCURACY.

I never have been able to understand the craze for accuracy to which so many people are a prey. There are some people who are never satisfied until they know exactly how many miles it is from New York to Tokio, or what is the precise population of Timbuctoo. Just think how many lives have been spent in the search for the sources of the Nile, or for the North Pole. What earthly use is it to anybody to know the exact position of the sources of the Nile, or whether the North Pole is on a rock or in the middle of the sea ? If a man were to ask me the population of Timbuctoo, I should tell him that it is thirty-five thousand, eight hundred and ninety-five, and he would be perfectly happy, until he found out that I knew nothing whatever about it, whereupon he would instantly become



miserable. If we could only realise that in most things accurate knowledge is of no use whatever, life would be much happier than it is. The unhappy school-boy who fails to learn that eight times six is forty-eight is severely punished. Why should he learn it? Personally, I have always believed that eight times six is fifty-seven, and have never been a bit the worse for so believing. The man who thinks that Gustavus Adolphus was King of Sweden is despised, but the accurate man who knows that he was Tsar of Russia and was beheaded by Marat, will not enjoy life any the more for his knowledge. Most people think that if you speak Welsh you should speak it accurately, and I have almost been in despair in the effort to speak Welsh so accurately that only two people in Wales can understand me. One of them is a Russian Finn and the other a negro. The desire to know things accurately is a source of innumerable sorrows. We will all remember what we suffered in school when we were compelled to learn Latin accurately. Will anyone tell me what comfort it will be to him on his death-bed to reflect on the exact circumstances in which "cum" is followed by the subjunctive? At Oxford there were two friends, one of whom was the most accurate man in the place, while the other is still a monument of inaccuracy. The accurate man is 25 years of age. But the inaccurate man is now chief of a Bureau of Statistics, with a salary of £2,000 a year? This shows us how worthless accuracy is, which was what I wished to teach, though not, of course, with complete accuracy. Yet men still strive for accuracy as one of the chief virtues.

"FRIGUS."

#### VERSES.

There is a place within these walls,  
Wherein no paper ever falls,  
For be it large or be it small,  
An awful voice is sure to call—  
"Who dropped this paper on the floor?  
Just take two hundred lines, or more."

Or if a little ink you drop  
Upon the floor with gentle flop,  
The same dread voice is sure to say,  
"Who spilt this ink down here to-day?"  
And then you know what is in store,  
The same two hundred lines or more.

Or if a crumb of bread should fall,  
Upon the floor unseen by all,  
Before you know what you're about,  
That dreadful voice is sure to shout,  
"Who dropped this bread upon the floor?  
Just take two hundred lines or more."

If there is aught upon the floor,  
The same two hundred lines, or more,  
Welcome you in this haunt of peace,  
Wherein the dread voice does not cease,  
And these dread words to hear you're sure,  
"Just take two hundred lines or more."

## The Debating, Literary, and Dramatic Society.

The first meeting of the Society was held at Saturday, the 1st of February, when W. G. H. Simon proposed "that cats be licensed as well as dogs." In a most eloquent speech he pointed out that dogs possessed an unfair advantage over cats, by being licensed, and skilfully quoted Darwin to prove the utility of cats.

E. K. Godby, opposing the motion, showed the great service rendered to mankind by these animals, and on the theory that only luxuries were licensed, argued that it would be wrong to tax cats.

H. Scudamore and E. L. Jones then spoke for and against the motion, the former proving that everyone would benefit financially by licensing cats, the latter comparing the cat and dog much to the disadvantage of the latter.

The Vice President, the Rev. A. E. Donaldson, compared the motion with a previous one concerning the granting of Parliamentary rights for Women, and stated that in his opinion to license cats would cause a "cataclysm."

Several other members spoke with vigour if not with lucidity, and showed that the spirit was willing, even if the tongue was weak.

After the Hon. Opposer and Proposer had summed up, the motion was put to the vote and was lost by 17 votes to 5.

On 22nd Feb. the second meeting of the Society considered the motion that "This House regards conscription as desirable and necessary."

W. E. Holt, the Hon. Proposer, advocated a system of a three years course of training for young men, as was in practice in several countries on the Continent. He showed how this system not only improved the national utility of a man, but also broadened his outlook and tended to improve his worth as a citizen.

H. Scudamore, opposing, said that Conscription tended to produce Wars, and was both undesirable and unnecessary, since under the probable League of Nations only small armies would be needed.

W. E. Moreton and E. D. Jones then spoke, and Mr. G. H. Isitt suggested an annual two months' training for men of 19 on the lines of the Territorial Force.

Rev. A. E. Donaldson pointed out that Conscription had only been dealt with in the military sense of the word, and since it was obviously wrong to compel anyone to do anything against his will, Conscription was undesirable, though perhaps, as in school, necessary.

W. G. H. Simon, E. Williams, V. Moreton, R. E. L. Thomas, R. Marshall, and N. S. Blackall also spoke.

The motion was carried by 12 votes to 9.

On Saturday, 15th March, the members of this Society at its third meeting met together to give a Dramatic Reading of the Trial Scene from the Merchant of Venice. The reading though not faultless may be deemed successful and promising, though a little lacking in consistency.

Shylock's sense of the dramatic possibilities of his part was keener than his literary and elocutionary powers, and at times he read a little too fast. Antonio was clear and restrained, while the female characters deserve commendation.

The Caste was as follows:—

|          |     |                       |
|----------|-----|-----------------------|
| The Duke | ... | Rev. A. E. Donaldson. |
| Shylock  | ... | R. E. L. Thomas.      |
| Antonio  | ... | E. L. Jones.          |
| Bassanio | ... | E. H. Holmes.         |
| Gratiano | ... | E. D. Jones.          |
| Salerio  | ... | W. E. Moreton.        |
| Clerk    | ... | W. E. Holt.           |
| Portia   | ... | H. Scudamore.         |
| Nerissa  | ... | T. E. Griffiths.      |

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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*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; also Messrs. Durran and Isitt for helping in various parts of the games. Again, great thanks are due to the Rev. A. E. Donaldson and Mr. Isitt for their invaluable coaching of the Fives Teams.

Yours sincerely,

T. LL. PRICE.

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*To the Editors of the "Breconian."*

Dear Sirs,—May I through the medium of your columns thank all O.B.'s for their congratulations on the victory over Llandovery, being unable to thank them all personally.

Yours, etc.,

T. LL. PRICE.



*To the Editors of the " Breconian."*

Dear Sirs,—We think that the School House Tuck-room ought to be moved from the present unfavourable place to a more favourable part of the House.

Yours truly,

IKE AND MIKE (both alike).

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*To the Editors of the " Breconian."*

Dear Sirs,—We beg and implore that bycicle (sic) races should be held and should take place during the summer term. We also suggest and advise that it would be advantageous and suitable that Fords and Tanks should not be allowed to revolve or crawl.

We remain, yours sincerely,

TYRE, BACK-PEDAL.

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*To the Editors of the " Breconian."*

Dear Sirs,—During my brief sojourn within this venerable pile, I have heard many sarcastic remarks and scathing anathemas hurled at that unoffensive old friend, the Cricket Pavilion. Though its exterior may appear somewhat more "bizarre" than "chic," it is nevertheless an ancient and hardworking member of the school, and like all the working class, demands its rights.

At present these are being abused and almost daily it suffers the indignity of being used as a nursery for the rearing of the newly-born Cadet Corps band (?)

It is an inanimate object and therefore has perforce to remain dumb, and dree its weird, yet, whenever that glorious (?) band, the chosen few, subject it to those shriekings and bellowings, reminiscent of a fast day in the Ark, we can see the very slates on the roof endeavouring to rear their heads in mutual and silent protest.

How it must feel the change !

How those walls, grown grey in a long and faithful service, and adorned with the names of teams of past generations, must shudder when they think of the depth to which they have fallen ; those walls which of yore gazed down on many a scene of festive merriment, but which now re-echo with a din of discordant blarings.

Sirs, do you think at its age it is right ?

Yours,

THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE.

*To the Editors of the " Breconian."*

Dear Sirs,—The Games Committee is the Committee which arranges the sports, deals with the games of the School, and rules the sports field in every way. It is, therefore, only natural that the senior colours should claim first place on the committee, for they surely have more power in the games question than any other members of the School.

Would it not, therefore, be an improvement if the Committee elected its own new members, because, as we have seen before, by putting the question to the whole school, it is not always the right man who is put in the right place.

I remain, yours truly.

SCORTON.

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[Letters have also been received from—F. Ives; "Frigus"; An Enthusiast; J. T. Witch and R. Ufus; Fritz; Winking, Blinking and Nod; Non-Prefects; and Whale and Spratt. We regret that lack of space forbids us to print them. The subjects with which they deal are not for the most part of urgent importance.—Edd.]

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## INTO GERMANY.

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After an anxious couple of hours enquiry, we found that the Cologne express, which was to take us, started from an obscure siding among the dunes, at 0600 on the following morning. At 0545 we turned up at the appointed spot, discovered a train of ex Boche carriages, for the most part cushionless, and proceeded to take possession. At 0630 men began to arrive, and an engine appeared, which seemed hopeful. For an hour more, however, men continued to arrive, and it was not till 0800 that we began to move. We then ran quietly along for at least half-an-hour, till we were stopped by a gesticulating Frenchman, who after some difficulty gave us to understand we had run past a signal, and were on the line of a pukka express, due some ten minutes! later. So rather grudgingly we

backed for half-a-mile, and then were graciously allowed to proceed once more. We travelled along at an average speed of about 15 miles per hour till we arrived at Hazebrouch, where the pace immediately fell to 6 miles per hour, or often less. From there for the rest of the day we crawled along, past Bailleul and Armentières, both of which were a mass of ruins. It is estimated that there are hundreds of pounds worth of broken glass in Bailleul, which is a town full of greenhouses. That evening we arrived at Lille, toiled on slowly for the night, and next morning found ourselves no further than Tournai. That night we first learnt the value of the racks as sleeping accommodation. At Tournai we stayed most of the day, the difficulty being the local water shortage. Two of us spent most of the time trying to persuade the Belgians how much better we should be out of the way, but they appeared to think that we were quite harmless where we were, and it was only by adopting the primitive process of taking it in spite of them that we got any. That night we toiled on creakily through Belgium, and next morning found ourselves at Namur. The Meuse valley is very beautiful. The sides are steep limestone hills, and we seemed to pass through multitudes of tunnels. After the flat wastes of Flanders the country seemed homelike, and called to mind the hills of gallant little Wales. At four o'clock that afternoon we crossed into Deutschland, crossed to the right of the line, and took a German engine on. The pace improved at once, and at times we reached the nerve-racking speed of 50 miles per hour. At seven we reached Cologne, and captured a Boche porter, who saluted smartly and expressed a desire that he should place our goods in the cloakroom. We then pointed out to the R.T.O. that it was really too late to go on any further that night, and that a train the next afternoon would meet the case admirably. Having settled this small matter, we went to the Town Major, and from him obtained a chit to impose ourselves free of charge on a Boche billet. The next morning we toured the nearest parts of Cologne.

The Cathedral, or Dom, is a magnificent building, about 500 ft. long. The nave has a height of 150 feet, and each of the two towers is 512 ft. high. The building is massive, and beautifully designed. Every pillar and pinnacle is a marvel of intricate sculpture. Looking down from the top of the tower the Cathedral appears a veritable mass of pinnacles placed symmetrically on either side of the main building. The organ is a magnificent one, of great power, and is a very old one. The choir is perhaps the oldest part of the Church, and contains some wonderful carved oak. The building looks at its best from a distance of over a mile. When seen from too near the towers become foreshortened and seem badly out of proportion to the rest of the building. A curious law exists which enacts that a heavy tax shall be paid on the building when completed, and to this day therefore one of the pinnacles is unfinished, and surrounded with scaffolding, though a guide book announces that the Cathedral was finished in 1882. A curious law, no doubt the relic of a mediæval prince.

There are three bridges over the Rhine, which at this point is about 500 yards wide. The railway and road bridge, called the Hohenzollern bridge, is a magnificent structure of steel girders, bronze statues of Kaiser William I. and Kaiser William II., aided by British sentries, preserve "den Wacht am Rhein." There is also a suspension bridge reminiscent of Clifton, though far smaller, and even in these scientific days, a bridge of boats.



The German civilians are a broken-spirited people, with not a shadow of pride left in them. On being addressed they are obsequious to the point of servility, and seem to have lost every trace of self-respect. Food is sufficient in quantity, but the prices are so high that the poor cannot buy it. The methods of distribution are imperfect, and consequently in large towns there is real want.

In the country there is plenty of most things, and owing to the low value of the mark, prices to us are reasonable enough. In obscure country villages the peasantry evince fear of the British, but this quickly disappears under the gentle treatment of Thomas Atkins and his cheerfulness.

In this part of Germany there is extensive electrification of the country. Power is generated at Bruhl at an intensity up to 100,000 volts, transformed down by small transformers at each village, and used for the lighting and working of the villages within thirty miles radius. All over the country are these steel posts, with barbed wire round, and a fearsome collection of lightning flashes on the posts themselves.

Bonn is a beautiful town. It is about twenty miles from Cologne, and is a typical university town. Its colleges seem mainly very new, and they have a fine botanical institution. Their grounds are extensive, and comparable with the 'backs' at Cambridge. Riding into the town the first building which met me was the Chemistry School, with a statue of Kekule in the garden in front.



BURROW.