

# THE TOWER



THE MAGAZINE OF  
PORTOBELLO SECONDARY SCHOOL

and

PORTOBELLO PRIMARY SCHOOL

1876 — 1958

Portobello Secondary

School Library

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# THE TOWER

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## PREFACE

WHEN we resume after the summer holidays we shall be, for the first time, literally Portobello Secondary School, for the Primary Department will have become part of a new school with its own headmaster and organisation. The separation, which has already been begun by the Primary migration to the new building, will become complete and the School will have suffered a major change in its character.

The word "suffered" is used advisedly, because it is with sincere regret that we take leave of a section of the School which is older than any other. It was as a primary school that our foundation had its inception and for over eighty years there has been a great tradition of sound elementary education in this building. There will be, for a few years more, some of our pupils who have been with us from Primary I to the Sixth Form and it will be a real loss to the School when there are no more of them, but that time must come. It is not inappropriate here to refer with appreciation to the many pupils, who, had they so chosen, might have moved to more selective schools, but who preferred to remain in Portobello. We hope that this community spirit will not be lost.

Various reasons have brought about the changes. The district which we serve has developed, with new housing making increasing demands on school accommodation. A rise in the birth rate twelve years ago has increased the number of pupils of secondary school age, and more boys and girls are remaining longer at school. Our own fourth, fifth and sixth forms have steadily increased and it is becoming unusual in this School for an able pupil to leave at the school leaving age.

For some time it has been clear that new provision would have to be made and it has been inevitable that change would come. Even the departure of the Primary Department has not solved all the problems. For secondary purposes larger rooms are required and so a new block of practical subject rooms is expected to replace the huts in the boys' playground, while existing rooms will change their uses. One cannot help wondering whether it would not have been better to leave the Primary classes in the old building and to erect a new Secondary School.

Changes we must have—and this is not the first change in the character of our School—but some things will remain. We shall always feel a close association with the new Primary School, and whatever it may be called, we shall remember whence came the greater part of its original staff and pupils. Fortunately a link will remain, since the new school will send its pupils to us for their secondary courses. We are confident that the quality which we have come to expect from our primary classes will be fully maintained by their successors.

A. J. HOUSTON, *Headmaster.*

### EDITORIAL

“PRESENT mirth hath present laughter”—these words, spoken by the clown in Shakespeare’s play, “Twelfth Night,” sum up exactly the whole tone of our schooldays. *The Tower* is the only means which we possess of enlightening others of our exploits, adventures and activities. In our articles, we avail ourselves of the opportunity of putting into practice what we have been carefully taught in our English classes and of displaying intelligently our newly gained knowledge.

Pupils of Portobello School have indeed a high standard to reach. The School itself is the heirloom of a glorious past. From it have gone forth to all parts of the world, scholars to make their fortunes, to take their places on the field of combat and to prove themselves worthy citizens of our land. In the various reports from the Former Pupils’ Club, we read of their acts and achievements. The magazine includes articles and reports from members of the staff. It is interesting to see them along with those of their pupils. The articles, sent from the Primary Department, add to the enjoyment of our reading.

Despite preparation for examinations and home lessons, pupils have the opportunity of developing their interest in any one of the School’s societies. A happy, jovial atmosphere reigns in Portobello. The fact that we are kept busy with innumerable tasks, adds to the pleasure of our days. The senior pupils are pioneers this term, as they enter upon the first stages of preparation for the library, which will be a boon to the literary research of future pupils.

In the magazine, we shall read of the enterprises undertaken during this session and our recent exploits accomplished in our amiable and adventurous spirit. We extend an invitation to our readers, “To breathe the pure serene” and hear the *Tower* “speak out loud and bold”—in other words to enjoy and to gain as much benefit as possible from the 1958 edition of our magazine.

Finally, the Editors would like to thank the girls of the commercial department for their help and especially Mr Chalmers, Head of the English Department, for organising and arranging this issue.

D. GRANT, VI.

G. RITCHIE, V.



THE period bells have summoned the staff and pupils of the Primary School to their last dismissal from the building which has housed them since 1876. They are now installed in their new school but they are still a part of Portobello School. It is natural in these circumstances to regard this summer term as a period of transition, and the thoughts of those involved must have often alternated between a reflection on the past, and a contemplation of the future. Readers will not, therefore, be surprised to discover that the emphasis of this number of the *Tower* is on the past, and that its prevailing tone is nostalgic and elegaic.

Those of us whose responsibility it is to prepare these pages for the printer, have felt ourselves to be part of the Primary School, and in our labours this year, we have been conscious of feelings of regret and even sadness. The new School will recreate; this is the last edition of *The Tower* in its present form. So, as we bring to a conclusion our task of compiling this magazine, we experience emotions not unlike those which assailed Thackeray's actor:

The play is done; the curtain drops,  
 Slow falling to the prompter's bell:  
 A moment yet the actor stops,  
 And looks around, to say farewell.  
 It is an irksome word and task:  
 And, when he's laughed and said his say,  
 He shows, as he removes the mask,  
 A face that's anything but gay.

To the staff and pupils of the Primary School we express our gratitude for the support they have given this magazine over the years. Both as contributors and purchasers they have made its publication possible. We hope they will find in this edition a not unworthy tribute to their efforts.

Finally we would like to acknowledge our debt to those former pupils and to those members of staff, past and present, of the Primary School, who have given of their time and labour to contribute to this issue of our School Magazine.

GENERAL EDITOR.

### THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL

THE School owes its existence to the Scottish Education Act of 1872. This Act made provision for the election throughout Scotland of committees known as School Boards which were to ensure that all children between the ages of five and thirteen were given elementary education in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. The first School Board elected by the ratepayers of Portobello in accordance with the Education Act began its three-year term of office in April 1873.

There were several private schools in Portobello at this time, but their accommodation was very limited and many children in the Burgh were not attending any school. The members of the Board decided, therefore, that a new school must be built. Until this should be done, the Board took over temporary school premises in Wellington Street, Pipe Street and Tower Street. Various sites were considered for the new school and the proposal that the Tower be acquired for school premises was considered, but finally rejected. Eventually a site on the Niddrie Road was selected and the plans for the new school drawn up and approved by the Scottish Education Department. Building operations commenced in 1875 and continued in the early months of 1876.

By February 1876, part of the School was ready for occupation and in that month the pupils from Wellington Street School and Tower Street School moved in. The building was finally completed in April and the pupils from Pipe Street School then joined the others. The School was formally opened on 26th April at 11 a.m. and parents were invited to the ceremony. The Chairman of the School Board declared the School open and it was named the "Portobello Burgh Public School." Speeches were made by other members of the Board and the Board itself got a vote of thanks for its labours over the past three years. The children, under the direction of their Singing Teacher then gave a selection of hymns and songs and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem. To further mark the occasion the pupils were given a half-holiday.

The new School was a one-storeyed structure facing the Niddrie Road, i.e. the present Duddingston Park. It will be seen, therefore, that the ground floor of the present wing of the School facing Duddingston Park is the oldest part of the building, but many alterations have been made in this part of the building since 1876. The two entrances to the School from Duddingston Park, now used only by the staff and senior pupils, were then the entrances for the children, the boys using the North entrance and the girls the South. In the North part of the building the present Male Teachers' Staffroom and classrooms 13 and 14 are little changed since the nineteenth century, but the Nautical Room was once the Boys' Cloakroom and corresponded to the Girls'

Cloakroom in the South end of the building. The area now occupied by the Small Gymnasium, the Boys' Cloakroom, and stairs opposite it, the serving counter for School Meals and stairs opposite that, once all formed a large hall which in plan view would resemble an inverted letter T. By means of sliding or folding partitions, this area could be subdivided into four classrooms. In the Southern part of the building classrooms 11 and 12 are unchanged, but the room at present occupied by the Lady Advisor, was the Headmaster's Room in 1876 and the present Ladies' Staffroom nearby was used both as a Ladies' Staffroom and Music Room. In the area now occupied by the Changing Room and the Large Gymnasium and classrooms to the East of it, there used to be a large Infant Room, a smaller room for the Senior Infants and another classroom.

The Janitor's House beside the School was also built in 1876. The Janitor and his family occupied only the ground floor of the house, the large, upper-storeyed room being used by the School Board for its meetings. The School playground was a spacious one extending on the east side to about its present limits. Trees were planted round it and it contained swings and parallel bars for the amusement of the younger children.

In June 1876, the average number of pupils attending the School was 290. At the beginning of the next session in September the School had 484 pupils on its roll. There were only four certificated teachers engaged in full-time teaching in the School at this time. Mr Henry Dow from Musselburgh Grammar School was appointed Headmaster and was assisted by one male and two female teachers. In addition there was a Sewing Teacher who taught for two hours each day, a Singing Teacher who gave three half-hour lessons weekly and several pupil teachers also helped to instruct the children. The staff was completed by the janitor who must have been a very busy man, as he was also Attendance Officer and Drill Instructor.

R. M. A.

### OPE ET CONSILIO

SEVERAL times in the last few years I have wondered how our School Badge originated. Why should a tower have been its main feature? Had the tower any connection with the old building of that name in Portobello? Or was it perhaps meant to represent the School building itself? The School Motto was another puzzle. As we know, our motto is *Ope et Consilio*, which is a Latin phrase meaning "by help and advice." This, on the face of it, is a rather strange motto. Was it meant to be a reference to the help and advice given to the pupils by their teachers? If not, why was this particular motto chosen?

## THE LAST CLASS



PRIMARY 7A, MARCH 1958, the last class to complete its education in the old school.



THE OLD SCHOOL, DUDDINGSTON PARK.



THE NEW SCHOOL, DUDDINGSTON ROAD

The mystery, if anything, deepened when Mr Christie informed me that the phrase was one which had been used in the past in legal parlance, and in that context meant "aided and abetted." When someone has been helped by a person to plan and execute a crime, we say that he has been aided and abetted by that person. *Ope et Consilio*, then, seemed more than ever to be a most peculiar motto for an establishment devoted among other things to the moral instruction of the young.

Last year I came across an article about our School Badge in the 1931 edition of the School Magazine. It seems that our present Badge was adopted in that year. The person who designed it was a Mr John Sutherland, who was Advisor in Heraldry at the office of the Lord Lyon King at Arms. Unfortunately, although the article gave various details about the Badge, it did not have the answers to the questions I had been asking. However, it did record that our School Badge was based on the coat of arms granted to Portobello in the nineteenth century, when it was an independent burgh, and that proved to be a valuable piece of information.

This Easter I paid a visit to the Lyon Office and there was shown a picture of the old Portobello coat of arms. This depicted two sailing ships and two cannon within a battlemented castle or tower. Underneath this was inscribed the familiar motto *Ope et Consilio*. So if I could discover why Portobello had chosen this particular emblem and motto, my quest would be at an end, and in fact I got the information straight away at the Lyon Office. Portobello had been named, as I was aware, after the Spanish seaport of Puerto Bello in Central America, which was captured by a British fleet commanded by Admiral Vernon in the mid-eighteenth century. One of the seamen who served under Vernon, a man named George Hamilton, retired after the war and built himself a dwelling between Edinburgh and Musselburgh which he named "Portobello House" in memory of the victory. This was the beginning of our Portobello.

All this I had known, but I got some further information. The original Puerto Bello had been guarded by three castles, and the tower on the Portobello coat of arms was meant to be a representation of these. The ships and cannon symbolised the fighting when the port was captured. In the attack on the town, Admiral Vernon had had the assistance of Commodore Charles Brown in the drawing up and execution of the battle plans, and it was apparently the "help and advice" of the Commodore which was commemorated in the motto. So it seems, therefore, School Badge and Motto recall events which happened in America more than two hundred years ago.

Concerning the legal associations of *Ope et Concilio* I could come to no definite conclusion. Perhaps the person who origin-

ally designed the coat-of-arms for the burgh of Portobello had once seen the phrase, and used it as a motto without remembering its origin. Or maybe the designer knew full well how the words might be translated, and used them purposely as a means of subtly condemning the British attack on Spain as an imperialistic "crime." A final possibility is that someone with a sardonic sense of humour considered it amusing to choose the phrase, with its criminal associations, as the motto for a respectable Scottish burgh!

R. M. A.

## PORTOBELLO SCHOOL

### MEMBERS OF STAFF—MAY 1958

#### *Headmaster:*

Mr. A. J. HOUSTON, M.A.

#### *Deputy Headmasters:*

Primary—Mr T. W. BELL, M.A.

Secondary—Mr R. C. BROWN, M.A.

#### *Lady Adviser:*

Miss E. D. DARLING, M.A.

#### **Primary School Staff**

Miss J. S. DARLING, Miss M. DOW, Miss C. B. HENDRY, Miss A. B. LOWES,  
Miss A. F. M. NEILSON, Mrs A. M. CAMPBELL, Mrs H. C. GRAY, Mrs.  
J. M. MILLER.

#### **Secondary School Staff**

<i>Art Dept.</i>	Mr R. M. MacARTHUR, D.A., Principal Teacher. Miss M. M. ARNEIL, D.A., Mr W. J. L. BAILLIE, D.A., Mr R. J. McROBBIE, D.A.
<i>Classical Languages Dept.</i>	Mr J. D. CHRISTIE, M.A., B.A., Principal Teacher. Miss M. S. HALLEY, M.A. (also Modern Languages Dept.).
<i>Commercial Dept. Domestic Science Dept.</i>	Mrs E. JAMIESON, B.Com. Miss I. LINKIE, Dip.Dom.Sc., Principal Teacher. Mrs J. O. ANDREWS, Dip.Dom.Sc. Mrs C. M. MacKELVIE, Dip.Dom.Sc. Miss J. S. PATTERSON, Dip.Dom.Sc.
<i>English and History Dept.</i>	Mr N. CHALMERS, M.A., Principal Teacher. Miss M. BROWN, M.A., Principal Assistant English. Mr R. M. ANDERSON, M.A., Principal Assistant, History. Miss C. M. MACDONALD, M.A., Miss R. M. PEAKE, M.A., Mr R. P. BROWN, M.A., Mr M. PELMAN, M.A., Rev. R. A. TROTTER, M.A. (also Maths Dept.).
<i>Geography Dept.</i>	Mr J. J. Baggaley, B.Sc., Principal Teacher. Miss W. J. RICHARDSON, M.A.
<i>Mathematics Dept.</i>	Mr R. C. BROWN, M.A., Principal Teacher. Miss A. M. PENDREIGH, M.A., Principal Assistant. Miss J. SIMM, M.A., Mrs A. T. OGG, M.A., Mr H. R. Weaver, M.A., B.Ed.

<i>Modern Languages Dept.</i>	Mr J. M. DRUMMOND, M.A., B.A., Principal Teacher. Miss J. M. S. CRAWFORD, M.A., Miss A. A. THOMSON, M.A.
<i>Music Dept.</i>	Miss M. M. W. DUNCAN, Mus.Bac., Miss A. I. PARNELL' Mus.Bac., L.R.A.M., F.T.S.C.
<i>Nautical Dept.</i>	Captain T. JOHNSTON.
<i>Physical Training Dept.</i>	Mr A. D. CONNOR, D.P.E., Principal Teacher. Miss C. MARSHALL, D.P.E., Miss M. SCOBIE, D.P.E. Mr C. H. S. McLENNAN, D.P.E.
<i>Science Dept.</i>	Mr J. DAKERS, B.Sc., Principal Teacher. Mr A. Y. GRANT, B.Sc., Principal Assistant. Miss B. M. YOUNG, B.Sc., Mrs E. COWIE, B.Sc., Mr W. P. SCOTT, B.Sc.
<i>Technical Dept.</i>	Mr J. DOUGLAS, Dip.Ed.H., Principal Teacher. Mr W. J. BURTON, Dip.Ed.H., Mr J. J. WISELY, Dip.Ed.H.
<i>Preparatory Classes</i>	Mrs M. A. FOX, B.A. Rev. J. D. R. FAIRLIE, M.A., B.D.
<i>School Secretary</i>	Miss R. A. Y. DUNCAN.
<i>Janitor</i>	Mr H. M. ALEXANDER.
<i>Assistant Janitor</i>	Mr F. THURLOW.

## HEADMASTERS OF PORTOBELLO PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Mr HENRY DOW (1876-1881).

Mr Dow came from Musselburgh Grammar School to be headmaster of Portobello School when it was opened in 1876. He resigned for reasons which we do not know in 1881.

Mr JOHN STEVENSON (1881-1905).

Mr Stevenson came from Glasgow and under his leadership the School flourished. He became a well-known character in Portobello where he was nick-named "Cockie Stevie." In appearance Mr Stevenson was below average height and had a dark beard. He was usually dressed in a tail coat, the normal dress of professional men in those days, and carried a tawse in his tail pocket. When he was in school we are told that he wore a smoking cap. Mr Stevenson seems to have been a man of great energy. He did a considerable amount of teaching himself, and was continually active conducting tests, inspecting the oral and written work of all classes, and encouraging and reprimanding pupils. He retired owing to ill-health in 1905 and died a few months later.

Mr WILLIAM MACKAY (1905-1921).

Mr Mackay came from St. Bernard's School. He remained headmaster until his retiral in 1921 and thus had the task of piloting the School through the difficult years of the First World

War. Mr Mackay lived to a ripe old age and, long after his retiral, visited the School in 1932 and 1937 to renew acquaintance with members of his former staff.

Dr ALEXANDER PEARSON (1921-1929).

Dr Pearson had been a Science teacher in the School since 1907. He continued as headmaster until 1929, when he was appointed to the headship of Broughton Secondary School. Dr Pearson is now living in retirement in Bournemouth.

Mr JOHN MITCHELL (1929-1932).

Mr Mitchell was a native of Aberdeenshire, who had taught Classics at Boroughmuir and been headmaster of Sciences and Tollcross Schools. Unfortunately he had a short term of office. He was in bad health during his stay at Portobello and died suddenly in May 1932.

Dr JOHN HAMILTON BIRRELL (1932-1943).

Dr Birrell came to Portobello from Flora Stevenson's School where he had been headmaster. He was a keen geographer and lectured in Geography at the Heriot-Watt College. He was a very kindly man who was popular with the staff and pupils alike. Various innovations such as the House System and the morning religious services were made during his headmastership. Dr Birrell retired at the end of 1943 and died in 1953.

Mr JAMES HOSSACK (1944-1950).

Mr Hossack had previously been Principal Teacher of Geography at the Royal High School. He had a comparatively short stay at Portobello, but is remembered as a very genial headmaster who had an extraordinary capacity for remembering the names of the pupils. In 1950, Mr Hossack left Portobello School to take up the position of Director of Extra-Mural Studies at Edinburgh University, a post which he still holds.

Mr ALEXANDER HOUSTON (1950- ).

Mr Houston came to Portobello from Niddrie Marischal Secondary School where he had been Principal Teacher of English. It was his sad duty to arrange for the departure of the Primary Department, which had been housed in this building since 1876, to new premises at Duddingston Primary School. Soon the connection between these pupils and Portobello School will be at an end, and therefore Mr Houston is the last headmaster of Portobello Primary School.

## MEMORIES OF PORTOBELLO

*“ O ! call back yesterday, bid time return ”*

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Reflections of a Former Pupil on Portobello Burgh  
School 1892-1899

LOOK with me at the present School building facing Duddingston Park. Picture that building without its upper flat and you have the original pleasing frontage of Portobello Burgh School. Many of the trees on the lawns fronting the School were originally planted to commemorate outstanding events of the time under the then headmaster, John Stevenson, a rather diminutive bearded figure always seen when on duty in morning coat and velvet smoking cap. Unfortunately, the commemorative tags, originally attached, no longer exist. At the rear of the building were the spacious playgrounds bordered by trees which provided the Headmaster with the means of stimulating an interest in Nature Study. He regularly conducted the senior classes round the playgrounds—outings thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils.

At the southern end of the building was the large galleried infant room with its offshoot for senior infants, where in the capable hands of her staff of Pupil Teachers the seeds were sown. Outstanding in my memory of that time were the preparations for the “Maypole,” that eye-catching piece designed to please the parents on its presentation at the prize-giving ceremony. Little did they know of the work entailed and the frayed tempers before the streamers of coloured paper roses were entwined neatly round the lower portion of the pole by the babies, and the plaiting of the coloured ribbons round the upper portion carried out by those a little bigger. For that display, the little ones all arrived dressed in their summer frocks and carrying their bouquets of flowers.

The senior classes, Standards I-VI, were accommodated in classrooms around the central hall. Throughout the School there was little variation in the forenoon time-table, the first hour being devoted to Religious Instruction. The Arithmetic lesson, lasting till 11 o'clock, followed. After the interval, Reading, Intelligence and Spelling claimed our attention till 12.30 p.m. The remaining subjects were relegated to the afternoon session, 1.30 till 4 p.m.

Standard I brings back memories of a young enthusiastic teacher, and multiplication tables learned by full-throated

declamation of the class in unison. The quiet efficiency of the teacher in charge of Standard II made things go smoothly and well. A tall, imposing figure held sway in Standard III. It was with some trepidation that we passed to Standard IV, encountering there our first male member of staff. However, for those willing to work all was well; in Standard V work was again the order of the day, a large proportion of our time being devoted to intensive grammar and composition. The absence of many of the "frills" of modern education meant more concentration on the three R's, with the result that having passed Standard V, one was deemed to have attained the standard required for leaving school. Without having made the grade in any class there was no passing to the next standard and the ineradicable stigma of being "kept back" had to be endured. On the other hand promising pupils were sometimes permitted to jump a standard. Those who stayed on after Standard V aimed at getting a Merit Certificate—much coveted in those days. Again in Standard VI came male supervision. The teacher there, while strict, had a kindly approach to the pupils and to him we owe our first introduction to Science when we were instructed in the properties of the magnet and interested in electricity.

For the closing concert and prize-giving, the glass doors and partitions of the hall were opened up to accommodate the pupils and as many of the parents as were interested. For this, Standard I invariably staged its "Little Tablemaids are we" actually setting a dinner table, suiting the actions to the words of the song—the maids in summer attire and each topped by the fashionable maid's cap of the period.

The janitor was called on for more than ordinary janitor's duties. As an ex-soldier he was well qualified to take over our drill which consisted of marching, turning and wheeling in military style in the boys' playground. He was also attendance officer, looking up the absentees, particularly those suspected of truanting—rife even in those days.

Most people to-day look upon school meals as a war-time innovation, but at the time I am writing of, a bowl of soup, lentil or potato, could be purchased for a halfpenny from the janitor's wife, by those unable to get home for dinner.

The inspectors paid their visits early in the year but the pupils' interest therein centred round the holiday granted on the receipt of a favourable report. Under Mr Stevenson this came with unfailing regularity and was looked forward to by pupils and staff alike.

For those who cared to profit by them, the foundations of further education were well and truly laid.

—J. S. B.

## MEMORIES OF THE YEARS, 1912-1918

Recalled by Mr H. D. G. Paton

I WAS born on 13th November 1904 in a Hill Station at the foot of the Himalayas. In the year 1912 my parents deposited me in lodgings in Portobello and returned to India. Prior to leaving, however, my mother had an interview with Mr Mackay, the Headmaster and a few days later, at the age of 7, I appeared before Miss Milne, the Headmistress of the Infant Department—I thus started my first day of school. How many boys I wonder, ever look back to this memorable day. Some don't remember so far back, others have no wish to do so, but to me it was a remarkable day, one which stands out in my memory and one which I don't think I shall ever forget. I have a most vivid picture in my mind of that first day and some of the things which happened. For example, I recollect quite clearly another new boy arrived in the classroom at the same time as I did accompanied by his mother and what struck me as very singular was that he did not seem nearly so perturbed and anxious as I did. His name was Eoin Mekie, to-day Chairman of the Silver City Airways and holder of many other Directorships. We went through School together and have kept up our friendship.

I also recollect quite clearly my mother asking me before she left if I was "all right" and I remember, quite distinctly, saying "*How do I get out of here?*"

Another memory I have clearly in my mind is the coloured glass vases arranged on the window-sill showing the growth of the spring bulbs.

I was placed in charge of Miss Kerr and I remained in her class for many years. To this lady and many other teachers, I owe a debt of gratitude for their kindness, understanding and patience, to a strange boy who knew so little of Scotland and its people.

I have often thought back over the years and wondered why my first years at School (including my first day) should stand out so clearly in my memory and I attribute the reason to the great "change," or shall I say "contrast," between my strange life in the jungles of India and coming to join with other European children, having made a deep and lasting impression on my mind. (Actually my only playmates in India were native boys who could not speak English so I had to speak Hindustani, and furthermore I had seen neither a train nor a ship until we started on our journey to Britain.)

My progress through the years from the Infant Department to Primary and thence to the Senior School was normal, though slow, marked by many events of interest and often causing great anxiety to my teachers to say nothing of my parents.

As a small boy there were two people of whom I was distinctly scared—the first was Mr McFarlane (known affectionately as “Mosumbeak”) and the other was Mr McReary the School Janitor. As the years progressed this fear diminished and ultimately Mr McFarlane and I sat together on the same Scout Council, the best of friends.

Some two or three years after starting School the First World War broke out and with it came the restrictions, hardships, etc., which are imposed upon a country at war. Of the war years at School I have very dim memories. The only thing I do remember very distinctly was the change of School hours caused by the requisitioning of Tower Bank School to billet our troops. We would go to School in the morning from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m., I think it was for six weeks at a time, while the Tower Bank pupils followed on for the afternoon from 2 p.m. till 6 p.m. At the end of the six weeks period the position was reversed and we would go in the afternoon. Needless to say the morning session was the more popular as it gave us a wonderful free afternoon.

After the war was over we faced the hated Qualifying Examinations, to-day known as the “11 Plus.” I dreaded this as many of my fellow pupils did and I am equally certain that my teachers did so also, especially Miss Mathieson who had us for this particular year. However, my fears were groundless because as luck would have it there was a very severe outbreak of 'flu and the School was closed and consequently we missed our qualifying examination! Through the generosity of my teachers and the marks given during the term I found myself in Class 1A in the Senior School and I had now entered upon the last lap of my school days.

My three years' residence in the Senior School (we only went up to the Lower Leaving stage at this time) was anything but spectacular but full of incidents and happy memories. How well I remember my good friend, Dr Pearson, who ultimately became Headmaster, saying to us, “Boys you must never rattle money in your pockets.” This statement was always accompanied by the chinking of money in his pocket and I do not recollect him doing otherwise through the years I knew him!

I had one unfortunate interview with Dr Pearson and it all took place as follows. Our English teacher at this time, Miss Mackenzie, affectionately known as “Wee Mac” was extremely clever, kind and patient, but being short of stature she was fair game for all our pranks. My fellow classmates had decided that at this particular English lesson a “stink bomb” should be let off towards the close of the period. These “bombs,” incidentally, were bought at a local shop in the form of a small glass capsule and known as *Stinken Bomben*, of German origin I think. We

drew lots as to who should do the deed and it was agreed that the culprit was not to own up and the whole class agreed to stand by this. The lot unfortunately fell upon me and at the right time the "bomb" was duly dropped, quite silently, under the desk in front of my own. In a few moments chaos reigned—Wee Mac stormed, the class duly showed signs of surprise and the order was given to open all windows and doors! At that point misfortune overtook us. As the door opened to admit fresh air the Head English Master, Mr Mitchell, who happened to be passing, was also admitted. The whole situation changed when Mr Mitchell took over and asked the boy who was responsible to own up (he evidently did not think a girl could do such a thing). I sat still in accordance with the pact that had been made. "The whole class will be punished unless the person owns up," said Mr Mitchell, and so very reluctantly I stood up. Had Miss Mackenzie sent me to Dr Pearson for punishment and left it at that the whole matter would have ended, because all one did on these occasions was to disappear for ten minutes and return, gently blowing one's hands to show that punishment had been duly administered, whereas we had been nowhere near the master to whom we had been sent! Unfortunately, for me she decided to take me and hand me over personally to Dr Pearson. This was carried out and I was duly strapped (three on each hand, if I remember correctly!).

It was during my time at School that Prefects were first elected and my classmates and myself had the honour of being the first Prefects to be chosen and what a feeling of importance it gave to us (with the exception of the occasion above described). There were eight of us, how well I can see them in the School photograph, Rose Dand, Agnes Carmichael, Janet Hamilton, Gladys Sinton, sitting on one side of the Headmaster, whilst Alastair Forrester, William Lazzeroni, Leslie Skipworth and myself, sat on the other side.

My French was appalling despite the fact that my eldest sister had been educated in Paris. I had the privilege of being taught by Miss Meister, a wonderful teacher, who managed to get me through my "Lowers" with an average mark throughout the years of just over 20%, a notable achievement! I had the pleasure of having a cup of coffee with Miss Meister only this last year.

My French may have been bad but my mathematics were worse. My master at that time was Mr Makepeace and he struck terror into most of us. I remember my mother, on her second visit to this country, asking for his co-operation which I regret to say was gladly given and not long afterwards, much to my amazement, I got ten sums correct out of ten and Mr Makepeace was about to punish me as he got such a shock and suspected that I had been "cribbing!"

It is quite impossible, with the limited space at my disposal, to relate all one's School experiences so I have merely touched on a few of them. In drawing my thoughts to a close I cannot but look back over the last forty-six years with the greatest pleasure and happy memories of my school-days and my teachers. There has always been a kind of "atmosphere" about Portobello School, its teachers, its environment and its pupils, which is so difficult to explain in words. Perhaps it was partly because the School was "out of Edinburgh" or, the only school so beautifully situated with a garden running the whole length of one side, but whatever the reason, there has always been this warm feeling of friendship which has come down the years and still exists to-day among the teachers and the former pupils.—H. D. G. P.

### MEMORIES OF PORTOBELLO SECONDARY SCHOOL 1922-1929

I AM indeed happy to recall the days I spent in the Primary Department in Portobello School, because they were such happy days.

The School was known as Portobello Higher Grade School when I first joined and it was a proud day for us all when it became a Secondary School. This gave the opportunity of changing our School badge and colours from blue and yellow to the much more attractive colours now worn of red, blue, green and yellow, and memories flood back to me when I see how smartly and proudly the present day pupils wear those colours.

There have been many changes during all these years. In my day the corridor and classrooms linking the Primary and Secondary Departments were built, and the large Hall and new classrooms above were also built while I was a pupil there.

So far as I know all the Teachers have gone. Miss Bannerman was my infant mistress, then Miss Kerr taught me and thanks to their splendid teaching and that of Miss Saunders, I passed my qualifying examination without difficulty.

Headmasters too have come and gone. Dr Pearson, who did so much for the School and for the pupils, followed by Mr Mitchell and then by Dr J. Hamilton Birrell, who were also so interested in the advancement of our heritage, were the Headmasters responsible for my education, and along with countless other scholars we owe to all our teachers and Headmasters, just as to-day's scholars do to their present teachers and Headmaster, a very real debt of gratitude for the learning imparted by them and the example set.

Portobello School has a long and proud tradition, and its former pupils have gone far afield throughout the world, carrying with them grateful and happy memories of the days spent there.

One regrets the passing of the Primary Department which was founded so long ago, but modern conditions must be met in modern fashions and the changing trends of education call for an extended use of the present buildings. We, who love our old School so much, look forward to the establishment of even higher traditions of learning and character in the days ahead, and the good wishes of all former pupils will go out to those who will benefit in the future, and keep the School motto "*Ope et Consilio*" as true in the future as it has been in the past.

Councillor ALEXANDER BRYCE.

### THE YEARS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1940-1947

Recalled by Mr Ronald F. King

FROM 1940 to 1947, I was a pupil at Portobello Primary School. Despite the comparatively brief lapse of time since these eventful years, I have found it extremely difficult to marshal coherently the jumbled succession of images which the memory has recalled. Surprisingly enough, some of the earliest memories remain most distinct. Few of us, whilst learning the alphabet or moulding plasticine under the guidance of Miss Bannerman or Miss Darling, realised that there was a war on. True, some of our pals had been evacuated and there was shelter drill, but this was a game eagerly to be anticipated as a break from lessons; better still was the anticipation of the occasional allocation of sweets to the "refugees." The shelters, which stood in the Boys' playground where Huts 2 and 3 are now, were themselves wonderful additions to the playground facilities. Authority, however, in the person of Mr Cochrane, the Janitor, did not share our enthusiasm, and this unfortunate difference of opinion led to our appearance, on at least one occasion before Dr Birrell, then a greatly feared headmaster.

I can remember too, quite clearly, the prize-givings and concerts which were held at this time on the rather gaudily curtained stage of the School gym, and in particular I have a vivid recollection of a curiously assorted bunch of policemen whose bizarre appearance caused great amusement amongst a Primary audience in Miss Ducat's production of the "*Pirates of Penzance*."

We seemed to change teachers with remarkable rapidity in those days, and in no time at all we had been passed through the competent hands of Miss Archer, Miss Cowie, Miss Jamieson and Miss Grigor. For the last two years of Primary School we were in the capable hands of Miss Wilson. The greater part of this time was spent at the annexe in Bath Street, though we were for a while in Room 30, yet we were never allowed to feel divorced from the School or School affairs. Each week we had a visit from Mr Hossack, our new and very popular headmaster, who was

liable to spring practically any question at us . . . Most liked of all were his travel talks which never failed to interest.

Miss Wilson was a teacher of exceptional skill and understanding, though even her consummate patience had limits, as we found to our cost when we staged a token strike in protest against excessive Arithmetic. We had unfortunately no unions in those days!

Besides ~~with~~ providing us with a foundation of learning second to no school in Edinburgh, our teachers also succeeded in instilling within us a pride in our School and in all matters pertaining to Portobello. Thus when the time came for our inevitable transfer to a secondary course, the mere thought of leaving Portobello came as a great shock to most of us. Happily I was allowed to stay on and I have no regrets.

One is bound to be a little sentimental when recalling one's school-days, teachers and friends and I hope you will excuse me for extolling the virtues which I feel belong to these times and these people.

The old School had traditions and a character of its very own and although I regret its passing I feel sure that its successor will maintain these traditions and in time re-establish some of its character.

## THE CLOSING YEARS

1951-1958

Recalled by Peter McLellan, Primary 7a

WHEN my first day of School came round I tried to hide but my mother found me. One day, soon after I had started School, I joined the wrong queue and had dinner in School instead of at home. The people who were serving the dinners discovered that I did not have a ticket, so I was sent home eating a roll, and with some tomato soup round my mouth.

At the Christmas Party for the Infants that year there was a large Christmas tree in one corner and on it there were some decorations composed of milk bottle tops suspended on a piece of string. Later a man came in dressed up as Santa Claus and gave us all a present. I received a motor car which I still have. When we were about to go home my teacher gave me one of the milk top decorations.

The next teacher once took the class up to the top of the golf course and let us fly a kite which the boys had made. The first time my class was allowed to enter the sports I came in fourth.

In the sack race that year one boy bumped into another and they both got entangled with each other.

That year I was in the Primary School choir in the concert. Later that year the oldest pupils in our class went up into the next one. The next year I received my first certificate and in the sports I again came in fourth. That year a heavy downpour of rain

forced everybody to take shelter beside the pavilion. Just as the results were being announced lightning flashed across the sky. By the time I reached home the storm had passed.

This year our class went to the Church Service in St. James's Church. Next, March came and we had to go down one class. As our teacher was absent we had to have another one for a while. That year I was a competitor in the Inter-Scholastic sports and at the prize-giving I got second prize.

The next year I was one of the batsmen in the Cricket item in the concert. I also got a certificate. In the service last year a girl in the choir fainted.

Our class was at the Qualifying class dance last December along with another class. In one game you had to eat as much chocolate as you could, every time you threw a six with a dice. We also had eight or nine dances which we had rehearsed.

A few weeks ago our class, with the other classes below us, came up to the new School. This is our last term in the Primary School before we go on to the Secondary School. I feel sorry to have to leave the Primary School of which I have so many pleasant memories.

### HAIL AND FAREWELL

THE ARABS have a fable telling of the sad fate of a poor man whose kindness to his camel ended in the beast having the hut—sole shelter of the dispossessed master. Is not this a kind of parable of what has happened in our old School. When I joined the Infant Staff in the dark days of early 1918—pupils came from all over Portobello—as far east as Joppa Salt Pans. Under the firm guidance of Miss Milne, seven classes of around sixty pupils formed the Infant Department.

The pupils of that era will remember the large, high-roofed rooms, steeply galleried so that the teacher could keep an eye on her numerous brood—windows large but set high enough to discourage any idea of looking out when there was work to do. Open fires were still used in some rooms—while others had pipes which emitted strange clanking noises when in use.

When the war ended, Towerbank pupils and staff returned to their own school. We had shared our building with them and worked harmoniously but were all glad to return to normal. All sorts of activities were resumed and some new ones embarked upon. The top classes—responsible seven-year-olds—did local geography, being taken as far afield as Duddingston Loch—the farms of Southfield and Brunstane and the water-wheel at Duddingston Mill. I well remember going with Miss Murdoch on a glorious September day to watch the reapers in a field while our children stood round and sang “ Fair waved the golden corn ” to the whirring of the reaping machine.

Another pleasurable activity was Eurhythmics which uses movements of the body to express the rhythm and mood of music. A staff which included, as ours did, some gifted musicians, made full use of this side of music. Perhaps some people will remember a concert at which some little children in the scantiest of black tunics, legs and arms bare, made lovely patterns as they moved to the music.

Concerts were always the big events of the summer terms as the Christmas Parties were of the autumn ones. The Infants always were called on for concert items and could be relied upon to provide unrehearsed effects to the joy of the audience.

These happy days of quiet work and play were abruptly interrupted in September 1939. Evacuation took away few pupils from the Infants and though we were not allowed to go to school, through the kind help and hospitality of many parents we carried on some education, going from house to house in rotation. The liveliest memory of that period is of the afternoon of 16th October when the German bombers had visited the Forth and one was chased right over the house in Portobello where my group was packing up to go home. We had heard the rattle of gun-fire and saw the chase—not realising it was no sham fight. The great crooked cross under the plane showed for a second as the Heinkel and its pursuer roared over the roof-tops and we all went home safely. In March we were allowed to go back to School and for once it seemed a welcome occasion. Work went on quietly apart from the times when the siren sent us to our shelter, or there was a gas-mask drill. The picture prevented by a class of five-year-olds—their little faces hidden behind those hideous snouted masks is one of the most dreadful of memories. How happy was the day when we were free of that particular few.

Now the wholeness of Portobello is lost, the lower school has moved to the new place and while we wish success to the new Portobello, we cherish the memory of what has gone.—J. M. B.

### THE END OF THE "AULD ALLIANCE"

FROM my present point of vantage—the new School, so modern, so gleaming, so much the result of scientific planning, unwittingly seasoned perhaps with a modicum of muddled thinking—I am trying to look down the years to my first contact with Portobello Primary—not at all gleaming, its architecture the result of haphazard alterations, a clapping of patches on an old garment—in a word I am looking back from "White House to Log Cabin."

Portobello School, when I first knew it, was a pleasing combination of Primary and Secondary Departments, a homogeneous whole with the Primary predominating both in numbers and in space. Official records state that in September 1930 there were 765 infants and primary pupils and only 328 secondary. And

what a staff! It was before the days of multiple office and we were roughly divided into Headmaster and "others" and such has been the good fortune of Portobello that we have never had a headmaster who could not make himself one of the "others" at will. I soon discovered that the School had an atmosphere, not only felt by those in it, but remembered by those who had left it. It was common knowledge that the student-teachers who were drafted to "P.H.G." for their teaching practice considered themselves "in luck." That grand atmosphere was conditioned by genial and intelligent men and women who were always willing to help the stranger and each other. Joining such a staff was to me a happy experience and an encouraging one.

But since nothing is static and there must always be governing bodies to make rules, it was decreed that the intake of pupils in our Primary Department must be limited to children dwelling in certain areas. That meant an exodus to Towerbank and other neighbouring schools and marked our first decrease in numbers. Later changes took place in the Secondary. There was considerable expansion of the Technical Department and the commencement of the Commercial and Nautical Classes, so the Secondary grew and grew until the tail swallowed the dog—to the point of satiety, it appears, for it has now emitted us.

This is an exercise in reminiscences, but alas my memory will not behave sedately. I know that during my many years in this School important things and imposing people must have impinged on the Primary's history, but I just cannot recall them. Truly, "the big things pass and the little things remain," so that I am quite incapable of a detailed chronological account of the Primary Department.

In sport, however, I can still trace the early development of hockey—first of all played in the park and then in our own playing field, for it gave me much pleasure to coach the girls for several years before Miss Boath joined the staff. I pay tribute to those grand girls who between dawn and 8.30 a.m. kept themselves fit by sprinting on the beach and so brought to the School the honour of winning at Meggetland, "The Junior Sevens" and the seniors of reaching the "final"—both achievements at the same tournament.

Again, when School camps became a fashionable feature, with youthful audacity, but without a clue, I agreed at Dr Pearson's request to run our first girls' camp. As I was ably supported by Miss Bannerman, this venture proved quite a success. Our first camp was at Cardronna, and though I am sure we had many enjoyable and interesting experiences, I only remember clearly the night when a violent thunderstorm raged for hours, killing two sheep in the field where we were camping and flooding the lower ground to which our stance sloped. Next night panic

began to show in tears and an unwillingness to go to bed and realising that something must be done and done quickly, I was inspired to order the girls to lie down in their sleeping bags, "for lightning never strikes a recumbent figure." One bright sceptic asked why the sheep had been killed. "Because they were standing up," I crushingly retorted. They, the girls I mean, lay down, more or less peacefully, a thing I have never ceased to marvel at.

Talking of camping, I must put on record one tremendous effort to raise money for a marquee. Miss Balfour, our able cookery teacher, led the way in a great sweet-making campaign, and soon tablet of all colours and flavours poured from the School on a non-stop production belt. It was sold at the intervals, in the homes, at the School concerts, indeed everywhere and anywhere. Occasionally, I wonder just how many of to-day's young Portobello matrons, lamenting those "extra pounds," owe them to our stupendous but successful efforts—for we bought that marquee.

But these are pre-war memories. With the outbreak of war, the evacuation took place and again our School had a good shake-up. Parents could attach themselves and their families to any school in their area and several mothers, not connected with our School, who, under the delusion that Portobello Primary was not going far away, came with us. The Moray coast was our secret destination and I shall never forget their consternation or their faces when first the Forth and then the Tay Bridges were crossed and the train still forged ahead. Beyond Aberdeen we went. The first party, under Mr Johnston, our first-assistant, was left at Deskford; the next at Cullen with myself in charge—loyally supported by both Primary and Secondary teachers and the final group under Mr A. E. Kennedy went on to Buckie. A gold medal should have been given to the Cullen proprietrix, who at 8 p.m. converted the top flat of her hotel into a pleasant dormitory for the "unwanted." Then came the group-teaching—then back to School and the shelters with the jealously guarded jars of sweets and finally the settling down in the old School. But it had had a shake-up—indeed it never settled down to what it had been, for those new movements leading to the present position, were early afoot.

Here we are housed in our New School, but for some of us something very valuable has gone. Those primary pupils who just naturally went on to their own Secondary Department, without leaving home as it were, will have perhaps more hygiene but less tradition to mould them. For myself I shall miss the old School in its lilac garden setting and shall be a little nostalgic for the days when Portobello School was big enough to house us all, as a family.

A. F. M. N.

## STAFF NOTES

LEAVE-TAKINGS are, at the best, melancholy affairs, but seldom can a chronicler of these notes have been faced, in the course of one session, with a valediction to nine members of staff.

At the end of last session Mr Sutherland, Principal Teacher of Science, retired. Like the two ladies whose retirals we noted in our last edition, Mr Sutherland served the School over a long period of years. An appreciation of his work appears later in these notes. *The Tower* extends its best wishes to him and hopes that he will enjoy to the full, the years of his retirement.

To Miss Grigor who also left at the end of last session we send our greetings. Miss Grigor left the Primary Department to take up an appointment nearer her own home in Ross-shire.

On the 23rd of February 1958, the staff of the Secondary School entertained the staff of the Primary School, to mark the occasion of the impending departure of the Primary School to its new building in Duddingston Road. Gift tokens were presented to the Primary School staff by Mr Houston who conveyed to them the best wishes of their Secondary School colleagues. Mr Bell, Deputy Headmaster of the Primary School, replied. A few weeks ago, members of the Secondary School were invited to tea in the New School and were given the opportunity of inspecting the new premises.

Continuing our chronicle, we offer our congratulations to Miss Thomson, now Mrs McKelvie, on the occasion of her marriage. We welcome to the staff, Miss Campbell and Miss Lowes, Primary Department; and in the Secondary Department, Mr Dakers, Principal Teacher of Science, The Rev. Mr Trotter, English and Maths., Miss Stobbie, Physical Training Department, and Mrs Fox and Mr Fairlie, who are taking the Preparatory classes.

In the winter term, members of staff were distressed by the news that Miss Thomson, Modern Languages Department, had been involved in an accident and had suffered injuries serious enough to keep her off School for some time. Her return to duty at the beginning of the spring term pleased us all, and we hope that she is now completely free from any ill effects of her injuries.

The news, also, of the sudden and serious illness of Mr R. P. Brown, English Department, came as a great shock to us. That he has made a steady and satisfactory recovery is highly gratifying, and we are glad that he is back with us once more.

There have been many absences of staff this session, especially in the winter term when the influenza epidemic was at its height. But the causes of illness and indisposition have been many; the robust and rumbustious manner in which the staff disports itself

on the Badminton courts, accounted for at least two casualties, one of which was serious enough to compel the Principal Teacher of Languages to walk about "*avec des bequilles.*"

The presence in School as student teachers of two former pupils Mr Balfour and Mr King gave a great deal of pleasure to their former preceptors.

### Mr T. H. SUTHERLAND

IT was with some regret that we learned of Mr Sutherland's decision to retire at the end of last session, a step which he had been contemplating for some time. It is not often that we find a member of the profession who has spent all his teaching life in one school but such was the case of Mr Sutherland. When he brushed off the chalk dust and closed the door of Room 20 for the last time, and walked off down the corridor with his familiar athletic stride, these grey stone walls must have been shaken to their very foundations.

For thirty-six years Mr Sutherland taught at Portobello, joining the staff in 1921. A former pupil of Boroughmuir, where he was Dux in Science, he studied at Edinburgh and was medallist in Chemistry. His course being interrupted by World War I, he spent some time in industry as an analytical and works chemist, and later gained a commission in the R.A.F. Meteorological Service. On his return to the University he graduated with Advanced Honours in Chemistry in 1921, during which year, as already mentioned, he came to Portobello. In 1928 he became senior Science Master and he was appointed Principal Teacher of Science in 1944, which post he held until his retirement.

Strange as it may seem when dealing with one who spent such a long time in the School, we found it difficult to write about Mr Sutherland. Quiet and retiring by nature, except on one notable occasion, he did not, during our time at least, associate himself with many of the School activities and it was an occasion indeed when the staff-room was honoured (we write sincerely) with his presence. To those of us who were in closer contact with him, we found him to be ever pleasant and helpful, always ready with an encouraging word when the struggle appeared to be in vain. Perhaps he is best remembered for his public speaking, an art of which he was a master (alas! we heard him only once) and one which showed him to possess a keen sense of humour. Many former pupils returned to School to visit him, a sure indication of their respect and esteem.

We are sorry to have lost Mr Sutherland, and we shall miss him. We wish him well, and hope that he will enjoy a long and happy retirement.

**Miss M. GRIGOR**

IT was with regret that Miss Grigor informed us, towards the end of last session, that for family reasons she would not be returning to Portobello in August. It was with even greater regret that we in the staff heard this news. The little ones of the Infant Department and their parents, too, were sorry that she was to leave and showed, in a shower of gifts, their affection for her and their appreciation of her work. Miss Grigor, who joined the staff in August 1943, had been with us long enough to be known to many past and present pupils.

Those of us who had the pleasure of visiting her classroom, never failed to admire the eager response she obtained from her pupils. This, of course, was a result of her pleasant and efficient manner, teaching skill and patient work in the preparation of material. With regard to this last, the uninitiated has very little idea just how much, despite modern manufactured aids, the infant teacher has to do outside the classroom.

Of course, outside the classroom it was not all work. The Staff Badminton Club has lost a very good player, a pleasant companion and a hard-working tea convener. The School, as a whole, is thankful for this opportunity of recording its appreciation of Miss Grigor and we wish her well in her new post in a little country school in the far north.

**IN MEMORIAM****Rev. William Gray, M.A.**

IT was with deep regret that we learned in School of the death on the 28th October 1957 of our chaplain, the Rev. William Gray.

The story of his early life is a splendid example to all young people and it is particularly fitting that so many years of his later life were spent administering to the spiritual needs of a school.

When Mr Gray left school he was employed as a clerk with the North British Railway Company, during which time he attended classes at the Heriot-Watt College with a view to becoming a teacher of commercial subjects. This he accomplished and taught in McAdam's Commercial College, and later, as a visiting master, in Merchiston Castle School. But this was only a prelude to what was to be his life work. After a further period of study at Edinburgh University, he graduated M.A., entered the Congregational Theological Hall, and was ordained in the Church which he served so faithfully, so long, and so well.

During his ministry he was pastor at Carluke, Battlefield, Glasgow and Portobello. This last charge he served for thirty years, and for over twenty of them he was our School chaplain.

Those who knew him during those years could not fail to be impressed by the gentle, courteous, but ardent figure who walked our corridors and entered our classrooms. If perseverance and tenacity characterised his early life, and his record shows that this was so, there is no doubt about the dominating fact of his later years, a serene but ardent faith.

To the last respects paid by the Headmaster, the Deputy Headmaster of the Primary School, the School Captain, and some of the Senior pupils, at the funeral service, we add our tribute to one who has served the School for so long.

To Mrs Gray and family, we offer our sincere sympathy.

### SCHOOL NOTES

LAST YEAR'S issue of the *Tower* managed to cover most of the session's activities, so that only two events fall to be recorded at the beginning of these notes.

The School Concert took place in the Town Hall on Wednesday, 26th June, and the programme included two colourful items from the Primary School, and a medley of choral singing, gymnastic displays, folk dancing and Scottish Country Dancing. The senior pupils presented a one-act play by Eden Philpotts, "Something to Talk About." Our congratulations go to all who were responsible. We do feel, however, that all the items would be even more effective, if it were possible to black-out completely, the auditorium. Much of the colour and spectacle is dissipated by sunlight filtering on to the stage. Perhaps something might be done in future concerts.

Councillor Mrs Matthews and Treasurer Dunbar were present at the Concert and we thank them here for their interest in the affairs of the School.

The Prize-giving Ceremony was held on the last day of term. Councillor Curr presided and prizes were presented by Mrs Curr and Mrs Gray.

The new session opened quietly enough with little indication of the events which were to make it rather a memorable one. The School Captains were invested with their badges of office by the Headmaster at morning service. The Girl Captain is Anna Flucker, VI, and the Boy Captain is Michael Gilgannon, VI. The prefects were also introduced to the School.

The first event to disturb the School was the arrival of the influenza epidemic. This took a heavy toll of staff and pupils and successfully disrupted the work of the School for several weeks.

## SCHOOL PREFECTS, 1957-58



*Back Row*—DOROTHY GRANT, IAN MITCHELL, ELIZABETH DURKIN, RAMSAY WHITE, NORA KEELING.

*Middle Row*—JOHN REID, PAMELA TILLER, TOM CLARK, ELIZABETH MACPHERSON, WILLIAM BLOWS, ANNE RUTHERFORD, ROBERT STIRLING.

*Front Row*—DOUGLAS STEWART, HELEN MCELROY, MICHAEL GILGANNON, THE HEADMASTER, ANNA FLUCKER, ALEXANDER FIELDING, SHELAGH HAY.

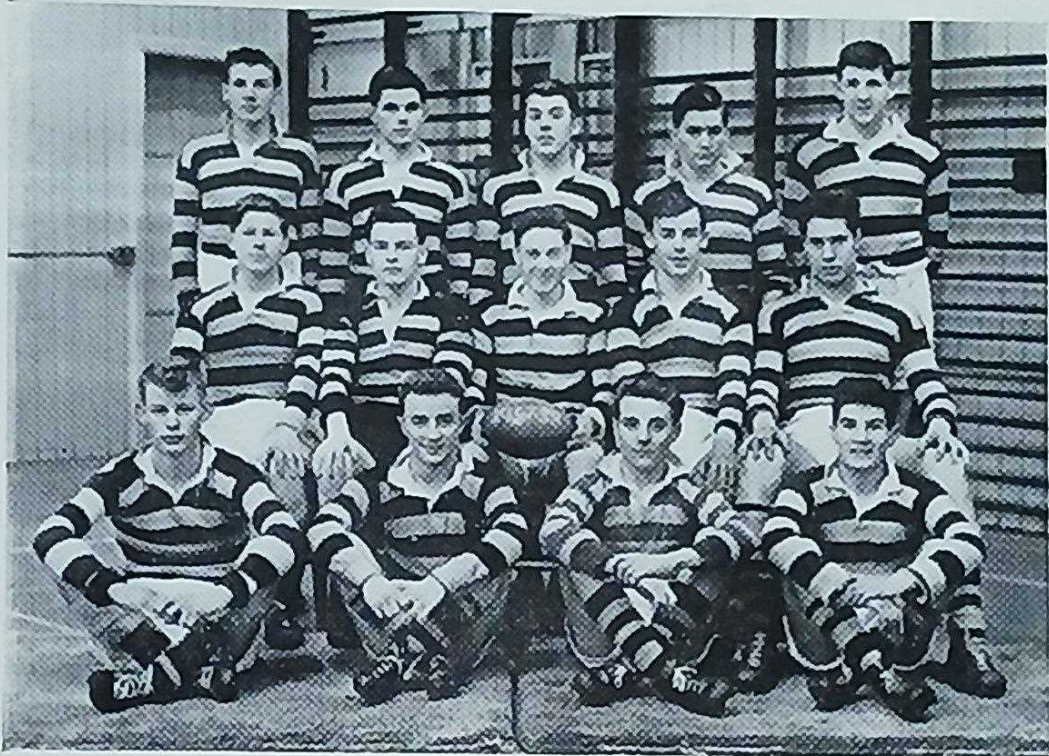
## HOCKEY 1st XI



*Back Row*—C. WILKIE, A. SUTHERLAND, M. GLANCY, I. CARY, S. HAY, J. DUNNET.

*Front Row*—A. LYALL, A. RUTHERFORD, H. MCELROY (*Captain*), A. FLUCKER, J. BALL.

## RUGBY 1st XV

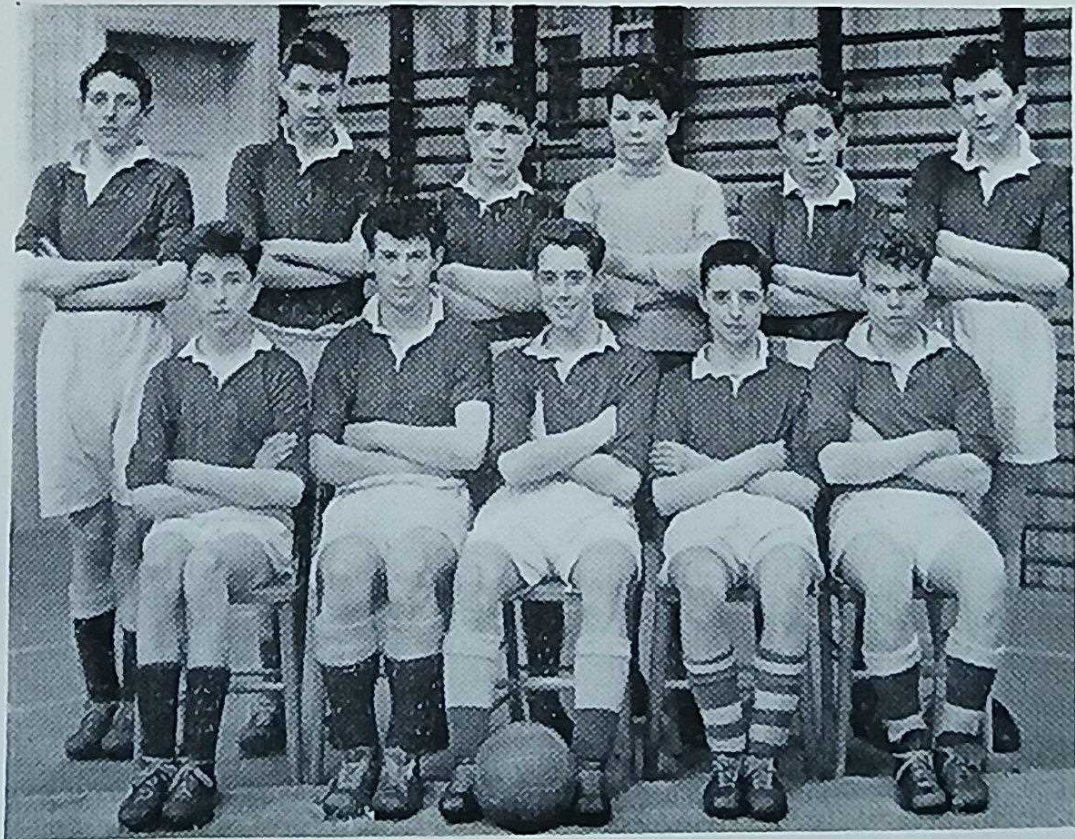


*Back Row*—N. THOMSON, N. WILKIE, A. NICOLSON, R. TEMPLETON, T. CLARK.

*Middle Row*—H. BRYCE, M. GILGANNON, R. STIRLING, J. REID, L. CASSIDY.

*Front Row*—W. REID, I. MITCHELL, S. YOUNG, A. FIELDING.

## FOOTBALL 1st XI



*Back Row*—R. PARRY, W. SAWYERS, F. YORSTON, G. GUNN, A. WARDLAW, K. SCOTT.

*Front Row*—R. LUKE, A. COOK, D. SMITH (*Captain*), J. McNALLY, E. FORTUNE.

During the winter term the School was visited by Mr Rae from India and by Mr and Mrs Liljatern from Sweden. These latter had come to discuss technical education. We also welcomed Mr Noble, a missionary from Hong Kong. Mr Noble, who had been sent by the London Missionary Society, spoke to several of the classes.

Christmas brought its usual delights in the form of the School parties. Four days were needed this year to cater for all the pupils involved. This was not without its compensations for it enabled us to see for a little longer than usual the artistic production of the Art Department. The decorations were well worthy of the adulation which they inspired.

The Primary Department Gift Service was held on the 19th December, and the Secondary School Christmas Service was held in St. James's Church, on 20th December. This service was conducted by the Headmaster and by the Rev. Mr Trotter who had joined the staff at the beginning of the term.

The Spring Term witnessed the annual visit of the X-Ray Unit to the School. Later in the term the pupils of the Secondary School played their part in the City's Mass X-Ray Campaign by distributing leaflets to Portobello householders.

On 13th and 14th January, the first examinations for the Edinburgh Schools Certificate took place in the School.

At the end of the term nearly two hundred pupils entered for the Children's Newspaper Handwriting Competition. Although we were not successful in capturing any of the major prizes, the effort and enthusiasm of our contestants was much to be admired. Congratulations to Broughton Secondary School on attaining 3rd place for the whole of Britain.

The Burns Supper and the Prefects' Dance were two successful and enjoyable events.

The Primary School, in an Athletic Contest, won the Royal High School Cup awarded to Primary Schools with a roll of fewer than 450 pupils.

The departure of the Primary School to its new building was the outstanding event of the term. The Headmaster, the Editorials, and the Staff Notes have already referred to this event. It will be sufficient here, to record the regret of the staff and pupils of the Secondary School at the necessity for the move. We convey to the staff and pupils of the Primary School our best wishes for the future.

Meanwhile the effect on the Secondary School has been very marked. The predatory incursions by the staff on the vacant rooms and abandoned cupboards took us rather by surprise, until we remembered our own weary existence some eight years ago, as a peripatetic teacher. The School at the moment seems a more spacious, but for how long? The Education Committee has

agreed in principle to the building of a new block in the boys' playground. Exciting days certainly seem to lie ahead.

The Higher Leaving Certificate Examinations brought their wonted excitement to staff and senior pupils alike.

The parents of third year pupils visited the School at the end of the term and discussed the prospects of their children with the various teachers concerned.

The summer term has not been without its excitements. First, the acquisition of a Tape Recorder and Speaker must take pride of place. This is an exciting purchase, the effect of which will be felt by most of the departments in the School.

The second excitement was provided by the visit for two days on the 22nd and 23rd May, of a travelling exhibition sponsored by the Scottish Education Department. The illuminated panels illustrating various aspects of Scottish Education to-day were on show in the small gym. Parents were invited to take the opportunity of seeing the pupils at work during these two days, and the response, especially at the evening session on 20th May, was highly gratifying.

During the session several classes paid visits to places of interest. There were visits to Rosyth Dockyard, an Exhibition of Feminine Clothing in the New Gallery, Shandwick Place, 3D3; the Offices of the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*, 3D2; a coal mine, 5th and 6th; and the General Post Office, 2D2.

Finally we congratulate:—

James Fowler, 3D1, on gaining a scholarship to Gordonstoun: Patricia Morgan, IVA for taking, yet again, first place in a literary competition organised by *Time and Tide* and judged by C. A. Lejeune: Pamela Tiller, VA, who became North of Scotland Open Amateur Old Time Champion in August, 1957, gained many prizes in major events during the following months, won a competition in December 1957 and consequently travelled to London to dance in the Grand Finals of Butlin's International Veleta Competition at the Royal Albert Hall in February 1958, represented Scotland in an inter-Regional Contest on B.B.C. Television in January 1958: Michael Gilgannon and William Blows, VI, for being the only two boys from Scotland, indeed, the first pupils from Scotland to be selected for a British Railways Works Course at Derby: our magazine prize-winners—Peter MacLellan, Primary 7A, for his article on "Memories of Portobello Primary School, 1951-1958": Patricia Morgan, IVA, for her various contributions in poetry and prose printed in this issue: Robert Halliday, IA1, for his poem "Lighted Windows."

Many have helped to make this edition of the *Tower* possible. To them we give our thanks and to the pupils of the School we offer our apologies for not being able, in this number, to print the normal number of contributions.

## PRIZE LIST, 1956-1957

Dux of the School	-	-	-	-	MARGARET FLEMING.
Proxime Accessit	-	-	-	-	MORNA MULGRAY.
Fifth Year	-	-	-	-	ROBERT STIRLING.
Fourth Year	-	-	-	-	IAN MITCHELL.
Commercial Course	-	-	-	-	SHEILA BROWN.
					DOROTHY LIVINGSTONE.
Dux of the Third Year	-	-	-	-	DOROTHY MOORE.
Proxime Accessit	-	-	-	-	PATRICIA MORGAN.
Second Year	-	-	-	-	DOROTHY LITTLE.
First Year	-	-	-	-	LINDA CALDWELL.

## CLASS PRIZE WINNERS

3A2	-	-	-	-	-	ERIC HENDERSON.
3B1	-	-	-	-	-	AGNES WILSON.
3B2	-	-	-	-	-	PATRICIA GARDINER.
3D1 (Nautical)	-	-	-	-	-	RAYMOND TROY.
(Technical)	-	-	-	-	-	ALISTAIR ALEXANDER.
						WILLIAM DUNCAN.
3D2	-	-	-	-	-	ALEXANDER AITKEN.
3D3	-	-	-	-	-	WINIFRED GREEN.
2A2	-	-	-	-	-	GEORGE KIRKPATRICK.
						HARVEY ALCORN.
2B1	-	-	-	-	-	JACQUELINE BALL.
2B2	-	-	-	-	-	PETER MacDONALD.
2D1 (Nautical)	-	-	-	-	-	JAMES FOWLER.
(Technical)	-	-	-	-	-	JAMES GUTHRIE.
2D2	-	-	-	-	-	DOROTHY PARK.
1A2	-	-	-	-	-	IRENE HUNTER.
1A3	-	-	-	-	-	MARY SCOTT.
1B1	-	-	-	-	-	ANDREW HALLIDAY.
1B2	-	-	-	-	-	ELMA WARREN.
1D1 (Nautical)	-	-	-	-	-	KENNETH MacKAY.
(Technical)	-	-	-	-	-	STANLEY MacKENZIE.
1D2	-	-	-	-	-	IAN ANDREWS.
1D3	-	-	-	-	-	SHEILA LYNCH.

## SCOTTISH LITERATURE COMPETITION

(Presented by the Portobello Burns Club)

Sixth Year	-	-	-	-	-	MARGARET FLEMING.
1A1	-	-	-	-	-	LINDA CALDWELL.
1A2	-	-	-	-	-	SUSAN SCOTT.
1A3	-	-	-	-	-	BRENDA SMEATON.
1B1	-	-	-	-	-	SYLVIA PARKER.
1B2	-	-	-	-	-	ANNETTE SHARP.
1D1	-	-	-	-	-	GORDON YOUNG.
1D2	-	-	-	-	-	DAVID HENDERSON.
1D3	-	-	-	-	-	ADA VANBECK.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING PRIZES

(Presented by the Portobello Rotary Club)

1st Prize	-	-	-	-	-	JOHN MOIR, VI.
2nd Prize	-	-	-	-	-	MAISIE DUDGEON, VI.
3rd Prize	-	-	-	-	-	JAMES CROW, IV.

**PRIZE FOR SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL****(Presented by the East Edinburgh Branch of the Women Citizens' Association)**

MAISIE DUDGEON

**MAGAZINE PRIZES**

Primary School—PETER MACLELLAN, VIIA.

Junior School—ROBERT HALLIDAY, IA I.

Senior School—PATRICIA MORGAN, IVA.

**SINGING PRIZE**

MARGARET FLEMING.

**MEDALS FOR ATHLETICS**

Senior Champion—Girls	-	-	-	JEAN MALCOLM.
Boys	-	-	-	JOHN MOIR.
Junior Champion—Girls	-	-	-	LORRAINE BURGESS.
				JOAN DENNET.
Boys	-	-	-	DOUGLAS CUNNISON.
Gymnastic Cups—Girls	-	-	-	ABERCORN HOUSE.
Boys	-	-	-	ABERCORN.
				DUDDINGSTON.

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PORTOBELLO PRIMARY SCHOOL

MAY 1958



## THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOW, almost at the end of my Primary School career, I look back, with mixed feelings, at my seven years of schooling.

I shall always remember my first day at School. When I saw all the children there, I was astonished. Miss Darling was very kind to us all. When my mother left me I cried bitterly, but Miss Darling comforted me. The class played with plasticine all day. I was amazed at the shapes plasticine can be moulded into. At the interval we all received a small bottle of milk. When I returned home at lunch-time I told my mother, "I think school is wonderful."

The first time I received a prize I was very proud of myself. Miss Darling took the prize-winners to Portobello Town Hall. My prize was a book called "Baba the White Lamb." Oh! how proud of it I was, I must have read it over six times.

When I was in Miss Darling's class, I was in a School concert. I was a lily. Miss Darling made us white paper hats in the shape of lilies. On the concert night I could hardly dance for looking for my parents.

My next teacher was Miss Drysdale. She made us work very hard, but the class did not mind. I liked Miss Drysdale very much and I was very sad when she retired.

In St. James's Church, Portobello, the School had a Christmas Service, last year. I think it was one of the best ones we have been at. The Secondary girls sang beautifully as they walked up the aisle in the church. The hymns we sang were very appropriate.

I am in Miss Neilson's class just now. My favourite subjects are geography, composition and history.

I have enjoyed most of my primary career, and I will be very sorry to leave Portobello Primary School.

MARGARET PEARSON, Primary 7B.

## THE NEW SCHOOL

AT the new School the walls are dove grey, the ceiling blue and the floors are yellow. The blackboards move and some desks and chairs are together. The cupboards are very big and the windows slide back and forward. The cloakrooms have pegs of all colours. There is blue, red, grey, and brown. There are three-tiered playgrounds. The boys is one, the girls is another. The third is where we have lines and boys and girls play in it. We used a hand bell at first but now we have a different bell. Our teacher is Mrs Gray. My best friend is Mary Low and she comes to our school too.

IRENE CUTT, Primary 4B.

### THE NEW SCHOOL

THE PRIMARY had been at the Old School for eighty-two years but in March, we moved to the New School. It has just been built. Indeed when we moved in the workmen were still very busy. The new building has a very pleasant situation. Adjoining the playgrounds is the Figgate Park full of beautiful trees and it has a lovely burn. On the sky-line is Arthur's Seat which is shaped like a lion's head.

The School is ultra-modern with gay colours and a tremendous amount of glass. I think these bright colours are most attractive. The glass lets in lots of light and if the sun does get too hot we can pull along the curtains. There is a well-furnished dining hall and a large gym hall with a beautiful floor and a stage with attractive curtains. We have three spacious playgrounds where we can play and have lots of fun. Surrounding the School will be a garden. This garden will consist of a beech hedge, shrubs, lawns, flowers, and even fruit trees. I am sure that I will like it exceptionally well.

ELIZABETH STEELE, Primary 4B.

### MY DOG

TERRY, my dog, is two years old. When we bought him he was a tiny thing of six weeks. At first he could not climb up or down the steps at the back door and had to be lifted. The first time he saw our back garden he went about smelling everything. When Grandma came from town I was just back from buying honey for Terry and she got a surprise for she did not know we were getting a dog.

Terry is a black and tan Border Terrier. He hates cats and almost brings the house down when he sees one.

Once he got out of the house. He ran down the road, jumped over Mrs Storie's fence and went into her back garden. He ran about until he smelled a smell, a most beautiful smell. The smell of a rabbit. He at once ran to where the rabbit was and began to smell it. The rabbit, which was a lovely white one with pink eyes, was very frightened indeed. It went and hid behind the wooden bit of its hutch. But I think Terry is more sensible now.

PAMELA KERR, Primary 4.

### MY BUDGIE

I HAVE a little budgie called Joey. I got him in a present. He can talk just a little bit. He can say Hello Joey, good Joey and some other things. He likes seed, water and a little bit of roll with syrup and butter on it. He eats the wall paper all the time.

MARION BLACK, Primary 3.

## OUR NEW SCHOOL

Our new school  
That is a rule,  
We must be good  
And be understood.

All the glass  
And all the class,  
The windows may break  
And that would be a terrible mistake.

Up the stairs and down the stairs,  
Like little fire flairs  
The people rush  
But have to be told "hush hush."

The boards oh yes,  
Do not make such a mess  
As the old ones  
Which weighed some tons.

JOHN SPENCE, Primary IIIb.

## OUR NEW SCHOOL

Walls of grey and ceiling blue,  
Curtains yellow, lino too,  
A blackboard that goes round and round,  
A portcullis that goes up and down,  
Stage and hall with glass galore,  
And to these wonders add one more—  
I heard my sister sneeze next door.

MARY BUTT, Primary 5.

## MY DOLL

My doll's name is Annette.  
She is my very speshel pet,  
And when I cuddle her in bed  
She never crvs but laufs insted.

BRENDA McNAUGHT.

I am geting a shetlend pony when I  
am 12. Leo is a mischoofis dog.  
He sometimes he runs away with  
daddy's sliper and sometome he makes  
a lowd noas on his bone that mommy  
gets him.

SERENA BROWNLIE.

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*Our school magazine owes a great deal to our advertisers. Without their support the magazine would be a very much less ambitious production. We would, therefore, ask our readers to patronize those firms whose advertisements appear in our pages.*

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## A SECOND-HAND SHOP

IN a drab, dingy, little street one finds the second-hand shop. The door opens with an asthmatic wheeze into which melts a gentle tinkle that carries one into another world, a world far removed from that of the dull, grey street.

On the back wall, in glorious motley, hang pen and ink drawings, etchings, watercolours, oils. A raffish Mr Disraeli smiles at a stern Mr Gladstone, while John Bull stands perplexed and asks: "Is it too late for Britain to leave Egypt?" "St Paul's" looks completely at home beside "A Border Tower" and below "The Empire State Building"; "Mother and Son," stare in utter content near "The Whisky Distillers" who are paying no attention to "June in the Austrian Tyrol," or "The Boyhood of Raleigh." Not even Picasso in his red and black period, or Braque at his most exciting ever wove as adventurous a pattern as this harlequin variegation of colours, shapes and styles that constitute a gay, indecorous abandoned, superb "still-life."

On the right is the wardrobe room, two racks of costumes—puce, beige, black, grey, gamboge, magenta, plum, mauve and electric blue, fashioned in cotton, crepe, wool, worsted, satinette and "synthetics."

Beside the further rack stand two brass-bound trunks filled with sandals, shoes, slippers, boots—black, brown, off-white, grey—with one pair of gay scarlet velvet pumps on the very top of the nearest miscellany.

No ordinary human being ever wore these; no ordinary human being ever will. These are the vestments of those who are figments of rich memories and dreams. They are donned for the masquerade which takes place at the stroke of midnight once a year, and because the characters are who they are, the clothes change to each personality who garbs himself in them. The colours flash out—opal, cornelian, ebon, silver, topaze, ruby, garnet, amethyst and turquoise; you hear the whisper of silk, the rustle of taffeta, the swish of satin and the susurrations of velvet.

Across the room, behind the door, on an oak table lie old china tea-cups, plates, saucers and bowls, wonderful as any rainbow, depicting scenes of old romance. A beautiful goddess rises from the sea on a tea-cup and the lonely fisherman on the saucer loses his heart to her. A proud, handsome, young mandarin holds out a casket to a delicate little lady three or four miles away. The same lovely maiden (or it may be another, for one can never tell) is now climbing into a jade carriage, a golden parasol held over her ebon head by an ancient manservant. Bluebirds and butterflies, on a bowl, play hide-and-seek in the exquisite enchantment of a Chinese garden. On a plate, three

figures run across a bridge and two gentle doves fly above a soughing, weeping willow tree. Three of the ancient, high-born nobility stand serene in lapis lazuli, contemplating a still pool where ivory lotus flowers bloom in eternal, motionless tranquility.

To complete the spell one lifts a musical box, a pagoda in scented sandalwood. Very softly, as if from far distant hills where the goat-bells tinkle in the dim, shadowy twilight in harmony with the trills of clear, crystal streams, the notes fall, lucid and limpid.

As the last note dies away, there is a creak, a wheeze, a tinkle, a heavy tread, a click-clacket-click-clacket, a disapproving chill, wet slab of a voice, answered by a rushing, frittering diffuseness.

"Isn't it awful? Nothing but junk—and filthy dusty too. It could be doing with soap and water."

"Yes—I always say soap and water aren't rationed. Still it's shelter from the rain and . . . and . . . and . . . and . . ."

One moves mutely from the second-hand shop and slips silently on to the rain-splashed pavement of the little side street.

PATRICIA MORGAN IVA.

### WHEN THE PIPER PLAYED . . .

IN the market-place, confusion reigned. Through the winds and closes, the echoes of discordant voices resounded. The last rays of the sun fell upon the chief characters in the affray, revealing their tense angry faces as they stood in the midst of the crowded square, filled with stalls laden with merchandise, brought for the fair. Men were quarrelling, women talking and children screaming. Iain, the piper, stood unnoticed in the throng and looked on uninterestedly, whilst, nearby Eachunn regarded his enemy sullenly.

He was suspicious of this Lowland laird, with his suave speech and whose pockets, it seemed "fu' o' siller." He appeared quite at ease amid the noise and turbulence of the town, whereas Eachunn longed to return to the wildness and grandeur of the moorland scenery, which he preferred. He reflected that it was due to his sister Eilidh that he was in such surroundings, but he did not really bear a grudge to her for that. In fact, he preferred to blame this Lowland gentleman who had inflicted his company on them.

The quarrel had arisen suddenly without much provocation over the question of honour and allegiance. His hand on his dirk, Eachunn faced his opponent. Others joined in the argument and within a short time, the whole market-place was in an uproar. A storm of angry words arose upon the breeze, which carried them to the mountains and gushing torrents.

Quietly, Iain slipped from his corner, and lifted his bagpipes. The clear notes of the tune, issuing from there, could be heard above the noise of argument. "O hush the noise, ye men of strife," commanded the piper. Their angry feelings soothed by the melody, the people became quieter and listened. The music told a story of great battles, heroic men and above all the blessed quality of peace. The argument was forgotten and peace was restored. The lilting melody was borne on the evening air, now still and tranquil. The tune was carried to snow-capped cloud-topped mountains and the calm water of lochs, to the changing azure of the celestial realms, "and now o'er land and seas descending, breathes the night its peace profound."

D. GRANT, VI.

### "TWO MEN IN A BOAT"

MY FRIEND and I pulled hard on the oars of our rowing boat, sending it up the broad Union Canal. Our course was straight; our oars rose and fell simultaneously.

In front of us was a narrow bridge and it was on the approaching run that the boat ran wild. It swung violently to the left, hit the bank and stuck. For a few seconds we sat dazed, while two small boys stood on the bridge gloating at us. After a short but heated struggle we drifted back into midstream and began rowing once more. However, our boat had taken leave of its senses for it swung first to the right then to the left. This caused even greater hilarity between our two critics and made us all the more annoyed. Eventually we struggled up to the bridge and were greeted with "Tryin' to row, mister?" Our replies were lost underneath the bridge.

At the other side of the bridge, we rowed quietly if erratically beside a park. Along the towpath two young ladies were walking and we decided to wipe out our disgraceful exhibition by a show of fast rowing. Together we pulled but after a few strokes lost the rhythm and the boat crashed into a bank of silt and reeds. For a while we fervently argued as to who had been concentrating on those walking on the other bank and not the finer details of rowing. We had had enough and decided to go home.

For the first fifteen minutes nothing happened until we met a boat coming in the opposite direction. Neither coxwain appeared to know which side the boat should be on and for a while we were on a collision course. At the last minute we veered to the right and they went to the left but the decision was left too late. We hit them amidships and after a few well chosen epithets which left us wiser about the waterman's code, we struggled on. From this point to the landing stage we had a quiet run except for the

family of swans which we nearly ran down, and the canoeist whom we just avoided. The look of helpless horror on his face was unforgettable as we bore down on his flimsy craft.

The boat was slung out and we were pulled to the side, certain that St. Margaret's Loch was about our standard.

JAMES CROW, VB.

### LIFE

There are more important things in life than horses  
At least that's what our friends would have us know.  
They never went for rides on autumn mornings,  
Or felt the thrill of riding's lovely glow.

There are more important things in life than horses,  
But if your pony loves you, you don't care.  
They can keep the things they seem to think important,  
And when they dish them out I shan't be there.

There are more important things in life than horses.  
There are more important things in life than food.  
But somehow when I'm eating or I'm riding,  
There's nothing else in life seems half so good.

SHEILA SOMERVILLE and PAMELA STIRLING, 2B2.

### THE FAIRIES

At night when all the earth is dark,  
Some fairies creep into a park,  
And play about and softly sing  
And dance round in a jing-a-ring.

They have some fun the whole night long,  
And each one has to sing a song,  
Whether they be girl or boy  
To play themselves they do enjoy.

But when the dawn comes creeping in,  
To clear their traces they begin,  
And fly away into the air  
So no-one knows that they've been there.

IRIS BROWN, 1A1.

### NIGHTFALL

The wood resounded with the song  
Of birds in every tree,  
Melodic notes filled every glade  
With pleasant harmony.  
The rustling leaves waved to and fro  
In the cool and gentle breeze,  
And animals scuttled back and forth  
With gay, light-hearted ease . . .  
But suddenly, everything seemed to change,  
As if by a spell o'ercast.  
Hushed was the birdsong as darkness approached,  
And silence reigned at last.

PAMELA E. TILLER, V.

## LIGHTED WINDOWS

Passing through the city streets, on chill October nights  
 I watch the little windows with their cheerful, steady lights;  
 Bright uncurtained windows shining through the dark and cold  
 Splashing on the foggy street a magic square of gold.

I like to think that friendly folk have left the curtains wide,  
 That I may look a moment at the homely things inside;  
 The white, unbroken ceiling, and shelf upon the wall,  
 With its family of household jugs that range from great to small.

It's strange I've never seen the folk whose windows are so bright,  
 Whose houses seem so good to me as I pass them by at night.  
 But always, in their daily lives I feel I have a part,  
 So, friendly folk in little homes, I thank you in my heart.

ROBERT HALLIDAY, 1A1.

## PARADE OF THE MUSES

Terpsichore leads the throng—  
 Dancing, beckoning others on  
 With wild delight.  
 Erato follows her along,  
 Singing, softly, some sweet song  
 Of a lover's plight.  
 Thalia comes with complexion fair  
 Laughing, gay and debonair—  
 No cares has she,  
 But sad Melpomene, too, is there  
 Full of woe, and sad despair  
 For all to see.  
 Urania gazes at the sky,  
 And studies all the stars on high  
 In silent awe,  
 While Clio meditates aloud  
 Upon passed years' disturbing cloud  
 Of strife and war.

PAMELA E. TILLER, VA.

## GUY FAWKES NIGHT

Fireworks blue and fireworks red,  
 Popping, banging, overhead.  
 Bonfires blazing clear and bright,  
 In the cold November night.

Here we come, a merry band,  
 In our masks we all look grand.  
 "Don't forget the guy!" we say,  
 "For you know it's Guy Fawkes day."

Round the bonfire let us sing,  
 Dancing gaily in a ring.  
 See the fireworks! Look there's one,  
 Guy Fawkes night is always fun.

ROSEMARY CROCKETT, 1B2.

## THE LAUGHING CAVALIER

THE light penetrating the dull glass of the tiny window of the portrait gallery, showed up two figures standing in front of a painting. Young Richard and his tutor were making a thorough examination of the young man, represented in the picture.

"So that is my father!" exclaimed the boy, in a sad tone of voice. "You would not think he was capable of looking so happy and at the same time, of enduring the misfortunes which befell him?"

"No," agreed his companion, "but although he ruined his family by expending all the wealth from his estates on supporting an undeserving cause, in seeking only adventure by upholding the House of Stuart, he thought himself justified in doing so and was happy in doing his duty to his rightful King."

Richard examined the portrait more closely. He could see no trace of regret in that face in which the twinkling eyes still held a challenge and in the lips, parted in a smile, and which framed the words of the family motto, "Rex Regnumque"—"For King and Country." The chestnut-coloured locks, falling loosely on to his shoulders added to the debonair pose of the cavalier.

"He dared do all that may become a man," murmured Richard. "Yet it is tragic to think that he met an untimely death on that fatal field of Naseby in '45."

"He displayed great courage on the battlefield and was undaunted at the sight of the New Model Army. He was merry and full of jest on the morrow of the battle. In fact, when informed of the difficulties incurred in fighting such opponents and told that the doom of the monarchy was assured, he merely shrugged his shoulders and answered, "I'll not join a Parliament of Saints, who will make wine and spirits and other enjoyable things illegal!" Nevertheless, he died before he could see his enemies victorious."

"Les exploits d'anton," whispered Richard. "I wish I had been there on the battlefield at Naseby. I seem to remember the words from Shakespeare, "There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will," and so I'll not complain any more." The sunlight fell upon his small form, as he moved forlornly away.

DOROTHY A. GRANT, VI.

## A COWBOY

There once was a cowboy called Norse,  
Who just couldn't keep on his horse,  
So his friends (there were two)  
Used a big pot of glue,  
Now he sticks to his saddle, of course.

HALINA MILLER, 102.

### MY MISTRESS

MY MISTRESS is a tall, fair-haired girl called Heather. She is quite good tempered, on the whole, and I think she likes me. I am her dog, Gyp. I am small, and black with a white breast.

My mistress called me "Gyp" because I was given to her by a gypsy when I was a very young pup. My mother, who belonged to the gypsy had had six pups, which the wandering gypsies did not want.

Heather will never take me out for walks if she is looking at pictures on a large box, and when I bark excitedly my mistress says angrily, "Be quiet, Gyp." What puzzles me, is how a cat or any other things can get in that box.

In the morning, after I have had my walks, Heather takes a bag of books, goes away (where I have not yet discovered) refusing to take me with her, however much I bark and whine. She returns later in the day always grumbling about something or someone called "Homework."

My mistress takes me out in the morning, before tea and at night. Apart from that, I am let out in the garden to play with Tim, the sheepdog who lives near us. On Saturdays I am always taken to a park to play until I am tired out. I always like that, though I feel my mistress does not share my feelings. All the same I never lack exercise.

My mistress of ten has friends to tea and I like that very much because they pet me. It is not that my mistress is unkind to me, but it does a dog good getting petted sometimes, for, when all is said and done, mine is a dog's life.

HEATHER GILLIES, 1b2.

### LAUGHTER ON WHEELS

THE conductor told me that many unusual incidents happened on the Corporation buses. He said that he had been fined because he had allowed a woman to put a wardrobe down the aisle of the lower deck. Another person had brought a table on and the passengers had had to go underneath and over the table on entering and leaving the bus.

He thought that many people used the buses for a cheap way of moving furniture on changing their homes instead of a removal van. One day a lady came on the bus with a couple of chairs and he had remarked that if she would bring him some wallpaper he would build her a "single end."

He was a very amusing and quick-witted person and he told me that on one occasion a woman had boarded the bus at Pilrig and she had asked where the "fit o' the Walk" was. He had quickly replied that it was down at the bottom where it had always been!

I smiled when he laughed scornfully at those people who leave their property behind them, especially the woman who left her washing on the bus and waved gaily to him with her washing stick as she walked away. For the point he had over-looked was that he, too, had made the same silly error. He had that morning forgotten his collection bag and had had difficulty in holding the coins in his hands. This had led to some joking by his passengers. One man had asked whether he was in business on his own as he was pocketing some of the money.

When I left the bus he was still making the passengers roar with laughter as he ruefully thought of the words of his inspector at the depot when he discovered that he had forgotten the money holder.

A. YOUNG, 3D3.

### CELERINA 1958

WE left Edinburgh late on Friday, 4th April, and reached London early next morning. We spent the morning sight-seeing and boarded the train for the coast at mid-day. The Channel crossing was very calm, for which we were truly thankful, and most of us reached Calais looking no more green than when we had set out.

The train journey through France took eleven hours and everyone was glad to stretch her legs for a while at Basel in Switzerland. The wooden seats in the Swiss trains were, much to our surprise, extremely comfortable and we had a very pleasant journey through magnificent mountains and eventually reached Celerina, our journey's end, at 1 p.m. on Sunday. The horse-drawn sleigh which collected our luggage at the station seemed just typical of Switzerland.

That evening we were fitted with skis and each morning we ski-ed, along with a school from Preston, under our instructors, Mario, Hans and Giannet. Mario's cries of "Ske-hies more apa-art," Hans's showing off and Giannet's calm and patient exhortations will always be firmly fixed in our memories of Switzerland.

Twice in the afternoons we went into St. Moritz. This fashionable resort was within easy walking distance and it was here that we did most of our souvenir-shopping. In one shop particularly, we found exquisite jewellery, toys, clocks, musical boxes and leatherwork.

For our amusement in the hotel there was a piano, table-tennis, games of draughts, chess, cards and a gramophone.

As you can well imagine, there was not a spare minute to be found anywhere and when, all too soon, that unforgettable week ended all of us left Celerina happy, sun-burned and with memories to last a lifetime.

We would like to thank Miss Marshall and Miss Patterson very deeply for all they did to ensure that our holiday was a success.

EILEEN WILLIAMS, 3A1.

## EN FRANCE 1958

*SANCTE Christophore, protege iter nostrum.* Perhaps this sentence was uttered unconsciously by all the members of P.P.P. (Portobello Pie-on-eer-ing Party), as they set off on their journey. They might well be afraid for the hazards of a channel crossing, the unreliability of the weather and the violence of the elements faced them; they were afraid that they might have to hitch-hike from Dieppe and Paris, on account of a twenty-four hour strike of French railwaymen. Fortune favoured us to a certain extent, but we had a rough crossing. The scenery on the boat was not very picturesque. We recall the pale sad faces of the members of P.P.P. and remember that they looked almost as green as the sea. Nevertheless, thirty-one weary travellers arrived at the Gare Saint Nazare in Paris, full of anticipation as to what the morrow would bring . . .

Our time was spent in seeing the sights, in visiting the shops and in going to the evening entertainments in the hostel. If we were asked what we liked best in Paris, we think we should answer, like the Princess in "Vacances Romaines" (Roman Holiday) that we liked everything in its own way. We were all impressed by Le Palais de la Découverte and our visit to the Planetarium. In the former, we saw several experiments performed and we were all a little astonished when we saw that oxygen and hydrogen exploded together when mixed.

We thought that the church of the Sacré-Coeur, with its white stone gleaming in the sunlight, was a beautiful building. From the steps leading up to it, we had a lovely view of Montmartre with its night-club, the Moulin Rouge. Our memories of the Louvre are rather mixed. We recall the wondrous picture of the Mona Lisa and the awe-inspiring paintings of the Crucifixion and Last Supper, but that the "ohs!" and "ahs!" of exclamation were intermingled with those words expressing extreme agony, namely that of tired, blistered feet. We spent an afternoon in Les Invalides, admiring the workmanship of suits of armour and weapons. We saw in Victor Hugo's house relics of his work and a replica of the room in which he died. We enjoyed our walks through the Bois de Boulogne, les Jardins des Tuilleries et du Luxembourg, planned in a typically French manner, and through the grounds of the Parc de Versailles. Other highlights of our holiday were the boat trip of the Seine (*no ill-effects this time!*), the bus-tour round Paris and the reception at the Hotel de Ville. Paris was lovely during the Easter week-end. The moss-covered walls of Notre Dame were illuminated against the night sky and the lights gleamed on the dark waters of the Seine, where boats, glowing in myriad colours, glided past.

Apart from the strangeness of our surroundings, the food was rather unusual at first to us. Later, however, the garçon was

surprised at the quantity of "pommes de terre frites" which could be consumed by the members of P.P.P. We became a set of cannibals, eating half-cooked meat and raw vegetables with particular reference to lettuce, which the waiter, to our horror, called "Des feuillages." We did not like red wine at all, but we did develop a taste for white wine.

One evening, the girls of the P.P.P. were persuaded to air their voices in the concert, which was to be held after dinner. Five minutes before its commencement, with two members of staff, we assembled and practised the song "Westering Home" for our impromptu performance. The dance, social and lecture, held also in the hostel, were very successful.

But—

" Soon, too soon our stay was ended.  
Golden hours you enthrall  
Portobello, hols. are over—  
Hear the diesel's clarion call! "

It was with regret that we felt the boat steaming out of Dieppe harbour. This shows that the trip had been successful and enjoyable and we should like to thank Miss Simm, Mr Drummond and Mr Brown for making our holiday so pleasant.

*Vive La France!*

D. G. VI, H. McE. VI, I. N., V.

#### PREFECTS 1957-1958

*Those "Who think too little, and talk too much."*

- A.F.— "Here thou, great Anna! Whom three realms obey,  
Dost sometimes counsel take and 'never' tea."
- H.McE.— "The idle singer of an empty day."
- S.H.— "There is none like her, none," saith he.
- C.C.— "Love and scandal are the best sweeteners of tea."
- E.MacP.— "Words, words and more words."
- D.G.— "I have nothing to declare but my genius."
- N.K.— "Full of beans and benevolence."
- A.R.— "Sober, steadfast and demure."
- P.T.— "Faith, thou hast some crochets in thy head."
- E.D.— "Why so pale and wan fond lover."
- M.G.— "Thank God, I have done my duty."
- A.F.— "He was made for the ruin of our sex."
- D.S.— "He was a rake among scholars."
- R.W.— "All his faults are such that one loves him the better for them."
- R.S.— "My love she's but a lassie yet."
- J.R.— "There is a pleasure sure in being mad which none but madmen  
know."
- A.B.— "I am resolved to grow fat and look young till forty."
- W.B.— "'Tis strange what a man may do, and a woman yet thinks him  
an angel."
- I.M.— "There's nought but figures in his head."
- T.C.— "I hold she loves me best that calls me Tom."
- "Let us make an honourable retreat."*

### AT THE BRITISH RAILWAYS SHORT WORKS COURSE DERBY, APRIL 1958

DURING the month of April we were very fortunate in being given the opportunity of attending at Derby, a short works course in mechanical and electrical engineering, organised by British Railways.

We arrived at Derby on Sunday, 13th April, and registered at our hotel, where we met our guide, Mr Thomas, who introduced himself and the other members of the party.

The following day we toured the various workshops of the Derby Locomotive Works. Here we saw wheels being tyred and turned, and boilers being retubed and tested under pressure. Later that same day, we visited the foundry where we saw white hot metal being poured into moulds. Continuing our tour, we arrived at the machine shops where we watched high speed precision lathes turning out bolts, nuts, screws and taps. Often as many as five articles were produced on the machine at the one time. Our last visit for that first day was to the diesel erecting shop, where we caught a glimpse of the locomotives of the future in various stages of construction. Some of these diesel engines were of the mechanical type which will replace steam locomotives on many of the main lines. In the evening of that first day we were shown films which dealt with diesel locomotive traction.

On the next morning, the Tuesday, we set off for Toton, near Derby. On arrival we were conducted round the motive power depot where we saw heavy freight locomotives being cleaned and serviced. After inspecting the coaling plant we made our way to the vast "hump" marshalling yards adjacent to the depot. Here we saw vehicles being shunted to the top of the "hump," rolling down the other side, and finally being diverted into separate sidings by the movement of electro-pneumatically operated points. The vehicles are also automatically retarded to prevent breakages and derailments.

That afternoon we were taken to the main drawing office in Derby and were shown plans of new locomotives and rolling stock which will be put into service in the near future.

On the Wednesday, a visit was made to the Carriage and Wagon Works, where we toured the various shops. We saw light-weight diesel trains, similar to those running between Corstorphine and North Berwick. Our next experience was a trial run on one of these trains which had just been repaired. We went on a tour of the Staff Training College and inspected the miniature railway and diesel training wing. The latter contained several sectioned and working diesel engines used in locomotives and light-weight trains.

The next day a visit was made to the electrified line between Manchester and Sheffield. We inspected the control room at

Penistone which covers the entire line, and the many sub-stations which supply the electricity. After journeying over the line to Manchester, we went by road to the Reddish Locomotive Depot where we had the opportunity of learning something about main line electric locomotives, two of which engaged our attention here.

The last day was spent at the Research Department where we were shown rail sections being tested for fracture after being welded. In the mobile laboratory we saw several electronic instruments for testing the permanent way, and for determining the riding qualities of rolling stock. Our last port of call was the chemical laboratory where we saw such consumer goods as paint, oil, fuels and detergents, to name a few, being tested.

So ended a most enjoyable and memorable week for two of British Railways' guests.—W. B., M. G.—VI.

### THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

ONCE again Princes Street's stone-flagged pavements ring with the feet of foreigners. The annual festival has begun. Walking in Princes Street, the ordinary shopper rubs shoulders with actors, actresses, personalities and nobility. A group of foreigners stand talking outside the Overseas Club. An American will display a tartan-clad doll, a dark-skinned Indian lady—a heavy tartan travelling rug, and a petite Parisienne—an elegant pair of stiletto-heeled shoes.

On the softly-lit floors of the large dress shops ladies move gracefully with their husbands praising the beautiful gowns and buying cosmetics.

In George Street the Festival Club is the centre of the social side of the festival. In the large, brilliantly lit hall millionaires and nobility move about greeting the friends whom they have met during the previous festivals. Outside, the magnificent cars are lined up while the chauffeurs and police attend.

At night the castle is lit up and it seems to hang like a fairy castle in the dark sky. The floral clock is also floodlit. The dainty fairy lights strung from the trees in Princes Street Gardens shine out in the darkness and the music from the Tattoo on the Esplanade rings down triumphantly to the brilliantly lit street and the crowds below who are not attending any Festival function. A few couples walk under the trees in the gardens breathing the scented air from the magnificent flower beds. The faint breeze rustles the leaves on a perfect moonlit night.

After three weeks of tattoo, ballet, plays, films, art, music and social life the festival visitors depart taking with them many examples of Scottish handicrafts and souvenirs, such as short-bread, tartan, pheasants' plumes, deer horn and heather, leaving Edinburgh to settle down once more to the normal hum-drum life of any town until the next festival.--FRANCES J. TORRANCE, 2A1.

## THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP 1957

THE camp, as in previous years, was held at Broomlee residential School Camp near West Linton and was this year organised by Perthshire Education Committee. The camp commandant was Mr Kerr, headmaster of Perth Academy.

Pupils arrived during the first two days from all districts of Scotland, many areas of England and smaller groups came from Northern Ireland, Bavaria and Norway.

The Edinburgh group, which consisted of one boy and one girl from each of the following schools, Boroughmuir School, Trinity Academy, Holy Cross Academy, Leith Academy and, of course, our own school, was under the guidance of Mr S. Macmillan of Boroughmuir School.

On the second day of our stay all the campers were divided into "discussion groups" each containing at least one person from each region, and were each under the charge of a member of staff.

Most mornings, lectures were given both by the resident lecturer, Mr Inglis, and by other competent visiting speakers on the subject of "Citizenship." The aim of the camp was to allow us to discuss all the aspects of this subject and to put some of the points into practice during our stay there. Talks and slide shows were also given on other subjects.

After each morning lecture the topic was discussed in our small groups and later, after an interval during which many of us visited the tuck shop, the subject was debated in the presence of everyone.

In the afternoon a wide variety of activities was carried on including dancing, outdoor sports and swimming in the nearby river. "Rambling" in groups of two both then and in the evening seemed very popular. During bad weather many preferred to enjoy themselves playing games such as chess and dominoes in the Reading Room.

Several concerts were held. The items varied from skiffle, given by the Camp's own group, to Norwegian and Bavarian folk songs. In the Regional Concert the Edinburgh party performed a sketch in which various camp "types" were portrayed e.g. a Bavarian boy, a Norwegian girl and the camp's Commandant.

The camp proved very interesting because everyone learned the varying characteristics both of the people of his own country and of the two foreign countries represented.

## ON READING "TALES FROM BECTIVE BRIDGE"

A sloe-black boat on a scale-back, green sea,  
 Black, scurvy waves blown high by scudding gales,  
 A kittiwake aloof, aloft sharp wheels  
 And cries his liveness in the night darkly.  
 Chill tossed on green, scalped waves the body,  
 Floss-yellow hair, eyes glittering like scales,  
 Island-spun clothes deep-logged, salt-shrouded sails  
 The scaly, scurvy, green grave of the sea.  
 The island men know where the dead mud stills,  
 Caught by the tight weeds in the grass-green beds,  
 Where tendrils of sea-anemones cleave,  
 And winding stems of green sea-daffodils  
 With pricks of sallow thorn and tall sea-reeds  
 Hold it in androgynous, deep, green grave.

PATRICIA ANNE MORGAN, IVA.

Rivers run fiery,  
 Green whirlwinds flame  
 In the quick-silver landscape of youth.

O joyous arrogance of faith.

Labyrinth of distrust—  
 Illusions' debris—  
 World's bane is wintry withering.

O, cat o' nine tails of the mind.

Sleep at the deep root  
 Of blind-fold night  
 In shadow-spun oblivion.

O, the heart knows death to the bare bone.

PATRICIA ANNE MORGAN, IVA.

## TO ELIZABETH

The roding woodcock black against the blaze  
 Of dying day, is croaking evensong.  
 The yawning night engulfs him, and alone  
 My tumbling thoughts go tossing restless as  
 The windflower dancing in the hazel grove,  
 Down to the smoky darkness of the town  
 From out of which tall spires rise high above  
 The yellow pack who huddle on the ground.

Elizabeth, this world of cynics scorns  
 The hopeful and the loving and the true  
 And flaunts its fraudulence and pawns  
 Its soul against material value.  
 And yet some man will always upwards look  
 And other spires will rise.  
 God's chief marvel is man  
 In the debris of eternities.

PATRICIA ANNE MORGAN, IVA.

### THE LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY

THE activities of the Society began with the Inaugural Address which was given this session by Mr George Elliot, M.A., B.D. He gave an interesting talk about his experiences in America and showed a number of coloured slides.

The joint debates with Musselburgh Grammar School, Leith Academy, The Royal High School, Boroughmuir Secondary School, Holy Cross Academy and the F.P. Club were occasions for some very interesting speeches and discussions.

This year for the first time some of the junior members attended a meeting with Broughton Junior Debating Society.

The normal meetings were occupied with debates which ranged over many topics. On these occasions the addresses of the main speakers were generally of a high standard, but the contributions from the floor were sometimes disappointing. Junior Members' Nights gave scope for the younger members and brought to light several promising young speakers for the future.

As usual the highlight of the year was the Burns Supper and it was under the chairmanship of the President, Mr M. Gilgannon. The toast of "The Immortal Memory" was proposed by Mr MacAleese of Ainslie Park School. Mr James Crow proposed the toast to "The Lassies" in a very witty and delightful speech, to which Miss Shelagh Hay replied.

Fine singing by the Girls' Choir of 3B1 and 3B2 and the recitations given by some of the pupils, added to the enjoyment of the evening.

The staff "Matter of Opinion" team, comprising of Miss Simm, Mr Drummond, Mr R. C. Brown and Mr Weaver, provided lively and entertaining answers to a wide variety of questions. Mr Pelman once more proved an efficient chairman.

The prize-winners in the Annual Speech-making Contest were Mr James Crow, Miss Eileen Williams and Mr Clive Burton. This year, the number of entries were very disappointing and it is hoped that next session's contest will gain more support from the members.

Near the end of the session the Hon. Vice-President, Mr R. P. Brown became ill and a gift was sent to him when he was in hospital.

The Reports of both Secretary and Treasurer were approved at the Annual General Meeting and the Committee for 1958-59 was elected as follows:—

<i>President</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	NEIL WILKIE.
<i>Vice-President</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	JAMES CROW.
<i>Secretary</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	PAMELA TILLER.
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	PATRICIA MORGAN.
<i>Treasurer</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	TOM CLARK.
<i>Members of Committee</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	SHIRLEY GREGSON. EILLEN WILLIAMS.

The retiring Committee, which had given good service throughout the year, was accorded a vote of thanks by the Society.

S. HAY, *Secretary*.

### RUGBY

WITH the coming of the Summer Term thoughts of Rugby are very far away but from the haze of recollection certain aspects of the season still emerge in reasonable clarity.

The brightest gleam from the past was undoubtedly the 5th XV. They have had a splendid season and are to be congratulated on the finest record of the year—and I should imagine of many previous years also. The results shown in the table below are a fair indication of their superiority over the majority of their opponents. It was a delight to watch their play and our hopes for a good 3rd XV next year are very high. My next recollection is of the flu epidemic!

Coming at a time when two teams were being launched it was a serious blow. The 2nd XV soon recovered and by working hard and enthusiastically with a rather meagre fixture list against unpredictable opposition completed a very enthusiastic if unspectacular season. Credit is due to Gilbert Stark for holding together this team and making it possible for us to continue running a 2nd XV next season.

The flu was too much however for the 4th XV! At least let's blame the flu, and not say too much about those who in entering the 3rd year just decided that they were too old for Rugby, or that it just isn't their game! Most of the games had to be cancelled because of the shortage of players.

This has been a very good season for our 1st XV. The general standard of play was high and the results were very encouraging.

Our congratulations go to Robert Stirling on his able captaincy. We had the experience of meeting Leith Academy 1st XV near the beginning of the season but after a very even first half they proved rather too strong for us. However 0-13 is a reasonably encouraging result. It is regretted that the much anticipated game with Fettes had to be cancelled because of the frozen ground but it is hoped to have the fixture early in the autumn term next season. Games have also been arranged with Leith Academy 1st XV and Holy Cross 1st XV. I hope that through these games Portobello will obtain experience of what is undoubtedly a higher standard of Rugby and that as the years progress, more and more 1st XV's of the Edinburgh Schools will be added to our fixture list. This will not come, however, without very hard training and an intelligent striving to master the skills and manoeuvres of the game, not only by the boys of the 1st XV but by every other team down the School. The younger players must remember that they will one day be called upon to take their place in the 1st XV.

The 3rd XV has had what can easily be described as a very varied season. On occasions they have shown the ability to play reasonably good rugby. At other times they seem to have lacked cohesion. There are, however, in this team quite a few players who show considerable promise and who will undoubtedly gain a place in the 1st XV next season.

When there are two brothers in a family, one of whom is very clever, the other is usually endowed with a lesser degree of scholastic ability. The same can apply to the Rugby teams in a school year. The 6th XV can therefore take heart from this and although their play has lacked the fire of the 5th XV there was evidence of a continual striving to improve and an enthusiasm for the game which, if carried over into next season, will ensure that we can run a 4th XV regularly. This will be the first time that two teams have been fielded from the 3rd year. It all depends on the boys of the present 6th XV.

Perhaps the most difficult part of the Rugby report lies in an assessment of the 1st year teams. That they should be able to play games after only a few weeks of coaching is greatly to their credit. The 7th and 8th have had a good season and it has always been a pleasure to watch their enthusiastic play. Here more than anywhere else are laid the foundations of what our 1st XV will be in years to come.

This report cannot end without a word about 6A. Enthusiasm for Rugby was so high in the 1st and 2nd teams that it was necessary to form a new team to absorb the extra boys who could not be placed in the existing teams. Thus 6A came into being and although it was only with considerable difficulty that fixtures were arranged the results were very good and the amalgamation of the two years proved very successful.

In the autumn, players will be introduced to the Portobello MK.1 Tackling Dummy. It has been on the drawing board for a long time but it is now at the prototype stage and will soon have a very rough time.

The thanks of all players are due to team masters and members of staff who have given so willingly of their spare time throughout the season.

My thanks are also due to those of our Former Pupils who have assisted on Saturday mornings. In particular may I mention Ronald King to whom the Rugby Club owes an especial word of thanks.

Team masters join with me in extending our best wishes to those of our players who will be leaving at the end of the term. We wish them every success and would assure them that the F.P. Rugby Club extends a warm welcome.

	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Points</i>	
					<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
1st XV	19	12	6	1	274	85
2nd XV	7	1	5	1	18	95
3rd XV	17	5	11	1	111	212
4th XV	Most games cancelled.					
5th XV	22	18	2	2	382	93
6th XV	19	5	11	3	143	272
6A XV	4	3	0	1	32	12
7th XV	18	6	10	2	92	149
8th XV	17	11	5	1	184	84

A. D. C.

### HOCKEY REPORT 1957-1958

AT the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of the session, Helen McElroy was elected Captain and Shelagh Hay, Vice-Captain. Owing to a loss of many 1st XI players of last session, the present 1st XI had a rather unfortunate season. Of the 19 games played, 8 were won, 8 lost, and 3 drawn.

"Colours" were awarded to Helen McElroy, Anne Rutherford, Charlotte Wilson, Lorraine Burgess, Jacqueline Ball, and Irene Carey. "Dates" have been added to "colours" already gained by Shelagh Hay, Anna Flucker and Anne Lyall.

The 2nd XI, captained by Eleanor Adamson, had a successful season winning 10 games, losing 7, and drawing 1 out of the 18 games played.

The 3rd XI was captained by Norah Keeling. It did not have a very fortunate season, winning 3, losing 7, and drawing 4 of the 14 games played.

The 4th XI, captained by Pat Gardiner and Susan Mottram, had a very poor season. They tried hard to maintain the standard of the club, but were hampered by the inexperience of the younger players.

We also managed to have a 1st year team, who, playing 5 games, won 2, lost 1 and drew 2. We have great hopes for them in the future.

There was a tournament at George Watson's Playing Fields, Liberton, at which the 1st XI played well and gained 4 points out of a possible 6. In the American Tournament at Meggetland, out of a possible 6 points, the senior team gained 3. The junior team did very well indeed and drew for the Junior Title with James Gillespie's School.

As a result of House Matches which were played in March, the houses were placed in the following order:—1st Duddingston; 2nd Crichton; 3rd Abercorn; 4th Brunstane.

The Staff and Pupils' Match had, unfortunately, to be cancelled, owing to bad weather.

We should like to take this opportunity of thanking again, Miss Marshall and Miss Stobbie for devoting so much of their time coaching the teams, the Domestic Staff for their willing co-operation and Mr Ross, the groundsman.

HELEN McELROY, *Captain.*

### ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL 1957-58

ANOTHER season completed, one of mixed fortunes, in which no cup or league glory was attained, but one in which all teams achieved greater triumph—the name of being one of the most sporting school sides to play against.

The 1st XI won almost as many games as they lost, finishing the season in fine style in the League Cup. Of this team, A. Cook has been chosen

regularly for the Edinburgh Schools XI, has played in representative games for the East of Scotland and has taken part in several Scottish Schoolboy trials—a fine achievement. D. Smith and A. Cook were included in the Leith v. Edinburgh Schools game at Tynecastle Park, while H. Finlay was chosen reserve for this occasion. Throughout the season A. Yorkston and A. Wardlaw were the most consistent members of the team, while A. Sawers, K. Scott and R. Luke played regularly and played well.

The "A" team probably showed more team spirit than the others and, as a result, won 10 games, drew 3, and lost only 4. If the team continues to play with the same spirit and understanding they should do well next season.

The "B" team, although losing more games than they won, tried at all times to play good football, but always appeared smaller and lighter than the opposition. It was, therefore, physical force more than better football which often beat them. There are, however, many encouraging signs and results will almost certainly be better next year.

The Staff v. Pupils (1st XI) match was again most entertaining and at the tea, which followed, the School Captain thanked the Staff for allowing the boys to win! Thanks are due to those members of the Staff, who helped to supervise at away matches and to Messrs Baggaley and Weaver for assisting me unhesitatingly with the rather thankless task of refereeing.

M. P.

### CRICKET

The results for the 1957 season were as follows:—

<i>Team</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>L.</i>	<i>D.</i>
1st XI	9	4	4	1
2nd XI	9	5	3	1
3rd XI	7	4	2	1
4th XI	10	6	4	0

As can be seen, the younger teams continued to do well, and it is a pity that some of the senior boys cannot develop the same enthusiasm and keenness shown by the junior members. A good team can only be built, when all eleven members are willing to give of their best, turning up regularly at practices whether in the field or in the gymnasium. Practice too, means not only batting in the nets and a game, but fielding, throwing, catching, etc., all of which are very important and it is essential that these are taken seriously. It is unfortunate too, that the response from the second and third year A classes is not better, as it is from these boys, who stay on at school, that we expect to form the first XI. It is much wiser to start playing as early as possible than to wait until one is in a senior class.

This year promises well with the first and second years and we may be able to arrange fixtures for a second eleven from each year. We have also obtained a tarmacadam strip and this should help stroke play as the matting will be truer than the surface of the field where the nets are erected.

Those members of staff who give willingly of their time to help with coaching, supervision, etc., are again sincerely thanked.

This year's office-bearers are:—

<i>Captain</i>	-	-	-	-	-	TOM CLARK.
<i>Vice Captain</i>	-	-	-	-	-	WILLIAM REID.
<i>Secretary</i>	-	-	-	-	-	LAWRENCE CASSIDY.

Attention must be drawn to the regrettable fact that the F.P. Club has had to cancel its fixtures owing to lack of support from boys leaving school. It is to be hoped that this state of affairs is not allowed to continue. Those interested in the F.P. Cricket Club should contact Mr R. King, 31 Durham Road, Portobello.

A. Y. G.

## BOY'S ATHLETIC CLUB

IN the Summer of 1957, the Boys' Athletic Club was formed. Two contests were arranged in which considerable enthusiasm was shown. In the first we met Broughton at Wardie and after a very close contest finished only a few points behind our opponents, while at our second contest, however, Holy Cross proved rather too strong for us.

This year we have already had contests with Leith Academy and Broughton at our own ground. Against Leith Academy we were strong in field events, winning all but one of the twelve events. Four School records were broken and in the under 16 group four very fine performances were established which will stand as School records for the new Under 16 group which I hope to introduce into this year's School Sports. Leith Academy were superior to us in track events, however, but with a final result of Leith 124 points, Portobello 121 points, it was a very close contest.

## School Records broken at Leith Academy Contest

	<i>New Record</i>		<i>Previous Record</i>	
<b>OPEN EVENTS</b>				
Shot	37 ft. 2 ins.	L. Cassidy.	35 ft. 3½ ins.	L. Cassidy 1957.
Discus	108 ft. 11½ ins.	L. Cassidy.	87 ft. 5 ins.	N. Stephan 1951.
<b>UNDER 16</b>				
Long	17 ft. 10 ins.	K. Lawson.		
Shot	30 ft. 2 ins.	W. Reid.		
Discus	116 ft. 6 ins.	W. Reid.		
Javelin	124 ft. 6 ins.	W. Reid.		
<b>UNDER 15</b>				
Long	17 ft.	G. Krause.	16 ft. 6 ins.	B. Curtis 1956. D. Cunnison 1957.
<b>UNDER 14</b>				
Long	16 ft. 1 in.	G. Finlay.	15 ft. 3 ins.	A. Lewis 1953.

Now to turn to the contest with Broughton. We are pleased to record the first win the Athletic Club has had, with a total of 125 points over Broughton's 118 points. All competitors are to be congratulated on very fine performances. Portobello boys gained first place in ten of the twelve field events, also in the Under 14, 100 and 220 yards and the Open Mile. Seven school records were broken and one equalled. Two of the Under 16 records were broken by their holders.

## School Records broken at Broughton Contest

	<i>New Record</i>		<i>Previous Record</i>	
<b>OPEN EVENTS</b>				
Mile	5 min. 5 sec.	N. Stirling.	5 min. 21 sec.	N. Nisbet 1953.
Javelin	121 ft. 10½ ins.	B. Curtis.	117 ft. 10 ins.	S. Davies 1952.
<b>UNDER 16</b>				
Long	18 ft.	K. Lawson.	17 ft. 10 ins.	K. Lawson 1958.*
Short	32 ft. 3½ ins.	W. Reid.	30 ft. 2 ins.	W. Reid.*
<b>UNDER 15</b>				
Long	17 ft. 8 ins.	G. Krause.	17 ft.	G. Krause.*
<b>UNDER 14</b>				
100 Yds.	11 min. 9 sec.	G. Finlay.	12 min. 12 sec.	G. Krause 1957.
Long	16 ft. 11¼ ins.	G. Finlay.	16 ft. 1 in.	G. Finlay.*
<b>UNDER 14—School Record Equalled</b>				
220 Yds.	28 min. 5sec.	G. Finlay.	28 min. 5 sec.	J. Togher 1955.

\* L.A. Contest 1958.

A. D. C.

## SWIMMING

IN the Spring Term a team was entered for the Edinburgh and District Schools Swimming Association Gala.

The following girls were successful in their events.

## 50 YDS. FREE STYLE—UNDER 13

1st Janice Anderson, 35.3 secs.

2nd Patricia Jamieson.

## 50 YDS. BACK STROKE—UNDER 13

1st Patricia Jamieson, 39.2 secs.

## 100 YDS. BUTTERFLY STROKE—OVER 15

1st Helen Cochrane, 86 secs.

Janice and Patricia have been chosen to swim in the National Championships on the 17th May. We extend to them our very best wishes. At the time of the Gala, Helen had just left school and although she was allowed to participate, could not be considered for the National Championship, as entry is limited to those attending school.

At the Scottish Schools Swimming Championships, Janice Henderson gained 2nd place in the 50 yds. free style with a time of 33.9 seconds, and Patricia Jamieson was 3rd in the 50 yds. back stroke, in 37 seconds.

## E. S. C. A.

MEMBERSHIP of the Edinburgh Schools' Citizenship Association, a branch of the Council of Education in World Citizenship, is open to the senior pupils of Edinburgh's Secondary Schools. Here, in an entirely friendly atmosphere, pupils have the opportunity of discussing topics of local or of international importance.

At the beginning of the session, it seemed that we should have a reasonable representation of pupils but, unfortunately, very few attended the meetings regularly every fortnight. Mr R. C. Brown represented the School on the Advisory Council and Dorothy Grant on the Committee.

Many of the meetings were interesting and enjoyable. Among these were: the International Night, when a performance of dances, songs, and musical items from many countries was given; and the Kirk Session, when four invited speakers representing different religious beliefs answered selected questions. The Christmas Dance was a very pleasant function and I should like to thank Anna Flucker, Christine Carey and Norah Keeling for their help in making the arrangements. The last item on the syllabus, the inter-debate with the West of Scotland C.E.W.C. is to be held at the end of the session.

Membership is open to the pupils from the fourth year and upwards, and I hope that the present third year will take the opportunity of joining a worth-while and interesting Association.

DOROTHY GRANT, VI.

## NETBALL

THE Netball Club continued to flourish last summer and girls from 1st-4th years attended practices at the field on Thursdays after school.

House matches were held during the course of the Summer term resulting in a win for Brunstane, with Abercorn a close second and Duddingston third.

It was decided that this year netball should be confined to the summer term as hockey practices were held most evenings. However, at the end of

the Easter term we had a most enjoyable match against Pentlands Secondary School which resulted in a win for Portobello.

The first meeting of the Club was very well attended and as a result we hope to have two practices during the week, one for 2nd year and over and another for 1st year. House matches will be held later in the term with a team from both age groups competing.

Thanks are due to both Miss Stobbie and Miss Arneil for their help with coaching and umpiring.

### ROUNDERS

ALTHOUGH the numbers of pupils attending the Rounders practices last summer term were small, we had some very exciting House Matches. Abercorn was first, Crichton second and Duddingston was third.

This year the Club was opened to the first year as well as to the older girls, and on Tuesday evenings large numbers collected at the field to play rounders, so much so, that two members of staff have kindly offered to help. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Crawford and Miss Arneil for giving up their valuable time to coach the girls.

### TENNIS

THE Tennis Club had a poor season last year as rain cancelled several matches. Two matches were played, and unfortunately the Club was defeated in both.

The general standard of play within the Club was not very high, but it is hoped that the standard will rise this season. The Club would like to ask the pupils of the 3rd year and the senior pupils of the School to join the Tennis Club and by so doing support their school.

In June the house matches were played and Crichton won by a small margin from Duddingston, followed by Brunstane and Abercorn.

The School was chosen to send three pupils to a tennis coaching scheme at Meggetland this coming season.

The new office-bearers elected for this season were:—

<i>Captain</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	ALEX. FIELDING.
<i>Vice Captain</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	ANNE RUTHERFORD.
<i>Secretary</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	STUART YOUNG.

The Tennis Club wishes to thank all those members of staff who supervised the tennis practices after school hours.

STUART YOUNG, V.

### SCRIPTURE UNION

THE meetings of the Scripture Union were resumed early in September. The numbers of members increased slightly and on the whole, attendance was fairly high. Shortly after the beginning of the session, Miss J. Crawford paid us a visit to see how we were progressing. During the session we were honoured by a visit from Miss Heather Peebles Brown, Secretary of the Scripture Union for Scotland. She gave us a very interesting talk. The office-bearers for next session will be Gilbert Stark and Robert Parry of the present 5th year.

HELEN L. M. McELROY, *Secretary*.

# FORMER PUPILS' CLUB

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 1957-58

THE season began on 5th October with the Opening Social, which proved to be a most successful evening with a varied programme of dancing and games.

On 18th October, the meeting took the form of a Brains Trust. Many club members wrote down various types of questions which were given to the panel, represented by Mr R. Mackay, Mr J. Archibald, Miss McMaster and Mr R. King.

On 1st November, a few members of the Club paid a visit to the Lyceum Theatre to see "George and Margaret," a comedy presented by the "Curzon Players."

On 15th November, the club was very pleased to welcome two former teachers of the school, Mr Gray and Mr Malcolm. The club members were shown coloured slides of a wonderful holiday which Mr Gray and Mr Malcolm had spent in France.

The Scottish Country Dance held in the school hall on 29th November, was as always, a very enjoyable evening. Sometimes the floor seemed a little crowded, but this did nothing to mar the enjoyment of the dancers.

The first meeting of 1958, on 10th January, was the joint debate with the School. Representing the Club were Mr A. Goodall and Mr J. Archibald while Mr Ure and Mr Stark spoke for the School. The debate was "That Britain should become a Republic," and the negative won by a vast majority.

On 31st January, Mr L. Tait and Mr R. Bruce gave illustrated talks on their visit to the Moscow Youth Festival last summer. It was a very interesting evening, but very poorly attended.

The St. Valentine Dance was again held in the Town Hall, Portobello, on 14th February. Over 500 tickets were sold and pupils past and present who attended enjoyed the evening very much.

On March 7th, a colour film of the 1956 Olympic Games was shown. This meeting was open to club members and friends and was very well attended. As the film and projector were hired for the evening, a small charge was made.

The season ended on 31st March with the Annual General Meeting and instead of the usual closing social, a hop was organised to which pupils from the School were invited.

## F.P. NOTES

FOUR former pupils, all of them from Class VI, 1953, graduated with honours last year:—George Cockburn, M.A., 1st class honours English, St. Andrew's; Ronald F. King, B.Sc., 1st Class honours Chemistry, Edinburgh; Alexander Balfour, M.A., 1st class honours Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, Edinburgh; Philip Lusman, B.Sc., 2nd class honours, Chemistry, Edinburgh.

There are a number of F.P.'s at Edinburgh at the moment. Among these are:—James Douglas and Alan King, Class VI, 1954; Alex. Goodall and Evelyn Clark, Class VI, 1956; Margaret Fleming, Helen Mulgray and Morna Mulgray, Class VI, 1957.

David Clark, Class VI, 1956, is at present attending classes at the Bristol College of Technology. He is on a student apprentice course for the Bristol Aeroplane Company, and from reports received, is doing very well.

Robert Hardie, Class VI, 1956, is at the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, studying for his Associateship in Mechanical Engineering. Last year he was second student in his year. Harold Tod, Class VI, 1957, is attending classes at the Stow College of Engineering in Glasgow. He is taking a course of Marine Engineering with a view to becoming a marine engineer with the British Petroleum Tanker Company.

We are indebted to Mr Burton of the Technical Department for the following News item:

In one of the evening sports papers there was a photograph taken during the Cup-Tie encounter between Hibernians and Third Lanark, on Saturday, 15th March, 1958. We now quote Mr Burton. "What is of interest to Portobello School is the fact that two of the players shown in the picture are former pupils. One is John Brown now playing at right back for Third Lanark, and a former captain of the Scottish Schoolboys' Team. The other, and next to him in the photograph is John Fraser, Hibernian's outside right, also a former Captain of the Scottish Schoolboys' Team. "I wonder," he writes, "if the fact that these two captained the Scottish Schoolboys' Team in consecutive years, constitutes a record for a Scottish School."

#### EDITORIAL NOTE

The editor is very anxious that in future editions of *The Tower* the F.P. Notes will be a regular feature. Any news concerning F.P.'s will be very welcome. The staff are always interested in hearing about their former students and they hope that this appeal for news of their activities will meet with a good response. Please send to the School, through present pupils or by any other means, any information which you feel would be of interest. If you call at the School yourself, please call at Room 21.

#### HOCKEY CLUB

THIS season has been our most successful for several years. Out of 18 games played, we have won 10 and lost 8, with 61 goals to our credit.

We had a most enjoyable game against the School 1st Rugby XV. The boys, though not skilled in the art of hockey, came off the field victorious.

Early in the new year our secretary left to go abroad, but we were able to fill her place in the team. Indeed, finding players, has been no bother at all this season.

Many new fixtures have been arranged and, with 28 matches ahead of us, next season will be a busy one. We are always delighted to welcome new members, and anyone wishing to join should contact the Hon. Secretary, Miss Marian Watson, 16 Brighton Place, Portobello. Telephone POR 4375.

### BADMINTON CLUB

A very successful season has just been completed. Several new members joined this year and the membership stands at 26, 17 ladies and 9 men. An exceedingly good attendance was maintained right through the season, the new members in particular showing a very great enthusiasm.

The Club meets on Monday evenings throughout the winter in the School and any new Former Pupils wishing to join will be made very welcome.

MARGARET McCULLOCH, *Hon. Secretary.*

### TENNIS CLUB

THE season opened on Saturday, 6th April 1957, and the surface of the courts was much improved. This reflects great credit upon the groundsman, Mr Hogarth, who is to be complimented on his fine work, despite periodical opposition from the weather.

There were numerous resignations at the beginning of the season, and this, unfortunately, was apparent in the results of the various teams, all of which were relegated. I would hasten to add, however, that the membership has increased again this year, and that we are looking forward to a successful season.

The results of the tournaments, were as follows:—

Gentlemen's Singles					
(Handicap)	-	-	-	J. NEILLANDS.	
Ladies' Singles	-	-	-	M. MARSHALL.	
Gentlemen's Doubles	-	-	-	J. NEILLANDS and J. YOUNG.	
Ladies' Doubles	-	-	-	J. CRANSTON and F. COWE.	
Mixed Doubles	-	-	-	W. ANDERSON and Miss M. WATT.	

Prospective members should contact R. T. Bond, 30 Argyle Crescent, Portobello.

### RUGBY CLUB

SEASON 1957-1958 was the Club's first season since the war as a fully-fledged Junior Club, and we were able for the first time to participate with other Junior First XVs in the Junior Rugby League. Our playing record is not particularly impressive:—

P.	W.	D.	L.	Points	
				F.	A.
19	5	1	13	128	201

We started off the season, however, with only eight of last season's most successful side, and our first few games were more or less experiments in team building. By the end of the season we had a very sound, if not very brilliant side, and looking back over the season we can, I think, gain encouragement from the very closeness of many of our defeats. Thanks in a very large measure to our Captain, Finlay Graham, who set a very fine example, team spirit has never been higher than at the close of this season.

Our Second XV had rather an unfortunate season, since the Club was desperately short of players for most of the season, and they invariably had to turn out short-handed. Nevertheless, they turned in some fine performances.

We shall again be running two fifteens next season, but to ensure an enjoyable season we shall require a number of new players, and I should like to extend a very cordial invitation to all boys leaving School this year who are interested in Rugby.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Darling and Messrs Alexander, Archibald, Chalmers, Connor and Mackay, who have been so very helpful throughout the season.

RONALD F. KING, *Hon. Secy.*

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