

AWSONIAN

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3d.

EDITORIAL NOTE

STANLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

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KENNETH COULSON and ALICE BOGGON.

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Mr. CARR, Mr. SEED, Mr. DOBBS, MARY PAXTON, JOHN MAUGHAN, W. ARMSTRONG.

READERS:

Miss NICOL and Miss ALLISON.

The Christmas Term is always very busy, but this term in particular seems to have been seething with activity. At present as the date of the school concert draws steadily nearer, and practices become more and more frequent, as the terminal examinations loom ominously ahead, and the party and Christmas spirit begins to creep into one's bones, one hardly knows what to direct one's attention to next.

Despite all these diversions, there has been a very creditable inflow of material for the magazine. Our main complaint is that of procrastination. Many entries give the impression of having been rushed off at the last minute; and the Magazine deserves more than that. Next term we shall accept articles from the very first day and shall greatly appreciate entries sent in at the earliest possible moment.

We are especially glad to hear of the revival of the Old Students Association and hope for some very interesting articles from that quarter for our next issue.

We welcome the admonitory but jolly letter, printed in the next column, which was sent by an old pupil, and we humbly apologise for our oversight in claiming to be the first producers of a magazine in this school.

Such letters are always welcome. In fact we should like to make "The Criticism Column" a permanent feature of the magazine and we take this opportunity to invite all pupils, both past and present, to send in criticisms which will in any way help toward the general improvement of our literary efforts.

Although we are now officially 'Stanley Grammar School,' for old times' sake, we should like to retain the name 'Awsonian' given to the magazine; but there again if

anyone has a suggestion for a better title we are ready to accept it.

Just a final note — Next term we are aiming to increase the size of the magazine. Whether we shall be able to do this or not depends upon you, the readers, each one of whom can help in some way.

OLD STUDENTS

NOTICE.—The Old Students Reunion and Dance is to be held in the school dining hall on Saturday, December 15th, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Admission 2/-. Light refreshments will be provided by Miss Lumsden.

Mr. Gales, the former secretary of the Past Students Association, has received a headship in North Riding, Yorkshire. It is hoped that his successor, together with a committee, will be elected at the reunion.

Will Old Students who wish to have all copies of the Magazine for the year sent to them, please send or give 1/- and their address to any member of the magazine committee, and the copies will be forwarded as they are issued.

To the Editor.

AWSONIAN

An old student (1914-18) wishes to object strongly, but with the utmost good humour, to the opening sentence in your excellent magazine.

"This is the first attempt the school has made to produce its own magazine."

Fie upon you. (Old English.)

Sez you. (Modern ditto.)

Where was your reader, Miss Nicol, to let that pass?

Out of many memories can she not recall "The Tanfield Torch" (a much better name than yours, forgive me!); how five or six girls and two boys met on Saturday mornings, and laboriously cyclostyled numerous copies, how Mr. Kaye, of beloved memory, came to help and sat (accidentally) on the black ink cyclostyle pad, in his new, expensive and light-coloured winter coat. And not one of us dared tell him.

We do honour to your venture, but salute our "Tanfield Torch."

Yours, for the magazine committee of 1918,
DORIS RICHARDSON,
nee Laws.

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Since the last edition of this magazine, the Geography Society has had a series of interesting lectures and excursions. Mr. Carr talked at our first meeting of his holiday in the Wye valley, and at our next meeting we had a Ministry of Information talk on India. The Ministry of Information has proved helpful in arranging programmes which have included a lecture on Holland and a film show. Mr. T. Hall, a friend of the School, also favoured us with a talk on his experiences in Newfoundland.

A small party of Geography students visited Edmundbyers in October and two groups have had the privilege of seeing through Durham Observatory.

The Society would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed to the success of this term's activities.

ON BOOKWORMS & OTHER FORMS OF ANIMAL LIFE

Walking the other day across the vast acreage which constitutes the playing field, I met two aristocrats from the lordly fourth quarrelling over what I suppose must be some matter of grave import. On questioning them, however, I found the subject of the dispute to be even more earth-shaking than I had imagined. They were at variance with certain views which some third person had propounded, on the subject of "Bookwormism." Thus my reason for inflicting this on you, dear sufferers.

Certain facts about Bookwormism are common knowledge. I will now proceed to tabulate or classify our knowledge of its potent forms.

1. Inveterate or incurable bookwormism. This is of course the last stage of the trouble. The poor fellow wanders around, seemingly dazed or intoxicated, his hair halfway down his back, eyes peeping through spectacles, and head buried in some ponderous tome written in Greek, Latin or other form of gibberish. Strange mumblings can be heard above the gargling noise of his overworked brain, and the librarians come to know the hunter of the "Classical" section as a raving lunatic, who has already been rendered immune to trips, falls, or stumbles, and who is the bane of their miserable existence. Remedy? Shoot him.

2. Platform or Speechday Bookwormism. Commonly known as "Swotting," this form bears little resemblance to the above, which

renders its victim a semi-demented wreck. Some sufferers have serious attacks when preparing to pass through the "Gateway to all Careers." The epidemic lasts for several weeks, and moth-hunters, as the venerable sage foretold, are in ecstasies. The patient can be seen squatting, sitting, or leaning, all unaware of time, place or space. Desks are empty of text-books and gum is chewed with increasing ferocity. But all this passes, and a condition of normality (by the time Speech-Day comes round) is assured, ensured or insured — whichever you prefer.

3. Junior, General Knowledge or Trouble Bookwormism. This is one of the most widespread and troublesome of all types of bookwormism, as the poor patient, victim or infectee is convinced that he alone is the supreme arbiter of knowledge, and that everyone else is an ignoramus. As all persons (except the Author) are on certain occasions subject to the same delusion (the Author here wishes to explain that he has never recovered from it) the situation contains many difficulties and complications. We were once accosted by an obsequious villain of the third, who calmly requested an answer to the following: "If a cat revolves twice on Thursdays, and alarm clocks cost two shillings a ting, what price euphony, unless asparagus grows in Uranda-Urundi in which case put the sixth letter of the alphabet, assuming that the latter is counted from P backwards, as advised by the Chinese."

The only remedies are silver nitrate, arsenic or a second-hand atomic bomb.

4. Deadwood Dick Bookwormism (Corticosis Gardenus). Under the influence of this disease the pupil will give (in answer to one of ———'s rhetorical questions) the complete life history of Buster Chippe and his Pierless Banned. His pockets bulge with improving literature, for example, the epic of "Desperate Bill" by Virgil Bloggs and he frequents those noble educational institutes commonly appellationed "pitchers."

Remedy:—Inject with bacilli type 2 (Large dose.)

5. Non-existent Bookwormism. This is the most troublesome form of the disease and no remedy is known. Symptoms are vacant stares, complete ignorance of elementary — (Hey! Cut that! It's a self portrait.)

And so we leave the land of Bookwormites. I trust this knowledge has been of some use.

Lunacy Inc.

(the Author's nom-de-printerzink)

N. PEARSON, Form VI.

THE CHESS CLUB

During the summer months our membership has decreased but we are hoping that as winter is approaching, our numbers will increase once more. We are fixing up a chess-match with Consett Grammar School — each side having four players. Two of our members, R. Simpson and H. Young, are at present taking part in the Durham County Chess Association Tournament, and have already progressed into the second round (Section A) by virtue of a win and a bye respectively.

The appended game illustrates a number of very bad faults, namely, lack of development, waste of time, missing capturing opportunities, and total absence of defence:

White: 1, P—K4; 2, P Q4; 3, KT—KB3; 4, B—KKT5; 5, KB4; 6, B B4; 7, B—Q3; 8, O—O; 9, KT—K5; 10, Q—KT4; 11, Q—KT6 (ch.) 12, Q B7(ch.) 13, KT—B4 (mate).

Black: 1, P—K3 (French defence); 2, P—QB3; 3, KT—B3; 4, P—KR3; 5, KT—R3; 6, P—Q4; 7, KT—x P; 8, KT—KT5; 9, P—QR4; 10, P—KB4 ?; 11, K—K2; 12, K—Q3; 13, —

If, after dinner, the weather does not allow pupils to go outside, chess-players may borrow chess sets from Mr. Carr's room and play in the allotted classrooms.

We are very grateful to Mr. Carr for coaching us and improving our play, as he has done since the birth of the Club in 1943.

“AT MUCH-SWOTTING- IN-THE-INK”

(with apologies to Richard Murdoch and
Kenneth Horne.)

At Much-Swotting-in-the-Ink
The English teacher's getting very worried.
At Much-Swotting-in-the-Ink
One day into the fifth-form room she hurried
She said "A man is coming here, you'll all
be glad to meet,
He's lecturing on Keats for you. Now won't
that be a treat ?
A voice came from the back row saying
"Please miss, what's a Keat?"
At Much-Swotting-in-the-Ink.

SOME SCHOOLBOY HOWLERS

What is the Soviet ? The Soviet is what
the middle-class call their dinner-napkin.

The Great Plague was a serious illness
which began with a swelling under the arm
and spread all over Europe.

From a first-year essay on "Our School":—
Our teachers are divided into two groups—
men and women, just like human beings.

A chesterfield is a piece of furniture,
made to hold three people with an arm at
each end.

Ladies should always take tea in their
hats when visiting for a short while.

Who was sorry when the prodigal son
returned ? The fatted calf.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL

Cathedrals are raised by men to their own
greatness, and to the glory of God. They are
the monuments of distinguished church-
men, but it is in the stories of their mas-
sive walls that the history of the people
is written.

St. Cuthbert's body, after a long pil-
grimage, came to a final rest at Durham.
Here the cathedral subsequently rose over
his sacred shrine. Built on a wooded hill,
with the River Wear twisting and turning,
encircling its base, the cathedral, the last
resting place of St. Cuthbert's bones, though
surrounded by collieries, rises majestically
above the smoke-stained countryside. It is
the successor of three churches, two of
which were definitely temporary, the first
being merely a structure of boughs. The
third church, built by Aldhome, was pulled
down only in 1092, when Bishop de St.
Carileph planned the present building. He
intended this building to last, and did, in
fact, carry on the Roman tradition of solid
building. The walls are thick, the columns
are strong and stumpy, the arches semi-
circular and the mouldings round and
simple.

Before I leave the cathedral, round which
a more competent guide than I will show
you, I should like to remind you that the
body of the Venerable Bede is buried there
as well as the much-travelled bones of St.
Cuthbert. Stolen from Jarrow, its natural
home, it lies in the beautiful Galilee chapel.
Here you may see the slab on which the
angel wrote the word 'venerable' and com-
pleted the stonemason's hexameter for him.

Durham, as did many great churches,
claimed the right of sanctuary, and on the
north door hangs the celebrated sanctuary
knocker. Once gained, this gave the fugitive
a respite of thirty-seven days. Before Wyatt
was allowed to make his ill-advised changes,
there was a chamber above the north door
where two priests sat ever waiting lest any
should claim the church's protection.

MARGERY MILLER, Form 2.

