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GRAMMARIAN

MAGAZINE OF STANLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

First Things First

CHRISTMAS, 1959

No. 23.

Staff Representative : MISS A. THOMPSON.

School Editor : ELAINE ARMSTRONG.

Reader : MR. WOOD.

Business Manager : MR. W. SEED.

EDITORIAL

After Harry Baxter's daring intrusion last year into the all-female roll of honour of ex-editors of this noble magazine, we Amazons may resume our complacency once more, knowing that we have recaptured this honourable position. We have also the reassurance that, unlike last year, most of the material submitted for the magazine was written by the female side of the school.

Yet another year has flown by, bringing with it success and disappointment. Our special congratulations go firstly to David Portsmouth, last year's head boy, who is a reserve for a State Scholarship, and secondly to cricketer Colin Milburn, who kept up the renown of the school by scoring a century when he was chosen to play for County Durham against the Indian tourists.

Five teachers have left us during the past year: Mr. Binks who has taught art to every pupil in the school for 33 years; Mrs. Jones, who, besides teaching English, was a reader of this magazine for many years and the producer of all recent school plays; Mr. Harrison, who has taken up the post of County Woodwork Organiser (we hope that he will continue to visit us each Speech Day) and Mr. Kidd and Mr. Grady, who both left after a short but, I hope, happy stay here.

However, beside the onslaught of a new troop of first formers, another year has brought five new members of staff to replace those who left us: Mr. Brabban now teaches woodwork, Mr. Geddes is the new gym master, Mr. Coxon has come to help to teach biology, Miss Eggleston is now teaching art and Miss Peterson takes over history from Mrs. Jolly who has replaced Mrs. Jones as one of the English teachers. Also, Mr. Scott has taken over the duties of Deputy Headmaster.

Perhaps you are wondering about this strange picture on the centre page. Actually it is a photograph of the staff. Some day many years in the future, when your hair is grey and your back bent with age, you may come across this photograph and be reminded of the patience they needed (and usually showed) to make you a model citizen.

The future holds innumerable possibilities for the school. On the intellectual side more pupils will be sitting G.C.E. examinations while in the field of sport, more armies of pupils armed with football boots, hockey sticks, cricket bats and netballs will be defending our honour against representatives of neighbouring grammar schools. Meanwhile the fifth and sixth forms are looking forward to a probable visit to Paris at Easter accompanied by three courageous members of staff. The last trip to France by a party from this school was in 1954, but we would be pleased to have these trips more often.

Everyone connected with the production of the magazine hopes that you will enjoy reading it, because, as Shakespeare said, "Our true intent is all for your delight."

ELAINE ARMSTRONG.

THE SCHOOL YEAR

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day this year was held for the juniors in the afternoon and for the seniors in the evening.

The afternoon's programme began with a speech by Dr. Sharp concerning the new target prizes and school affairs in general. This was followed by a speech by the Rev. W. Armstrong, Vicar of Conssett, who was giving a Geography Prize in memory of his brother, who was an ex-pupil of the school and had been killed in the war. He then presented the prizes, special ones being the Target, Geography and History prizes.

In the evening Mrs. Jolly was for the first time acting as Chairman, although she had held this position on the board of School Governors. In her speech she referred to the great opportunities open to people going to the University. After this, a speech was given by Mr. W. Stone, M.P., who then presented the prizes. Mrs. Jolly received a bouquet of flowers from a member of the sixth form.

At both afternoon and evening functions entertainment was provided by the sixth form male and mixed choirs, the third form choir and the violin class conducted by Mrs. Wilson.

L. APFLEBY, J. SLATER (IVA).

GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY

The general meeting presided over by our President, Dr. Sharp, and well attended, opened the year. This was followed shortly by a Committee meeting. On November 4th a party visited Kemsley House.

Newcastle, and spent a most interesting evening. We were conducted round the various departments. A lecture with film strips was given on January 19th after school by Mr. K. Richards from London, a representative of the Wool Secretariat. This was entitled "Costumes of the Scottish Highlands." A most interesting film show was held on February 18th. There were three films: "Operation Europe," "Made to Measure," and "Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-on-Sea." The year ended with a wonderful evening tour down the River Tyne. The party consisted of fifty pupils and three members of staff. Our thanks are due to all who have helped in any way to carry on the work of the Society.

MILLY WILKINSON (Secretary).

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Once again the Society has had an extremely successful year. Meetings have been well attended and it is obvious that scholars are seeking the advantages that are to be gained by the facilities provided by the Society, especially in view of the expense involved in photography. Unfortunately the predicted probe into the unknown depths of colour photography has not borne any fruit, but there is still hope that it will in the future. The new year has started well with the usual overflow of holiday prints and a few new faces have appeared. It is hoped that these new faces will increase in number when our annual 'Learners' session,' is held, as the society is always a great attraction to new pupils.

This continuation of successful reports only adds more to the proof that the Photographic Society is one of the most prominent of the many out-of-school activities currently running.

JOHN E. HOGG (Secretary).

THE DEBATING SOCIETY

The past year has been a very bad one for the Debating Society and its functions were few.

The Inter-House Brains Trusts were very well supported and this year Neville relinquished its victorious position to Dunelm.

Later in the year a debate was held when the motion was "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach." The society challenged the staff to defend themselves. They showed great reluctance to do so, but finally Mr. Grady and Mr. Taylor volunteered to oppose the motion which was proposed by Harry Baxter and Margaret Baxter. The result was an overwhelming victory for the opposition.

We look forward to a much more active year. It has been decided that meetings will, in future, be held fortnightly, after school, and will take the form of discussions, debates and other functions. We hope that this year the society will have a larger number of active supporters.

MARGARET BAXTER (Secretary).

THE CHESS CLUB

It is pleasant to be able to report that excellent support was given to the club at the beginning of the season for the first American Tournament. Each member was eager to gain the upper hand against the staff, but all was in vain, for Dr. Sharp and Mr. Yockney were at the top of the table. The German student was well up in the reckoning.

Patiently we tried again, but the result of the second American Tournament brought us no nearer success. Shortly after the beginning of the new season a Lightning Tournament was played. Mr. Yockney was victorious, defeating Dr. Sharp in the semi-final and Jackson in the final. This season the Chess Club will meet each Thursday evening in the library, and all boys in the second form and upwards are eligible and very welcome to come along.

FRANK S. PEIRSON (Secretary).

MUSICAL EVENTS

It is expected that in the near future all the musical activities in the school will be organised under the auspices of the Music Society. These activities will include the annual concerts, and "Music Makers" group meetings. Lectures, recitals and possible visits are also envisaged. In its new guise the Music Society will take on a new lease of life and become more flourishing than ever before. If and when this change over takes place membership will be open to anyone interested. Since the Society will be financed by the proceeds from concerts, no subscription will be payable. In the event of a lecture or trip, however, it may be necessary to make a small charge to meet any overhead expenses.

Several separate choirs now exist and practices for each are held throughout the year. The sixth year four-part choir now specialises in larger works than hitherto, while the fourth year girls' choir is attempting music of increasing difficulty. The second and third year choirs retain the traditional role of providing the shorter and lighter songs which are so necessary in all types of concert.

The concert held in November, 1958, was a great success and over three hundred people attended. Seven choirs as well as the school string ensemble and soloists took part.

Speech Day saw the sixth year choir attempt their most ambitious work to date, i.e., Hubert Parry's "Blest Pair of Sirens." The next concert which will be given on October 29th and 30th this year is even more ambitious.

The "Music Makers" group, a branch of the original Music Society, still functions and possesses a membership of twenty. For each meeting members are supposed to prepare musical items and a certain number are requested to perform at a particular session. This group, now in the fourth year of its existence, is certainly fulfilling the function for which it was promoted.

SHEILA CREIGHTON (Viu).

SOME UPPER SCHOOL VISITS

During the past year parties from the fifth and sixth forms went to see several plays produced by other schools and theatre companies.

On May 1st a party visited the People's Theatre to see "The Rivals." The general production was excellent and the acting and costumes admirable, but the scenery was rather poor. The part of Mrs. Malaprop was played exceedingly well.

Consett Grammar School's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was also very good indeed. The scenery, costumes and lighting were ambitious, but were very effective. The acting was highly commendable and without self-consciousness, especially the buffoonery of Bottom and his companions.

Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Ernest" by the Dramatic Society of Hookergate Grammar School was not such a polished performance. The scenery, costumes and lighting were amateurish and the make-up very poor. The players did not appear to be self-confident and were not sufficiently experienced to put over Wilde's characters and humour.

MARGARET BAXTER (VIU).

CONGRATULATIONS

Towards the end of last season Colin Milburn (17), because of his consistently good performances in League Cricket, was chosen to represent Durham County against the Indian Test Touring Team and thus became one of the youngest players ever to represent the County. To be chosen for the County was a great honour, but to be asked to open the innings was an even greater one. Colin, however, rose to the occasion and in this his first county game he scored a magnificent century and became the youngest player ever to score a century against the Indians. Colin intends to make cricket his career and in this we wish him every success.

CLIFFORD STUBBS.

SENIOR CRICKET

The School XI were quite successful last season winning three out of the seven matches played; one game had to be abandoned owing to rain.

Consett defeated us by 13 runs but due to good performances by March (35) and Milburn (36 and 5 for 4), we easily gained our revenge winning by 62 runs. We unluckily lost an exciting game at Chester by four runs, but in the return game we shot out Chester for 21 (March 6 for 3) and ran out easy winners by nine wickets. The victory over Blaydon was perhaps the best of the season. In this game Blaydon scored 67 which the school rubbed off for one wicket, Gibbon scoring an undefeated half century. We later lost to Blaydon by 45 runs and the match versus Durham Johnston had to be abandoned with the school 41 for 2.

G. Gibbon was top of the batting averages with an average of 32.51 and J. March headed the bowling averages with 6.3 runs per wicket.

CLIFFORD STUBBS.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

The season 1958-59 proved quite successful for the Senior Football Team, although no trophy was brought home. Five of the ten games played resulted in victory while one encounter was a draw. The team started well with a 3-3 draw against Durham Johnston but in the return match Durham proved to be much superior and ran out worthy winners by 7 goals to 1.

Convincing victories, however, were obtained against Cobsett (5-3 and 4-2) and at Rutherford Grammar (5-3 and 4-1), but defeats were inflicted by a strong Hookergate eleven who ran out winners by 5-1 and 4-0. We defeated Chester (3-2) but later in the season they gained their revenge by beating us 3-1. In the Tyneside Grammar Schools' Cup we fell against Tynemouth and lost the first round (3-1).

We were successful against the School Hockey Team but had our colours lowered by a strong staff eleven who beat us 3-1.

In the current season we have started well, winning two of the three games played, and in the Tyneside Grammar Schools' Cup our opponents are Sunderland Bede; we hope for much greater success.

CLIFFORD STUBBS (Captain).

SCHOOL ATHLETICS 1958-59

Throughout the past few years there has been an increasing interest in athletics within the school, culminating this year in some magnificent performances. The training schedule for athletes, which was started off by Mr. Wood last winter, and which was held on Monday and Wednesday evenings, probably accounts for the good competitions of this season.

The first "big" competition in which performers could show their ability was, of course, School Sports Day, held on May 27th. Possibly some of the selections made for the County Sports three days later were a result of the achievements of Sports Day. The competition on the 27th was extremely keen and sporting, and there were many unexpected results. It may also be noted with some consternation that thirty-one sixth formers took part. The meeting was well supported and good organisation helped it to run to schedule. Neville won the Senior House Shield after an extremely close contest, the winner of which was not decided until the outcome of the last event. The School was honoured by the presence of Mr. Carr, a past Headmaster, who later presented the trophies.

On the Saturday following the County Sports were held in the grounds of Durham Johnston School. It was the first taste of top com-

petition for many junior athletes but this did not seem to deter them from putting up a good performance. Alan Mills bettered 40 ft. in the triple jump and became County Champion. He later followed this achievement up with a fine 19 ft. long jump when competing in the Tyneside Sports. As a result he was chosen to represent the County in the All-English Sports held at Northwich, along with Harry Baxter and Carol Bentik. Harry, who was second in the 880 yds at the County Sports, later won the same event at Rutherford Grammar in a fine 2 mins. 0.7 sec. Carol followed up a convincing win on her own ground in the District Sports with an equally good one at Houghton and so shared the same honour as the two boys.

Later in the season the school team were victorious in a match with Elswick Harriers. All during the summer on Wednesday evenings an inter-house athletics league has been running. 18 records have been broken and one equalled. One outstanding achievement was that of W. Robinson who won 8 out of 13 events in his year. Another promising youngster is Alan Wilson, brother of the former school sprinter Edgar Wilson. Young Alan already holds three school records.

Budding muscle men are now present in Boyd, Carr and Reay. The last named came second in the district sports with a discus throw of 126 feet.

This summer's high standard of performances is the result not only of hard work on the part of the athletes, but also of the patient coaching of Messrs. Wood and Geddes to whom the athletics team are chiefly indebted.

J. BURROWS. (VIU).

FIRST ELEVEN HOCKEY

The standard of results last season was unfortunately not as high as in previous years. At the County Tournament the team met with little success and only Eileen Harrison was chosen for County trials.

This year an under-fifteen eleven has been formed and it is hoped that, along with the first eleven, they will meet with considerable success.

EILEEN HARRISON (Captain).

HOUSE REPORTS

Neville

A strong senior eleven, under the efficient captaincy of John March, easily defeated Tanfield 10—2 and Dunelm 4—1 whilst drawing with Watling 1—1. The junior eleven, however, did not come up to the standard of the seniors and were very unsuccessful. They lost all their encounters.

At cricket the senior eleven were successful and won all their games, but the junior eleven had not much success during the season and lost all their games.

On Sports Day the seniors excelled themselves by winning the senior shield, but the intermediates and juniors did not bring home any trophies. Generally it was not an exceptionally good season for Neville boys, but better results, especially from the juniors, are hoped for this year.

CLIFFORD STUBBS (Captain).

Last season Neville carried off the Hockey Shield. Not a single goal was scored against the House. Members of the team gave full co-operation in both practices and matches. The team work was extremely good, particularly in the forward line.

Neville seniors won their three netball matches, but the juniors unfortunately let them down by losing all their matches. Their team work was poor and the shooter rarely had the ball. Each House obtained six points, but the shield was awarded on goal average.

On the whole the House did very well on Sports Day but just failed to win any house shield. The seniors were second with 38 points, the intermediates gained 46 points and the juniors 42 points.

The seniors did very well last season. With a little more practice and effort the juniors will soon reach the winning standard.

JOYCE DODD.

Dunelm

The field was in a heavy condition for the hockey tournament; nevertheless, we managed to gain a victory over Watling, a draw with Tanfield, but lost to the eventual winners, Neville.

In the netball tournament the senior results were very disappointing, but fortunately the juniors won all their matches enabling us to win the shield on goal average.

This year it is hoped that much more enthusiasm will be shown, especially among the seniors.

E. HARRISON (Captain).

Dunelm were once again well to the fore in the house football competition. The junior team won all three matches played, scoring six goals against two. The seniors, however, won only one of their matches, scoring ten goals against six.

Dunelm did not do quite as well at cricket as at football during the past season, but we hope to recover all lost ground next season. On Sports Day Dunelm again showed up well against the opposition. The senior team, captained by Harry Baxter, were narrowly defeated for the championship by half a point.

P. BAGGETT (Captain).

Watling

Thanks to persistent prodding by Miss Simpson there was increased enthusiasm for entering events on Sports Day. This enthusiasm was shown by the fact that Watling carried away both the intermediate and senior shields.

In netball, Watling came third, the seniors showing great promise, but the juniors failed to reach the same standard. The hockey team was poor owing to lack of fifth and sixth form support. We hope for much better support this year.

Carole Bentick brought honour to her house and to the school being chosen to represent Durham in the All-England Sports.

F. RICHARDSON (Captain).

The year 1958-59 has been a fairly successful one, but by no means has any exceptional standard been reached, except perhaps in the case of athletics.

Senior football was of a high standard, no games were lost, although a 1-1 draw was the best we could manage against Neville. The juniors, however, won only one game, thus eliminating all hopes of the championship.

The cricket shield which was considered "in the bag" was lost to Tanfield. This was rather disappointing as the seniors in particular had a strong side. The side, being perhaps a little over-confident, were defeated by Neville in a thrilling game by a margin of ten runs.

By far the best performances were obtained in the athletics league. Both juniors and seniors did well. This was well illustrated by the fact that Watling won the shield for the best overall performance in all groups. Individual section shields were won by first, second, third and fifth years, which was quite an achievement.

The coming year is, I think, being faced with confidence and a will to do better by most members of the house, remembering all the time that determination can to some extent make up for lack of skill.

TERRY L. WILES (Captain).

Tanfield

I am glad to report that there has been a noticeable improvement in the standard of games and athletics in the past year. In the inter-house hockey tournament Tanfield was a close runner-up to Neville, the winning house. In the inter-house netball tournament Tanfield were second. On Sports Day the junior shield was won by Tanfield. Ann Ridley was an outstanding contributor to the winning of the shield and the relay team, in spite of a handicap, did very well.

Thank you to all who have so co-operated in house events, and I hope that the standard of achievement in Tanfield will continue to rise.

J. C. FLOWERS (Captain).

The senior football team had a poor season, losing all their games by considerable margins.

The juniors did a great deal better, winning two games and losing the other. We did well at cricket and succeeded in winning the championship. The seniors beat Dunelm but lost to Neville and Watling. The juniors were very successful and won all their games, a grand achievement. Those who deserve special mention are Malcolm (Capt.), Waller, Reynolds and Garner.

On Sports Day the juniors and seniors did quite well, but the intermediates did not do quite so well. Malcolm, Hogg and Reay all won their events. We hope that we shall meet with further success this year.

T. FRISK (Captain).

THE WRECK OF THE SCHOLARS' BUS

Here's the tale of the Stanley Bus,
Speeding along its way.
The scholars sat, there was no fuss
At eight-fifteen that day.

But when it reached the old Bird Inn,
The driver seemed asleep,
He turned to left instead of right.
Which made their flesh to creep.

The bell was rung, the children cried,
But all to no avail.
For on, still on, the bus did ride,
The first let out a wail.

The children saw the bridge approach,
And knew it was too low,
And down upon the floor did crouch
And prayed the bus would slow.

For soon there was a fearful crash,
The bus top was ripped off,
With glass and dust all over them,
It caused them all to cough.

The children rose and shook themselves,
And found they were not dead ;
Then from the lower deck a voice,
" Come down and mind your head."

Another bus drew up quite soon
To take those girls along,
While those at school were all agog,
To find what had gone wrong.

But when they learned no one was hurt,
Interest began to wane.
Those children all set down to work
And all was peace again.

ELIZABETH CARTER (IIIa).

A FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE

The crash occurred at West Pelton. The double-deck bus which crashed into a bridge twelve feet nine inches high was taking the girls of Stanley Grammar School to school. I was sitting in the fourth seat from the front, upstairs.

It all happened when the bus took the wrong turning and nearly everyone was laughing because we thought the driver would stop when he saw the low bridge, but he did not. He went straight on, but I did not think he would try to go under the bridge. As we neared the bridge I think everyone was getting a little frightened; I know I was. It was terrible to see the bridge coming towards us, but as we got near the bridge someone shouted "Duck," and everyone automatically ducked. Then there was a terrifying noise as the bus hit the top of the bridge, and then a shower of glass and pieces of metal. About half of the top deck where I was sitting was smashed, and so everyone tried to get off the bus. Sheila Creighton came upstairs and told us not to panic. I could not get out of my seat because everyone was beside it trying to get out. I had to climb over my seat into the seat behind and get out that way. Soon everyone was off the bus and a girl had to be taken into a nearby house and then taken home because of slight shock and a few cuts. She had been sitting in the front seat.

It was a terrifying experience and everyone was a little shaken afterwards. After seeing that everyone was all right, Sheila telephoned Dr. Sharp and told him what had happened. Then we awaited the arrival of another bus to take us to school.

VERA FAIRLEY (IIA).

PAST STUDENTS

TO PAST STUDENTS

It has given me great pleasure to receive a parting gift from the past students on the occasion of my retirement after thirty-five years at Stanley Grammar School.

After some thought as to what would be the pleasantest reminder, I came to the conclusion that as I intend to spend a good deal of my time in gardening, a teak wood garden seat and an automatic sprayer would enable me to establish a nice combination of theory and practice. The seat is now installed in my garden under a shady scarlet willow tree, which I grew from a cutting in 1935 from the wood at the top of the school.

Looking back over past years, and I suppose it is both customary and permissible on occasions like this to indulge in a few reminiscences, I recall a few of the things which have made the work both enjoyable and exciting. Some of you older past students will remember the days when we at Stanley were among the leaders in this country in pioneering new methods and activities which are now a common-place in every

school, discarding old ideas and basing ourselves on the natural and underestimated talents of children, combined with modern developments in art. It is a great pleasure to recall some of the splendid things we created, the many exhibitions we contributed to, both in this country and abroad, our published prints and incidentally, not forgetting some of the best paintings and carvings which never came back, apparently being admired so much that they were conveniently borrowed.

What a pleasure it was to discern in some child the first glimmering or real artistic talent, so naive, so sincere, and to know how to develop it, to find the superb colour sense, the unexpected flair. These are the things which have made the work worth while to me.

I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have over the years, and in saying goodbye, I thank you all for your enthusiasm and co-operation with me. May your successors repeat your achievements with mine.

With best wishes to you all

R. H. BINKS.

Past Students' Association

The Annual Reunion will take the form of

A Dinner Dance

to be held in the

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, 1959

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Dancing 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

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Friends of Past Students will be welcome

UNIVERSITY LIFE

"Those students again!" The lady did not say those words but I could imagine from the look of rueful acceptance on her face exactly what she was thinking as I jangled my collecting box in front of her and assured her that her pennies would be helping to finance a good cause. This incident occurred during Rag Week which, in Leeds, is held during the last week of the summer term, and so it brought to a fitting end my first year at the University.

The year began with the Freshers' Conference and I had come to Leeds, together with hundreds of other Freshers, to be given advice from all quarters, to be overwhelmed by the immensity of the University buildings and the seeming impersonality of everything, to listen to glowing accounts of University life from group leaders who always seem to be the most self-assured men in the Union and are always at great pains to impress newcomers (because no one else is at all deceived by them) with their sophistication and indispensability to the Union. Despite this beginning, however, we soon, luckily, forgot the advice we were given and we began to find our way in the big white buildings which had up to now seemed such a maze. We also began to see familiar faces at the Union which had previously been filled with people whom everyone else knew except us.

Looking back over the year I now find it easy to dismiss the less enjoyable times—the long hours spent in the University Library, the boring lectures throughout which one sits patiently wondering if in the last five minutes the lecturer will at last come to the point. Then there was also the essay class which can be quite nerve-racking when you are the only girl in the class, and after the essay has been read you are expected to begin criticism of it with a few "telling" points. Examinations, however, soon come upon you, and like everyone else you work late into the night and get up early in the morning. Nor is there any relief from this depressing round since everyone is working at the same pitch. There is only one topic of conversation, and you believe you will either lose your sanity before the exams arrive or, what is worse, fail.

But in complete contrast were the times of relaxation, and these were in comparison wonderfully gay. 'Jiving' at Union 'hops,' parties in Hall on every possible occasion, and balls where you dance until 2 a.m. or even 7 a.m., and play croquet in evening dress at four on a clear summer morning. The Rag is also an opportunity for high spirits, especially since, for us, it is held after summer exams. For two weeks we pasted and painted and on 'the Day' we put our ship on to the back of a lorry and dressed up as pirates, only to find after bringing down lights and electric cables in city streets, that we had overlooked one small detail—the excessive height of our mast.

The greatest advantage, undoubtedly, of University life is the unique opportunity you have for meeting so many men and women of your own age, each of whom is different. Possibly never again will life offer you

the opportunity of meeting people of such very different backgrounds, religious and racial. As a result we spend a great deal of time talking, not only to British friends, but to American, German, Indian and African friends. Discussions and arguments arise and last for a long time, especially when we had a Russian girl living with us for a short time, and discussions went on until the early hours of the morning! But what is perhaps so encouraging is the measure of sympathy and agreement which we reached, and we came to the conclusion that if world affairs were in our hands there would be no problems or enmity.

There is a fascination about the University world which I have heard compared to "Sea-fever" for people find themselves very loathe to leave it. It is strange to find graduates who are perhaps in their fourth year trying very hard to find some pretext to stay on and on. It is strange but understandable, for no matter how happy you might be at home it is a great pleasure to return to and live in the world to which for a time at least you really belong.

ISOBEL HARRISON.

AT HOME AND ABROAD

A FOREIGN VISITOR

My French pen-pal, Marie Thérèse Lateyran, was to arrive on the thirteenth of July, and my parents and I travelled to Newcastle station to meet her and her father, who was accompanying her and who had been invited to spend a few days with us. The train was due to arrive at twenty minutes past eight in the evening, but was delayed and did not arrive until almost eleven o'clock. My mother and I had almost given up hope, and were sitting dejectedly side by side when my father dashed up in great excitement to tell us he thought he had seen them. I had no time to be nervous! I ran with my father to the barrier just in time to see Marie Thérèse giving up her ticket. Her father, who spoke no English, stood behind her. She saw me as she came forward and came up to me rather shyly. I had carefully practised what I was going to say to her (in French of course) but now the moment had come I could not remember a single word of it! We shook hands rather formally, but our parents, who had never seen one another in their lives, seized upon each other like long lost friends, and the station rang with "Bonjour." My father, who speaks no French, had been practising all the week saying, "Je suis enchanté de vous voir," but in all the excitement I don't think he got a chance to say it!

Marie Thérèse, who is called Maté, was shy and rather formal. On the way home I had to think frantically of things to say, and I am afraid my conversation was rather limited to "Voilà mon école" and "Voici Annfield Plain." Her father talked incessantly in French, and my mother, who learned French at school, was sometimes completely overwhelmed by the conversation, managing to gasp out "Oui," and "non" and "Je comprends" at intervals.

