

Dec. 1921.

No. 18.

SOUTHGATE
COUNTY SCHOOL
MAGAZINE
December 1921

Southgate County . School . Magazine.

DECEMBER, 1921.

No. 18

EDITORIAL,

Our successes for the year 1920-1921—both on the field and in the examination room—afford pleasant and stimulating reading.

At the Inter-School Sports, held at Stamford Bridge, we won greater distinction than in any previous year. We occupied third place amongst all the Schools in Middlesex. Our team, consisting of L. Brown, R. R. MacLean, G. L. Wyllie, and C. White, was first home in the Senior Relay Race. G. L. Wyllie was second in the Half-mile, J. G. Stubbs second in the Mile, and R. R. Stevens third in the High Jump.

Our own School Sports, held on July 16th, provided us with many new records, which we hope to see challenged next summer. These were:—
Long Jump.—Seniors : P. Bigg, 19ft. 2½ins. Juniors : S. F. Dawton, 16ft. 4ins.
High Jump.—Boys : P. Bigg, 5ft. 4ins. Girls : Margaret Whyte, 4ft. 5ins.

The Victor Ludorum Cup was won by G. L. Wyllie with 10 points, closely followed by P. Bigg (9) and C. White (6). The leading boys in the Lower School were E. R. Styles (8½), S. F. Dawton (7½).

Amongst the girls, Marjorie Booth led the way for the Seniors; Joan Neate and Marjorie Smith for the Juniors.

Green House was the winning House on the girls' side; Black House on the Boys'.

The presentation of the Cups and Prizes by Mrs. E. Linstead fitly crowned a most successful gathering, at which we were glad to meet again so many old scholars and parents.

This year the School is the proud possessor of three additional cups, which are referred to in later columns.

Our examination results were equally satisfactorily. Sixty-two candidates entered for the General School Examination of the University of London. Fifty-six obtained their Certificates, and thirty-five of these gained, in addition, the Matriculation Certificate.

Eight candidates were successful at the Intermediate Examination, viz:—
Inter. B.A. : Dorothy Bassett. Inter B.Sc. : Winifred Chambers, Gertrude Stone, C. Hughes, S. J. Martin, L. Ochiltree, F. S. Wright, P. D. Wright.

P. Bigg and E. W. Pates, who passed the Inter. last year, gained the Higher School Certificate.

We also congratulate P. Bigg, who crowned a successful school career by winning the "Andrewes Scholarship" for Science and Mathematics at University College, London.

Our congratulations are also extended to R. C. T. Petty (1908-1915), who took the second part of his Tripos at Cambridge in the summer, and has recently been appointed Research Chemist under the Indian Agricultural Board.

We offer our congratulations to the following, who have passed their Final Examinations at the Universities for their degrees during the last six months:— E. B. Addison (First-class, "Special Examination," Cambridge); Mary Chambers (Second-class Honours in English, London); R. N. Faint (First-class Honours in English, London); Ina Girdwood (Second-class Honours in English, London); G. H. Jacob (Distinction in Jurisprudence, Oxford); R. C. T. Petty (Third-class Honours in the Natural Science Tripos, Cambridge); V. Tyler (Third-class Honours in Mathematics, London); A. G. Herber (B.Sc., London).

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GRATITUDE.

We have to acknowledge with our most sincere thanks the following gifts or services:—

The Hall is the richer for the six framed coloured copies of the Royal Exchange pictures which appear on the walls of the Hall; these were presented to the School by the Parents' and Staff Association. We are also indebted to Mrs. W. T. Hanman for the two pictures which appear above the doors leading into the Laboratories.

The Parents and Staff Association has also made the School a gift of £10 towards the purchase of a Magic Lantern.

Mr. J. S. Ochiltree has kindly given us an excellent microscope, of which we were in urgent need.

Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Wiggins have presented to the School a Silver Cup, to be held for a year by the House winning the Tug-of-War at our Sports. It is to be known as the "Stanley Wiggins Memorial Cup," and is in memory of one who, after five and a-half years in the School, left us in July, 1918, to go to the Royal College of Science, and died two years afterwards.

Another Cup has been presented to the School, to be held for a year by the winner of the Broad Jump, and to be known as the "Bigg Challenge Cup." It is given by three brothers who have passed through the School: Bryan Bigg (1907-1910), Frank Bigg (1907-1911), Philip Bigg (1914-1921).

We have received from Mr. and Mrs. M. David a copy of Knight's "Shakespeare" (8 vols., illustrated), as well as a collection of most interesting prints of Castles on the Rhine; these prints will appear in panels outside the German Room.

To Mr. W. T. Hanman we are indebted for almost all the fossils which form our Museum.

To Mr. E. T. Finch and Mr. Russell Hutchinson we owe a debt of gratitude for their valuable assistance and advice in helping us to acquire the interesting set of prints that appear on the walls of the Chaucer-Shakespeare Room.

To Mr. R. Stevens we are indebted for the Prism Glasses illustrating the principle of Total Internal Reflection of Light by glass prisms.

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COMPETITIONS.

An interesting exhibition of holiday work was held in the Hall on Wednesday, October 11th.

Some good collections of rocks and fossils were shown, while the butterflies and moths in the Natural History Section aroused much interest.

The work of Amy Yunnice, in both the Geographical and Botanical sections, deserves special mention.

A new feature was a collection of historical holiday work which produced good results in architectural studies.

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EVENING.

Night hovers here on wings of ecstasy :
The daylight fades,
And elfin flutes shrill sweet and wistfully
Adown the glades.
Slow stars spring out between the trees, and then
I e'er depart
To seek 'mid treasures of the fairy glen
A friendly heart.

Dorothy Bassett.

* * *

A NORSE SONG.

Fare forth o'er the foam-track,
The free sea, our homeland :
The stars, through the storm-wrack,
Shall smile on our going ;
The wind o'er the wave-way
Is calling, is calling—
The grey deeps are calling,
O sons of the sea.

The waves are a way
For the feet of the fearless
The free ones who follow
The whirl of the white foam—
Over the torn track
Led by a far light—
Sons of the sea.

Fare forth o'er the foam-track,
 The cold sea that calls us;
 And follow the High One,
 Who dwells in the dawn-mist,
 Who hunts through the heavens
 The hosts of the Darkness,
 And sinks, at the day's end,
 To sleep in the sea.

Marjorie Martyn.

* * *

HOCKEY NOTES.

Generally speaking, the Hockey team for 1920-1921 was not good; the players were very keen hard workers, but they failed to obtain the expected results owing to the lack of accurate hard hitting and the weak attacking power of the forwards, especially in the circle. During the early practices there was an absence of combination among the players, and although this improved very much, it remained a weakness throughout the season.

The Inter-House Matches were keenly contested; each House provided a Junior team in addition to the Senior team, thereby extending the interest of former years to the younger members. Some of the beginners showed decided promise for future School teams. Alma Hawksworth and Queenie Smith deserve special mention.

SCHOOL FIRST ELEVEN.

Gertrude Stone: Captain. A fast and hard-working right wing.

Marjorie Matthews: Inside-right. Individually strong, but too selfish a forward for good combination.

Nancy White: Centre. An uncertain forward, but much improved towards the end of the season.

Winifred Holding: Inside-left. A keen worker, but too fond of offside positions.

Marjorie Martin. Has done good work on the left wing, and promises well for next season.

Peggy Matthew: Right Half-back. A good tackler.

Dorothy Cove: Vice-captain. An untiring centre-half and a substantial help to her side.

Edith Airey: Left Half-back. An energetic but faulty worker.

Margaret Whyte. A successful right back, who recovers well when passed.

Marjorie Booth. A good all-round player, one of the few to develop a strong driving stroke.

Cecily Forbes. A strong reliable goalkeeper.

SECOND ELEVEN.

Lorna Hills (Captain), Peggy Wyllie, Marjorie Pope, Joan Burdge, Enid le Plastrier, Kathleen Rice, Beryl Pipe, Gwenneth Humphrey, Phyllis Tyler, Molly Baker, and Kathleen Holder.

HOCKEY RESULTS.

First Eleven.

- v. Enfield.—Away : Lost 0—3. Home : Lost 1—4.
- v. Finchley.—Away : Draw 1—1. Home : Lost 1—3.
- v. Latymer.—Away : Draw 2—2. Home : Won 7—0.
- v. Tottenham County.—Away : Lost 2—5. Home : Won 4—1.
- v. Tottenham High.—Away : Lost 1—2. Home : Won 2—1.
- v. Wood Green.—Away : Lost 1—7. Home : Won 1—0.
- v. Old Girls.—Away : Won 4—2. Home : Draw 2—2.

Second Eleven.

- v. Enfield.—Away : Lost 0—4. Home : Lost 2—6.
- v. Finchley.—Away : Lost 2—6.
- v. Tottenham County.—Away : Lost 1—6. Home : Lost 2—3.
- v. Tottenham High.—Away : Draw 1—1. Home : Won 3—0.
- v. Wood Green.—Away : Won 7—0. Home : Won 2—1.

HOCKEY HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP.

	Blue.	Green.	Red.	White.	TOTAL POINTS.
Blue	—	0	1	0	1
Green	2	—	2	1	10
Red	1	0	—	1	3
White	2	1	2	—	8

* * *

NETBALL NOTES.

Last Netball season was not a very successful one, especially during the Spring Term, when some of the matches had to be scratched, and few practices could be arranged owing to the building operations, which interfered with the Court. The teams played keenly, the shooting, on the whole, was good, but there is a tendency to too much individual play. When playing against other schools the teams were not always quick enough in discovering the tactics of their opponents and in inventing new passes to outwit them.

Two Junior Teams were formed for those under fourteen. These teams worked hard and give good promise of a successful season during the coming year.

In the House Matches the Green House was generally successful, although a good fight was put up by the other Houses. The Junior Green House Team won all its matches.

FIRST TEAM.

- C. Darley* (Captain); Centre. A quick player.
- W. Coulden*; Defence. A good player in all positions.

- K. Mason* : Goalkeeper. A steady player.
M. Payne : C. Attack. A quick, alert player, style good.
M. Atkins : Attack. A very good shooter.
J. Gunn : Shooter. Quick and very reliable in shooting.
J. Owers : C. Defence. A careful player, but rather slow.

NETBALL RESULTS.

First Eleven.

- v. Finchley.—Away : Lost 12—25.
 v. Enfield.—Away : Lost 10—21.
 v. Tottenham County.—Home : Lost 18—19.
 v. Latymer.—Home : Lost 14—35. Away : Lost 4—24.
 v. Wood Green.—Away : Won 13—11.
 v. Old Girls.—Home : Won 21—17 ; Won 22—18.
 v. Hornsey High.—Home : Lost 10—23.

Second Eleven.

- v. Finchley.—Away : Lost 3—19.
 v. Enfield.—Away : Lost 3—19.
 v. Tottenham County.—Home : Draw 10—10.
 v. Latymer.—Home : Lost 7—21. Away : Lost 1—31.
 v. Wood Green.—Away : Won 18—9.
 v. Hornsey High.—Away : Lost 10—24.
 v. Hornsey County.—Home : Draw 12—12.

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TENNIS.

In the Inter-House Tennis Tournament, held at the end of the summer term, the Greens were the winning House, the Reds coming second, the Blues third, and the Whites fourth.

Team for 1921 :—

First Couple : Gertrude Stone, Marjorie Booth.

Second Couple : Winifred Coulden, Kathleen Mason.

Third Couple : Nancy White, Margaret Whyte.

Reserve : Mary Payne.

RESULTS OF MATCHES.

- v. Enfield.—Away : Lost 40—59. Home : Lost 46—53.
 v. Finchley.—Away : Lost 39—60. Home : Lost 35—46.
 v. Hornsey High.—Away : Won 52—47. Home : Won 60—39.
 v. Latymer.—Away : Won 50—49.
 v. Tottenham County.—Home : Won 60—49.
 v. Tottenham High.—Away : Lost 44—55. Home : Won 52—47.
 v. Wood Green.—Away : Won 53—46. Home : Won 66—33.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

The School football continued the improvement begun the previous season, but the forwards still lacked the necessary "all-out" effort in front of goal in order to obtain a successful finish to their mid-field play. The backs were all hard-working, sound defenders, who have not yet realised the value of well-placed kicks as an aid to attack. On the whole, the past season was a very successful one for both teams, and the captains are to be congratulated on having got their players so well together.

- P. H. Bigg.*—A robust and hard-working centre-half, who admirably skippered the First Eleven.
- F. S. Huckstepp.*—A goalkeeper whom we were sorry to lose at Christmas.
- D. C. K. Gardner.*—Kept goal during the Spring Term, and shows promise for the future.
- R. R. Stevens* (the Vice-Captain).—A steady right full-back, who kicks well.
- N. Brown.*—The left full-back; unfortunately broke his arm and was unable to play at the beginning of the season.
- R. H. Burdge.*—A left half-back who, in spite of faults, was a trier.
- N. H. Hole.*—A left half-back, whose anticipation and pluck earned him his place in the First Eleven.
- R. G. Ridley.*—A robust right half-back who should do well if he acquires a little judgment.
- L. Brown.*—An outside-right who has a fair turn of speed, and who makes the most of his opportunities.
- J. W. Atkinson.*—An inside-right of ability, but sometimes disappointing in front of goal.
- G. L. Wyllie.*—A clever centre-forward and a good shot with either foot.
- A. Watson.*—Plays either centre or inside-left, and has scored some good goals for the School, but sometimes passes wildly.
- J. G. Stubbs.*—The outside-left; runs well and centres accurately.
- E. W. Pates.*—The Captain of the Second Eleven; by his example has built up the nucleus of next season's First Eleven.

FOOTBALL RESULTS.

First Eleven.

- v. Finchley.—Home : Won 6—2. Away : Won 3—2.
- v. St. Ignatius.—Home : Lost 0—4. Away : Won 3—1.
- v. Hornsey.—Home : Draw 3—3. Away : Won 3—0.
- v. Wood Green.—Home : Draw 1—1. Away : Lost 2—5.
- v. Latymer.—Home : Draw 1—1. Away : Draw 1—1.
- v. Northern Polytechnic.—Home : Won 5—0.
- v. Hackney Downs.—Away : Draw 2—2.
- v. Old Boys.—Home : Won 3—2; Lost 3—11.

Second Eleven.

- v. Finchley.—Home : Won 14—0. Away : Won 6—1.
 v. St. Ignatius.—Home : Lost 0—3. Away : Lost 1—4.
 v. Hornsey.—Home : Won 13—0. Away : Won 7—0.
 v. Wood Green.—Home : Lost 3—6. Away : Won 4—2.
 v. Latymer.—Home : Won 7—1. Away : Won 4—1.
 v. Hackney Downs.—Home : Won 6—1.

FOOTBALL HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR 1920-21.

	Reds.	Blues.	Blacks.	Whites.	Points.	Position.
Reds	—	Won 1—0	Draw 1—1	Won 3—1	5	1
Blues	Lost 0—1	—	Won 1—0	Won 6—0	4	2
Blacks ...	Draw 1—1	Lost 0—1	—	Won 2—0	3	3
Whites ...	Lost 1—3	Lost 0—6	Lost 0—2	—	0	4

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CRICKET.

We are glad to be able to report a very encouraging improvement in this season's cricket. Of the 12 matches played by the First Eleven, we won six, lost five and drew one; while the Second Eleven won six of its eight matches, one match also being drawn.

The Parents' Match was, as usual, a well-attended and thoroughly enjoyable function; with the help of four Masters, the School Team defeated a good Parents' Team by 139—99.

The match against the Old Boys was a most exciting one. After a very close game the Old Boys were all out for 53, for which White was largely responsible by taking 7 wickets for 14 runs. The School ran up a score of 56, of which Mr. Adams scored 31.

We must congratulate C. White on having scored 159 runs in 13 innings and taken 39 wickets at a cost of 6.1 runs per wicket. S. Watson captured 34 wickets for 5.2 runs apiece.

The top score of the season was White's 45 against the Parents. Other scores were 39 by Volz and 34 (not out) by Parker. A feature of the season which should not be forgotten was Stubbs' fine catching at mid-on.

For the Second Eleven Atkinson had an average of 13.2 Richardson took 30 wickets at a cost of 100 runs, while A. Watson did almost as well by taking 25 wickets at a cost of 3.4 runs apiece. These two bowlers dismissed one team for the small total of 11 runs!

There is good promise of a successful season next year, judging by the excellent results of the Second Eleven this season.

CRICKET RESULTS.

First Eleven.

- v. Finchley.—Home : Won 60—32. Away : Lost 34—55.
- v. Hornsey.—Away : Lost 65—90.
- v. Wood Green.—Home : Lost 33—88. Away : Lost 50—114.
- v. St. Ignatius.—Home : Won 66 (for 6 wickets)—25.
- v. Latymer.—Away : Lost 68—131 (for 7 wickets).
- v. Central Foundation.—Home : Won 146—26.
- v. Winchmore Hill Collegiate.—Home : Draw 82 for 6—42 for 2.
- v. Staff.—Home : Won 113—88.
- v. Parents.—Home : Won 139—99.
- v. Old Boys.—Home : Won 56—53.

Second Eleven.

- v. Finchley.—Home : Won 72—59. Away : Won 56—29.
- v. Hornsey.—Home : Won 81—54.
- v. Wood Green.—Home : Won 87—29. Away : Lost 48—62 (for 7).
- v. St. Ignatius.—Away : Won 34—11.
- v. Latymer.—Home : Draw 66 for 6—23 for 3.
- v. Central Foundation.—Away : Won 115—24.

HOUSE CRICKET.

Unfortunately we were unable to complete all our House Matches. However, the Blues may be counted top, having won both their matches, and the Reds second, having won 2 out of 3 played, losing to the Blues ; the Blacks lost to the Reds and beat the Whites.

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SWIMMING.

The Girls' Swimming Sports were held at the Barrowell Green Baths, at the end of the Summer Term. A new Challenge Cup, which had been subscribed for by the Mistresses and girls of the School, was won by the Blue House.

In the Boys' events the Red House were the champions, with the Blues a good second. Simpson (the holder) again won the championship race ; but Honey had the largest total of points.

In the Inter-County School Team Races, held at the Swimming Gala at Barrowell Green in July, both our School Teams were successful. At the Annual Southgate Schools' Team Championship, held in Broomfield Park, our Junior Girls' Team again won the Shield, while the Boys' Junior Team came in second to Bowes Road. At Tottenham our Senior Boys' Team came in third, with Tottenham County first, and Tottenham Grammar second.

At the Broomfield Park Club's Swimming Gala, held at Wood Green Baths in October, our Senior Girls' Team won the Shield, while the Senior Boys' Team came in second to Tottenham County.

PHILIPPE LE GRAND: UN SOUVENIR.

Aux plumes si belles et aux visages si doux
Les oiseaux se promènent dans la rue.

Le long de la rue va un beau garçon,
Droit comme un sapin, nommé Legrand.
Habillé tout simplement d'une petite veste
Ornée de rubans et, pour le reste,
Les pantalons courts, les jambes toutes nues—
Un joli spectacle à voir dans la rue !!

Aux plumes si belles et aux visages si doux,
Les oiseaux se promènent dans la rue

Les oiseaux l'entourent d'une foule animée,
Et leur jeune Reine, jolie comme une fée,
Lui dit—"Tu parles, mon brave garçon?"
"O la la! oui oui!" lui répond Legrand,
"Je vais à Ealing, aux Sports," dit-il,
"Où il faut courir un quart de mille."

Aux plumes si belles et aux visages si doux,
Les oiseaux se promènent dans la rue.

"Restes ici plutôt," lui disent les oiseaux
En lui souriant des yeux si beaux.
"Viens," dit la Reine, "au cinéma,"
Et le malheureux garçon vite y va.
Depuis cet instant il est disparu,
Et personne du monde ne l'a jamais revu.

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SOUTHGATE COUNTY SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

Since the issue of the last Magazine the Association has increased its membership from 86 to 104, and has also successfully completed its first winter season. On the social side there was a small deficit at the close of the season on the two whist drives, two dances and two concerts that were held. The Committee are considering how best to popularise these functions during the next winter.

Two tennis teas and tournaments were also arranged for the summer season.

The Second Annual General Meeting was held on April 23rd, and was presided over by Mr. Warren. The following, in addition to the Secretary and the

Treasurer (A. E. Davey), were elected on the Committee:—F. Marsh, F. Ellinghaus, K. Roberts, C. Pink.

The secretaries of the Football and Cricket Sections have also a place on the Committee. Mr. Paull, who has acted as School Secretary, has kindly consented to remain in office for the present year.

The Football Section of the Old Boys' Association (President, Mr. A. T. Warren), was re-started after a lapse of seven years, and it was intended to enter two teams in the Secondary Schools' Old Boys' League. Owing to injuries, illness and various other causes, only one team was entered. This was in the Senior Section, and, all things being taken into consideration, it did exceedingly well.

In all, 20 League Matches were played, with the following results:—

Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Goals for.	Goals against.
4	15	1	36	65

Friendly matches resulted as follows:—

Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Goals for.	Goals against.
2	1	2	19	10

The usual matches were played against the School. The first was won by the School, who put up a splendid show against an Old Boys' "A" Eleven, winning by 3 goals to 2. The return match resulted in a decisive win for the Old Boys', who fielded a League team, by 11 to 4.

Officers elected were as follows:—Captain, F. Marsh; Vice-Captain, R. G. Allan; Hon. Secretary, F. C. Walker. Owing to ill-health R. G. Allan was compelled to resign, and G. H. Fender was elected Vice-Captain in his stead. Teams were selected from the following members:—F. Marsh, G. H. Fender, C. H. Pink, L. H. Gubbins, F. L. Starling, J. Sanders, A. Forrow, C. Bradford, L. A. Briggs, J. W. Wield, P. Way, F. Way, C. J. Briscoe, H. Wall, W. Davey, H. V. Hawes, F. Dixon, W. H. Daniels, F. Payne, F. C. Walker.

Two excellent grounds for football have been obtained in Broomfield Park for the season 1921-22, and intending members, either playing or honorary, should communicate with the Hon. Sec., F. C. Walker, 53 Carpenter Gardens, Winchmore Hill, N.21, at the earliest possible date.

The Cricket Section of the Association was formed as the result of a meeting held on 1st February, 1921. The officers elected were:—F. C. Walker, Captain; L. H. Honey, Vice-Captain; and R. G. Allan, Secretary. These, with K. W. Roberts, formed the Committee. It was also unanimously decided to ask Mr. A. T. Warren to become the Club's President, and to this he consented.

A playing pitch was secured in Broomfield Park for use on alternate Saturdays, and the School nets and practice ground were kindly lent to the Club for practices twice weekly.

A full list of fixtures was arranged for the season, which commenced with a home match on 7th May and ended with a home fixture on 10th September, making in all 19 matches for the season. Of these 19 matches, 14 were won and 5 lost, which can be considered a very satisfactory and encouraging result for the Club's first season.

The following are the leading averages for batting and bowling for the season :—Batting : F. C. Walker, 25.33 ; L. H. Honey, 17.46 ; C. H. Pink, 13.27. Bowling : F. Ellinghaus, 4.87 ; F. C. Walker, 4.93 ; K. W. Roberts, 6.0 ; R. G. Allan, 6.0.

To make next season a success it is desirous that all Old Boys should become either playing or honorary members of the Cricket Club. Full particulars can be obtained from R. G. Allan, of "Melrose," 114 Hazelwood Lane, Palmers Green, N.13.

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OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

The Old Girls' Association has now completed a winter season, including two whist drives and two dances run in co-operation with the Old Boys' Association. The membership of the Association reached 107, and it is hoped that this number will be increased during the present year. A programme of social events for the coming winter will be announced shortly, and the committee hope they will receive the support they require to make this a success.

Three Hockey Matches were played against the School, with the following results :—

October 9th, 1920.—Draw 2—2.

November 20th, 1920.—Lost 2—4.

February 12th, 1921.—Draw 2—2.

The Second Annual General Meeting was held at the School on April 23rd, when the reading of the financial statement showed a credit balance of £1. The officers elected for the present year are :—President, Miss Barham ; Vice-President, Miss House ; Committee : Miss M. Whatley, Miss B. Girdwood, Miss S. Benda, Miss G. Sanders, Mrs. K. Roberts (Muriel Hammond) ; Secretary, Mrs. R. B. Oram (Irene Hume).

On May 28th the 10th Summer Meeting of the O.G.A. was held, at which Miss Barham presided. Tea was followed by a tennis match, and the prizes were gained by Marion Whatley and Winifred Lofting.

The subscription to the Association is 2/6 per annum, which entitles members to a copy of the School Magazine. Old scholars wishing to become members should apply to the Secretary, 30 Grovelands Road, Palmers Green, N.13.

I. ORAM.

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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

The Holidays for the coming School year have been provisionally arranged as follows :—

December 22nd, 1921—January 10th, 1922,
 April 13th, 1922—May 1st, 1922.
 July 27th, 1922—September 11th, 1922.

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SHERLOCK HOLMES—REDUCTIO.

Never was there a gloomier re-assembling of the School than that of this Term. The whole School had been saddened by the news of the tragedy that had befallen our brilliant schoolfellow, Sherlock Holmes, in Switzerland.

What really happened is known only to myself—and *one other*—and the matter did not receive the attention that it deserved in the newspapers, though it was mentioned in “La Sentinelle de Geneve,” with copious notes by the editor and numerous letters from correspondents. An account of the tragedy itself and of the incidents that led up to it will, therefore, be of the greatest interest.

It is no secret that a deadly feud existed between my dear friend and that eccentric character, but brilliant mathematician, known to us all as Professor Moriarty. One would have thought that similar talents on the part of master and pupil would have produced a certain degree of friendship between them; there existed, however, the greatest antagonism from the very start. Geometrical drawing done by Holmes, as he lay coiled up on the sofa, would obviously not meet with the approval of the Professor, whilst the Professor’s mistakes when working on the blackboard infuriated the more exact pupil. Holmes always said that such inaccuracy, especially in Money Sums, was *criminal*, and declared that he would one day expose Moriarty and his methods. Once he discovered Moriarty moving the decimal point two places to the right instead of to the left, and so making himself entitled to a Million Pounds Compound Interest instead of a Thousand. The Professor escaped from him on this occasion by stating that mistakes in working on the blackboard were the rule rather than the exception; Holmes vowed, however, that the following term he would bring off a *coup de maître* and convict Moriarty and the whole gang.

It was in such a frame of mind that Holmes accompanied me for the holidays to Switzerland.

On the fourth day after our arrival we were standing on a narrow path only three feet wide, with a mountain behind us and far below us a ravine into which the Falls of Reichenbach were tumbling. To my surprise I saw coming towards us no other than Moriarty himself. Rapidly making an excuse to Sherlock, I rushed back to the hotel. On returning about two hours later I found no sign of either of them. News was brought to the hotel the following day by a guide who stated

that he had seen two figures struggling on the edge of the precipice, until reeling over, they had fallen locked in each other's arms. Though the bodies were never recovered, I had no doubt that he had witnessed a mortal conflict between Holmes and Moriarty. It is pretty awful, meeting a master during the holidays—awful, perhaps, for the master as well—and one can only surmise that it was this feeling, coming on the top of their previously strained relations during the term, that lashed each into an uncontrollable fury against the other. What really happened could only be surmised. After losing all hope of ever recovering my friend's body, I returned to England long before the end of the holidays.

Shortly after the half-term I received a telegram from Geneva, which read: "Sherlock Holmes Holmes Sherlock Holmes." I could make neither head nor tail of it, and assumed it was a practical joke of an unfeeling character. A week later I was walking along the corridor, feeling very downcast, when I heard a voice: "Too busy to wish me Good Morning, Watson?" I looked up and there was Holmes himself. I suppose that I looked surprised, for he asked if I had not received his telegram. I replied that I had done so, but could not understand it.

"My dear Watson, with an enemy like Moriarty perhaps still living, one cannot be too careful in sending telegrams. But say the contents of my telegram to yourself, letting the words run together."

"Sherlock comes home. Sherlock Holmes."

"Excellent, my dear Watson; still as sharp as ever. But let me congratulate you on your success in the Geography Test."

"It's true," I said, "that I have just had a Geography Test, and expect that I have done well. But, Holmes, how did you know this?"

"I see a Map of North America on your cuff; therefore I know that you have had a Geography Test. I know also that no one else in your Form would take the same trouble as you have done."

I blushed from pleasure—and other feelings.

"But, my dear Watson, why do you sit away from the window in the Geography Room?"

"How do you know that?"

"S'easy, my dear Watson. All the chalk marks on your coat are on the left side; it follows that the rest of the Form must have been sitting on that side of you."

I may here mention that at one time Holmes and myself had been in the same Form, when we had been inseparable. Now, however, he was in 4B and I was in a lower section of the same Form. The result was that now we only met, though frequently, in Room 12 after School.

It is no secret that before the holidays Holmes had been addicted to drugs. Since his serious illness he could only take mild drugs, such as chalk, which he drew up through his nostrils in a finely-divided state (*i.e.*, the chalk). In class he could only do this by cleaning the blackboard; the result was that the blackboards in rooms used by 4B were always the cleanest in the building. This taking of drugs had alas! weakened his former fine intellect, and he no longer revelled in the Solution of Problems as in the old days. Instead, he had fallen back on literary subjects and, in particular, on the play on words, which is now recognised as the highest

form of wit. The wording of the telegram, to which I have referred, will illustrate what I mean.

About ten days later I was standing near the clock and feeling very lonely. To my surprise I heard a voice close by. "Funny place this for working over-time—under the clock, you see, Watson. Good enough for a standing joke. What!"

I looked, and there, under the clock, was Holmes swaying rhythmically from side to side. *I had taken him for the pendulum of the Clock.* I have known External Students in the corridor stand so still and so close to a bookcase that they have imagined themselves to look a part of it! But never was camouflage like this!!

"Heard the news, Holmes," said I, "that some of the worn-out pre-war text-books have at last been committed to the flames."

"It would have been better, Watson, for the royalties concerned if the books had been burnt years ago."

Now, where Royalties are concerned I know Holmes to be most secretive. Note his tact and discretion in the matter of "The Woman in the Case" (to which I shall refer later). I did not, therefore, pursue the subject.

"Watson," said Holmes, after a short pause, "D'you know 'Arry?"

"Arry who?"

"Ari-thmetic."

"What about it?"

"Dead."

"Dead?" said I.

"What? Don't you know Pendle-bury's Arithmetic?"

"Excellent."

"But, my dear Watson, we're all in mourning."

"All in morning."

"'All—and 'Night as well. But the cream of the joke!"

"Yes!!!" said I.

"Cremation!!!!!"

It was beginning to occur to me that Holmes's manner was even more patronising than it had been before his accident. I, therefore, determined to *pre-
pare a subject* for our next conversation. It was a fortnight before each of us got away at 4 o'clock. On our meeting Holmes was the first to speak.

"I am glad to see, Watson, that it is possible for one of your Form to get away at 4 o'clock. Quite a pleasure to see you. Any problems been troubling you lately?"

"Well, Holmes," said I, "d'you know?"

"Know whom?"

"Juno Juno!"

"Excellent, my dear Watson. But what about her?"

"Do you know why Juno lost the prize at the Paris Beauty Show?"

"A most interesting case, my dear Watson. I spent weeks over it and at last discovered that several of the Reigning Families in the Near East, as well as some of the Higher Powers were concerned. I decided, therefore, to prosecute my investigations no further. All my documents bearing on the matter are in my locker and labelled 'The Woman in the Case.' But what is your own theory?" said Holmes, in his usual superior tone.

"As the matter is so serious, my dear Holmes, you will excuse *me* speaking enigmatically; Juno's—Mars—Juno's—Mars—Juno's."

"Explain yourself, Watson," said Holmes very coldly.

"S'easy, my dear Holmes; s'easy. Say it very slowly: *Juno's ma's Jew nose mars Juno's*. Heredity, my dear Holmes."

Without uttering a word Holmes walked away, and has never since spoken to me. About a week later he left the School, vowing that he never wished to see it again, and that he would not join the Old Boys' Club. With his marvellous powers of deductive reasoning and his passionate love for the highest class of music, how he would have revelled in its whist drives and dances! And what a loss to these gatherings!!

"*Sic transit! O si sic omnes!*" As Holmes himself quoted during our last crossing from Dover to Calais.

WATSON (A Name?).