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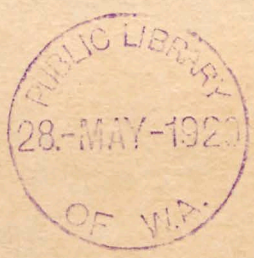
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# The Boronia

THE—

ALBANY  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
MAGAZINE



December, 1925.

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#### SCHOOL STAFF.

*Standing :- Mr. H. L. Fowler, Mr. D. Collins, Mr. S. M. Davies, Mr. F. Constantine.*

*Sitting :- Miss M. Woods, Miss C. Lowndes, Mr. F. M. Reedp, (Headmaster) Miss D. Hill, Miss C. Morrow.*



#### SCHOOL PREFECTS.

*Standing :- Miss I. Whittingham, M. Brayshaw, J. Haire (School Captain), J. Milne, Miss M. McGuire, Miss M. Field*

*Sitting :- Miss E. Box, Miss F. Scanlan (Senior Girl Prefect) Mr. F. M. Reedp (Headmaster) Miss M. Harris, Miss E. Farrell.*



## SCHOOL OFFICIALS.

---

School Captain : J. Haire, Senior Girl Prefect : Miss F. Scanlon.

### School prefects:

M. Brayshaw  
J. Milne

Miss E. Box  
Miss E. Farrell  
Miss M. Field  
Miss M. Harris  
Miss M. McGuire  
Miss I. Whittingham

### Form Prefects :

I. Boys : L. Henson, W. Nockolds

I. Girls : Frances Haywood,  
Nancy Pratt.

II. Boys : E. Collins, R. Hill

II. Girls : Edna Harris, Norma  
Repacholi.

III. Marjorie Hill, A. McArthur

IV. E. Johns V. Miss G. Nenke,

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### Special Prefects :

Bell : J. Milne.

Pcund : Miss G. Nenke, C. Kierath

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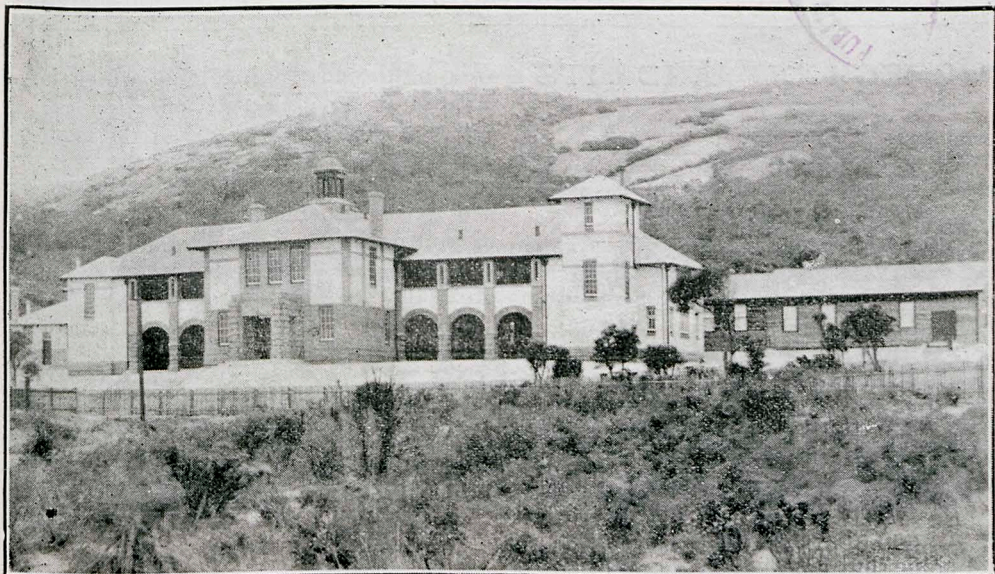
Camera Club : Secretary, M. Brayshaw.

### Magazine Officials :

Editors : Miss D. Richmond, J. Milne,

Business Manager ; E. Johns.





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# The Boronia.

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VOL. I, NO. I.

ALBANY, DECEMBER 1925.

PRICE 1s 6d

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## EDITORIAL.

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With this edition of the A.H.S. Magazine, the school has commenced an important phase in its history. Our first attempt in this line has naturally incurred much difficulty, and doubtless could be greatly improved. But practice makes perfect, and we hope that as the students of the school become more experienced in the writing of articles fit for magazines of this sort, so the edition will grow in size and quality. As a whole the school has responded admirably to the duty so placed upon it, and as we have done our best, we hope that the public will find our varied articles satisfactory and entertaining.

The composition of a magazine was not accomplished or even attempted un-

til the third term was well on its way, for the worries and difficulties of the staff and students of a new High School are many, and demand much time and energy from them. For example, we were faced in the first place with the task of raising funds necessary to obtain many important additions to the school's equipment. The work which this incurred occupied our attention in the earlier part of the year, besides the studies and sport that constitute the school's time table.

But the magazine has been published at last, and it is now open to the criticism, and, we hope, to the approval of all who are interested in the doings and welfare of the Albany High School.



## OUR SCHOOL AND ITS SETTING.

It was about two years ago—Yes! It would be just that now, and we have been strolling around the hillside. We had left the great Priory rocks, and had begun to make our way down to the road which lay below us. On the way we could see that we would have to pass through a good deal of flower-studded bushland.

In front of us, and a little to the right, was the old brewery, which had been built many years ago, while to the left we could see the cemeteries with their numerous monuments of marble and stone, but above and around everything was an atmosphere of peace and freshness which is only to be found on the hills round Albany.

Despite these two “eye-sores” marring the beauty of the place, there is no doubt it is beautiful, with all of the differently colored wild flowers in full bloom—orchids, coral, ti-tree and myriads of other species. Our attention was drawn to the glory and magnificence with which the distant Porongorups and Stirling Ranges stood out in the golden light of the setting sun.

Some six months later we stood a little above the same spot, while below us we saw that clearing and levelling operations had been carried out and the work of erecting a great brick building had been commenced. We all knew the name of that building—it is the new High School.

Many people think it strange that a school of such importance should have been built in the midst of such doleful surroundings, near a brewery and a cemetery, but if they were to stand on the balconies of the school now, and look out over the surrounding country, they could not fail to observe the reasons for the school being put in such a place.

Let us note the beautiful panoramic

view of the envioning land, which is because of its high position. On the slopes of the hill, it is one of the healthiest positions in the district, surrounded by gums and wild flowers, which will provide a beautiful setting so well designed a school when all are in full bloom. Then let us note the proximity to the town of Albany. Are not these fit reasons why a school should be built in such a place?  
“Admirer.”

---

## POPULAR FALLACIES

That the Fourths Copy the Vices of the Fifths—

This is a smooth text to the latter, who would like to flatter themselves that they are looked up to. But even they are forced to admit that it is not true. The very attitude of tolerant scorn of the Fourth's, to the little escapades of their seniors disproves this theory. You have never seen a Fourth Former get into a cupboard. They know that that is not what cupboards are for. Neither have they any faith in Magic Carpets, even after they have seen “The Thief of Bagdad.” I'm sure that the Fourth boys could never, and would never, induce the girls of their form to spend their valuable time in catching flies in order to have them guillotined, as their more revolutionary room mates are known to have done.

That Prefects Must be Courageous—

One would expect that courage, like mercy, is an attribute of Prefecture. But it may console some aspirants to this office to know that this is an unnecessary virtue. For we have in our midst two Prefects who lack bravery. A single incident is sufficient to show this. The other day, while returning from the usual visit to “the Shop,” our two friends saw in front of them a fearsome looking bull with a wicked look in its eye and its mouth full of clover. Their impulse to run was check-



ed by the thought: "What will the others think of us?" They advanced towards it with halting steps, till the creature was ten yards off, and the road two. Here an unfortunate thing happened. The bull went "Pauf!" All pretence fled. With a scream, the two girls turned and ran, in too great a hurry to follow the path even, and heedless of prickles, bushes and sticks, did not stop till they reached their companions. Yet cynics say "It was really a cow, not a bull at all." And there's scorn in their voices!

#### That Girls Never Lose the Things They Value—

It would seem that girls are somewhat unduly careful about their belongings. But notable instances among our older students wholly disprove this theory. One of our most prominent athletes dropped her bundle on the hockey field one day and it was never recovered. Two others lost their plaits, and although their room mates have impressed upon them the enormity of their loss, no steps have been taken to recover their lost goods. Another of our formers lost her beauty sleep, which, however, she made up at a Science period, though she was not heard snoring. A fifth has lost one of her valuable correspondents, but strange to say has no regrets whatever. Two more lost their lust for publicity and took a back seat on Sports Day. This is not merely ordinary carelessness, such as boys are usually found guilty of. None of these things were ever found in pound.

"The D.F."

### SCHOOL NOTES

While scholars first attended on the 10th of February, the Albany High School was officially opened on February 12 by the Minister for Education, Mr. J. M. Drew, in the presence of the Director and a large gathering of

townsfolk. From that time all have entered into study and work with a will, striving, with a good deal of success, to win for the school a good and honourable name.

The first thing noticed in the school was the lack of a piano, and a library. To obtain these essentials many entertainments have been given to the public in order to raise funds. On the 3rd of April a Mock Trial was given by the Senior School; on the 24th of April a lecture was given by the First Master on the "Modern Interpretation of Dreams"; a picture night was held on the 1st of May; bridge parties were held during the months of May and June, in the Domestic Science Centre; a grand plain and fancy dress ball was held on the 3rd July; and an operetta "Princess Ju Ju" and extracts from Shakespeare, on the 24th and 25th of September. All of these proved very successful, and in this manner nearly one hundred pounds were raised to pay for the library and piano, both of which we now have in the school.

From time to time the school has had visits from, and has been addressed by, various prominent men. Professor Ross, on the 24th February, lectured on the work of Lord Kelvin; His Excellency the Governor, on the 18th March, spoke on the traditions of a High School and the importance of such an institution to Albany; Mr. Gladman, the retiring District Inspector, bade farewell to all those with whom he had made acquaintance in the course of his official duties, on June 19th; on October 9th Bishop Wilson, of Bunbury, described some of his adventures on the South Sea Islands; and Dr. Battye gave a resume, on the 16th of October, of the early history of Albany.

We celebrated our first Arbor Day on June 26th, which ceremony proved very successful. Many trees were planted, including two Gallipoli pines to the memory of Sergeant S. Davidson.



and Lieutenant P. Norman, both of whom were, at one time, on the staff of the District High School. It is needless to say that all of these trees are well cared for by the students of the school.

The next important event in the history of the school was the holding of our first annual Sports Day on October 21st. This went off well, and, during the course of events, our School Captain established a record for the State Secondary Schools' High Jump.

Since then all students have settled down to study for the forthcoming University exams., in which we wish all participating every success. We hope that they will bring distinction and honor to the school and that they will set a high standard for those who follow.

J.M.

## FORM CELEBRITIES

Then out spake Wallace Chester,  
A Prince of high estate,  
"To every Prince upon this earth  
Love cometh soon or late."

But how can Prince love better,  
Than when facing footlights dim,  
And all the students looking on  
And loudly clapping him.

We all know a young man named  
Clough,  
Of him there is more than enough.  
He once was a wall,  
Our Johnny so tall,  
And his acting was really "good stuff."

Peter the Great was so tall,  
That behind him our Johnny looked  
small;  
But I venture to state  
That Peter the Great  
Would never make such a good wall.

Third Former.

Chester and Clough wear the pushback,  
It closely resembles a bush track,  
And often they roam  
In search of a comb,  
With which to push back their push-  
back.

In our room is a Ray (not of light)  
Everybody remarks on his height,  
Though sad to relate,  
His size is not great,  
His head is tremendous—Oh, quite.  
Oft have I heard of Alex Mac,  
And as I go to school,  
I see upon the winding track,  
This tawny lion cruel.  
No fangs, no claws, has Alec Mac,  
A lion tame is he;  
Only a skin upon his back,  
Shows him a lion to be.

III. G

## PRIVATE STUDY

To anyone but the students themselves the words "Private Study" would suggest a classroom, a master or mistress, students and books. The students would be sitting in their desks, heads resting on arms and well bent over their studies, while the master would be sitting at his table, either correcting exercises of the diligent students, or, much more to the disgust of the pupils, would be setting papers, over which they would puzzle their brains on the following day. And so this period would be given over to studying in order to improve their knowledge on any particular subject or subjects.

Of course set preparation is always done at home (with many exceptions), so there is no need to use this precious period in that way. Really the chief value of private study seems to be that some members of the form have an opportunity to discover how many words they can speak per minute, and as the competition is always keen, the uproar is most distracting to the students who



wish to work in earnest, but they are very few!

The P.S. period is really a great boon to the student and if it were abolished the loss would be great. Unfortunately these periods are few, and it is advisable to make the best of them so that they may never be taken away.

"Studious One."

## ANOTHER VICTORY

Again we rush across the slush,

With wet and muddy faces,

We charge and fall and seize the ball,

And kick it through the bases.

Thankful the game is over,

We're breathless in the hall,

'Twas through our steady rover

That we won the match at all.

## THE WEEKLY ESSAY

Essays and Compositions! Compositions and Essays! How we hate the mere mention of the words! Every Monday night, without exception, we are confronted with the grim task of composing an essay. All day long we have struggled against that feeling of "Mondayitis" and have valiantly endeavoured with small success to concentrate on the lessons. At last it is a quarter to four and with a sigh of relief that the long day is over at last, we seize our hats and dash home. The short three hours between four and seven are over all too soon, and now that essay has just got to be done. But stay—what is to be the subject of the essay? The question being still unanswered, a vigorous hunt for an assignment sheet follows and when this is at length found and brought forth from a very tidy (?) litter of books on the table one hastily opens it out, but only to find that the subject for the week is "open."

Wearily one puts it away and vaguely wonders what to write. Having wasted at least half an hour in an en-

deavour to solve the problem, one at length turns despairingly to the newspaper; but in its columns there is no solution. Again one sits down to ponder and rack the poor tired brain for a suitable subject. At length an inspiration comes—it shall be written on a poem—Oh, happy thought! But all these rising hopes are dashed to the ground when, after a fruitless search one remembers that she has left her 'Book of Verse' in her locker.

Will the essay ever be written! It is nearing nine o'clock and still no subject has been found. At length, realizing that the limits of endurance are almost reached, one hurriedly, but determinedly decides to write on the 'Style of Lamb.' When at least ten minutes has been spent in considering how to commence the introductory paragraph, one at length makes a start. This done, the rest seems easy but it requires only the composition of a few short sentences to disillusion one on that point. All ideas seem to have gone from one's head; how few seem the points in Lamb's style and oh how hard to put on paper! However one struggles bravely on until at length there remains only the concluding paragraph to be done. With what feelings of mingled with misgiving at the thought of having the essay marked on the morrow, is that paragraph written. But it is finished! Crawling wearily into bed, one realises with great joy that the essay is over again for another week. But just before one's eyelids close in sleep, one inwardly resolves that to-night's mishaps shall not occur again; and the next essay shall not be left until Monday night, but shall be written during the week-end.

"J. B."

## THE COUNTRY LIFE

Oh, a life on a country farm,

A home in the fallows grey;

To hear the roosters crowing at dawn,

To be up at the break of day.



Cows to milk and calves to feed,  
 And fowls and chickens to tend,  
 To have horses to catch and groom,  
 And clothes to iron and mend.  
 To have steeds to mount in the bush,  
 Where snakes and beetles hide;  
 To have 'possums and 'roos to hunt,  
 All over the countryside.  
 Oh, Life in the country free!  
 When the Autumn leaves turn  
 brown;  
 I know I love you better  
 Than life in the busy town.  
 For the life and ways of the farmer,  
 Though rough and ready they be;  
 The life and the ways of the farmer,  
 Are the ways of life for me.  
 E.M.R.B.

### PREFECTS' NOTES

Being the first Prefects of Albany High School, we at first found our responsibilities rather strange, and were somewhat shy in reprimanding our juniors when the occasion arose. But by this time we have quite recovered our habitual "savoir faire" and pass judgment on the erring as though to the manner born. Now we are only obliged to repeat any request twice on very rare occasions as all are beginning to realise that we really mean what we say.

We began the year with five boy and five girl prefects. Since then, however two of the boys have left but two Fourth Form girls were added to the list of Prefects. Our meetings this year have been fairly frequent, but no momentous happenings have occurred at any time.

During the first term a most enjoyable evening was given to us by the First Master, and we have had five socials in our hall since the opening of the school year, all of which were thoroughly appreciated. We are now looking forward to the golden age after the

exam., when we are fully determined to enjoy ourselves. The less frivolous smile when they hear us saying this, for they are of opinion that we enjoy life to the full as it is. But they do not really understand us. Little do they think that we, like Prince Hal, have

" . . . .obscured our contemplation  
 Under the veil of wildness; which no  
 doubt  
 Grew like the summer grass, fastest by  
 night  
 Unseen, yet crecive in his faculty."

Two of our boy Prefects, although they are not exactly woman-haters, have little faith in the ability of the girls. They scoff at the idea of our being able to run to the King River turn-off in ten minutes, although we really did do it; they laugh at us when we suggest rowing as sport; but they are obliged to admit that we are fairly good marksmen, for the barricade of cases was not sufficient to ward off the well-directed missiles of their Amazon attackers. For the majority of us our school career is drawing to a close, and each of us feels a pang of regret, for we can genuinely say that this school year has been a pleasant one. We thank all the students for the way in which they have received our attempts to keep the school discipline and we are pleased to say that all our endeavours have been received in the proper spirit. We wish, too, all those sitting for the exams. the best of luck, hoping that, when the results come out, they will be satisfied.

M. McG.

### OUR HIGH SCHOOL

Good old High School, standing high,  
 See the way its colors fly.  
 Ever ready, ever nigh,  
 Stalwart lads their foes defy.  
 And the students, with a will,  
 Hold their fort upon the hill.

"J.J."



## ARTICLES FOR THE "MAG."

Humorous articles and other such perpetrations intended for the school magazine may be extremely facetious when viewed from the standpoint of the hard-hearted members of the editorial staff, but to the despairing authors these writings resemble a tragedy rather than a joke.

"For the week-end you will write an article for the school magazine, instead of your usual essay." Thus spoke the English master with a twinkle, and a cheerful disregard of the hollow groans which greeted his utterance.

The week-end usually so welcome, despite the quantity of homework, is a dreary trial since we heard our doom. Oblivious of all and wrapt in thought "alone I wander to and fro," but my heroic efforts are useless, inspiration will not come.

"It cometh not," she said.

Monday morning! I arrive at school, and, "Have you done it?" is showered on me from all directions.

"No," I answer dismally, having no doubt about the meaning of "It."

"Thank goodness, then we have another companion in distress," is the rejoinder, given in tones of undisguised relief; and, with many inward tremors, but outwardly calm, we prepare to face the "music"—otherwise the form master.

"E.B."

## THE SONG OF THE THIRD

Work! work! work!

Till the eyes grow heavy and dim.

Work! work! work!

Till the brain begins to swim.

Geography, Maths., and French

Geometry, French and Maths.,

Till over the home-work we fall  
asleep,

And work out our dreams by graphs.

Oh, boys, is there more to do;

Girls, what have you left undone?

The answer comes with a weary sigh,

"Oh, something like half a ton."

Geography, Maths., and French,

Geometry, French and Maths.,

Till over the home-work we fall  
asleep,

And work out our dreams by graphs.

"The Form."

## THE MYSTERIOUS ONE

With stealthy tread and furtive glance he crept slowly along the corridor, pausing at every step to ensure that he had not been detected. Quietly opening the door of the first class-room he quickly darted inside, and commenced a hurried search of the vacant desks. Books, pens, rulers, and treasures of all descriptions, were rapidly gathered into his arms and pockets and, with the agility of one highly practised in his nefarious trade, the intruder slipped outside to continue his depredations in more fruitful fields. Suddenly, footsteps were heard on the stairway, and a shadow appeared at the first turning. Immediately the purloiner changed from a stealthy fox, to one inspired by all the furies of life. In one bound he was inside the nearest doorway, and, standing back in the corner of the cupboard, waited fearfully for the new arrival to pass.

For hours those footsteps appeared to be approaching, but finally they passed and, with a relieved sigh, the intruder emerged from his hiding place, wearing a look which seemed to speak plainly of his determination not to carry on with such actions as this. But presently this look passed and far from daunted, now that the danger had passed, he set about once more to ransack all the desks in the room. Having finished with this room he passed on to the next, and so on until he had visited every room in the school. Still glancing furtively about him to



make sure he had not been observed, he slipped off quietly to his locker, there to deposit all that he had collected. I decided it was time to expose myself, so I stepped forward and laid my hand firmly on his shoulder. But at that moment I felt smaller than I had ever done in all my life—he was the Pound Keeper.

“Detective.”

## FACTION NOTES

### Brown—Girls.

At the beginning of the year, Brown Faction included many novices in the realm of sport—girls who possessed the ability but had hitherto lacked opportunity. However, throughout faction matches they have shown capability and should prove valuable assets to their teams next year.

The baseball teams were not very strong at the commencement, but, owing to the hockey season, when a demand was made on the best of their opponents, they were able to hold their own.

Owing to the large number of inexperienced players, the hockey eleven lacked the necessary combination, though individual play was, on the whole, good.

The play of the tennis quartette was rather erratic, being sometimes brilliant, sometimes poor though the second pair have shown marked improvement since the beginning of the season.

The various faction captains are as follows:—

Faction—M. Harris.

Hockey—M. Harris.

Baseball “A”—M. Senior.

Baseball “B”—P. Young.

Tennis—M. Harris.

### Brown—Boys.

If anyone cares to take a glance at the points board, he will see that the Brown Faction is far in the lead as

a result of hard batting right from the beginning of the year. Both boys and girls have striven valiantly to gain and maintain a good lead, and despite the fact that the boys have lost a number of their good players the Brown Faction is still a good way ahead.

The Faction Captain won the honour of being School Champion at our Sports Day, and all under him are very pleased at his success.

Since the beginning of the summer sports it has been seen that our boys are weak, but let us hope the girls will save our good name by keeping up the lead we have previously gained.

“Secretary.”

The Faction Officials are:—

Football—J. Haire

Tennis—J. Jefferis.

Cricket—J. Haire

### Green—Girls.

So far the Green girls have not distinguished themselves in any of the sports, but, at the same time we had a number of victories throughout the year and hope to be more successful during the remainder of the term.

At the beginning of the year we were unfortunate in losing our Captain, Miss Kell, whom we missed at all our sports and particularly on the hockey field.

Though we had many beginners in our hockey team, we were usually able to hold our own with the Brown team though we could not manage to beat the Gold eleven, all of whom are experienced players.

As for our tennis team, it is not brilliant, but is very reliable and has obtained a number of points for our faction.

Our baseball team though rather weak at the first of the year, has improved greatly and we are confident of several victories before the end of the year.

Green girls responded well to the call for entries on Sports Day and



in many of the events succeeded in gaining first or second place.

In conclusion, we must remember that our faction is last on the list of points. We have not much longer, Green girls, and we have quite a lot of points to gain for our faction before the final count.

Factions Officials were:—

Faction—K. McGuire.

Hockey—K. McGuire

Baseball "A"—E. Bedwell.

Baseball "B"—C. Maslin.

Tennis—M. Vaughan.

K.McG.

Green—Boys.—

We are last! Naturally we look for some excuse. We won most of our cricket matches, we won our tennis matches, we were not last in football, we won many events in the sports, yet the faction is last. Perhaps we could blame the other half, but, being a gallant team, we will not stoop to such base accusations.

During the early part of the year we were able to hold our own, owing to our superiority in the cricket field and on the tennis courts, but during the winter games the heavier teams were able to defeat us, although we gave them a great battle on many occasions. On Sports Day we were unfortunate in only having two senior students, so that the majority of points went to the Brown in this section, although in the junior events, especially those under fourteen, we were very successful.

Now that summer is here we hope to be able to regain a position of supremacy.

The captains of Green boys were:—

Faction—M. Brayshaw.

Cricket—M. Brayshaw.

Tennis—K. Jefferis.

Football—M. Brayshaw.

M.B.

Gold—Girls.—

The Girls' Gold Faction has this year been very successful. At tennis,

baseball and hockey we have proved a team hard to beat. Especially in the latter sport did we excel last term, and went through the hockey season without defeat; Brown was the only faction that nearly deprived us of the honour of being "invincible," and then only once. No doubt success in this respect was due to a fairly good combination, acquired from Saturdays' matches, for our team possesses five of the school hockey eleven. Although our reputation is not so great at tennis and baseball, we have not disgraced ourselves and hope to put up a good performance at all sports till the end of the year and thus pull up to Brown, now 16 points ahead of us. Indeed, it is our ambition to surpass them.

On Sports Day our team was well represented and our efforts were not without effect, for the faction won by 19 points. Among our ranks we now number the School's Champion Girl Athlete.

The following are the captains of the various branches of sport:—

Faction—F. Scanlan.

Baseball "A."—M. McGuire.

Baseball "B"—N. Repacholi.

Hockey—F. Scanlan.

Tennis—F. Scanlan.

E.F.

Gold—Boys.—

During the last few months this faction has made rapid progress. At the end of last cricket season we were well behind, whilst at the present time Gold is second, with 157 points, Brown being only 16 points in the lead. Hence with two or three wins all round, we ought to go to the front.

The faction was well represented at Sports Day, when certain members distinguished themselves, the Junior Champion and runner-up coming from Gold. We also did well in the under fourteen events, and all of these wins helped to give a good lead and an eventual win.

I have forgotten to mention the fact



that we were well to the fore on Kattanning Day, several of our members being the best on the ground.

We have a few good cricket players, and with the opening of the season, the position should improve.

I will close, wishing the magazine and all connected with it every success.

The faction captains were:—

Faction—P. Adderly.

Cricket—J. Perrin.

Tennis—R. Hardie.

Football—P. Hancock.

### A MEMORY

The castle stood grey on the lonely hill,  
Where the thickets of briar rose  
grew;

No sound broke the ominous morning  
still,

Save the cry of the lonely curlew.

The grey rocks are covered in ivy  
green,

And the gardens are tangled and old;  
No life round the castle is ever seen,

The grounds are deserted and cold.  
The locks and the bolts are rust-eaten  
and worn,

The towers are crumbling on high;  
The castle stands grim in the early  
morn,

Outlined on a wintry sky.  
No thrush fills the air with its joyous  
song,

No larks soars aloft in the blue;

A shepherd passes slowly along,

But wayfarers here are few.

Oh, why is the castle so grim and so  
cold,

Oh, why are the gardens so drear;  
A story perhaps, can be told, how of  
old,

Dark deeds were committed here.

Ah! leave we this place with its castle  
so grey,

And the winding path up the hill;  
But as the wild scene fades slowly  
away,

Haunting memories linger still.

N.R.

### WORK

What a weary world we live in! Nothing but work, work, work, and then—more work, is the feeling of some poor unfortunate student, who has begun the new term well, with the great idea of working hard at school—really hard. I know the feeling only too well. It is a crushed, depressing, is-life-worth-living sort of feeling. I myself have made the resolution to work like a Trojan in school, and like a galley slave at home; to leave tennis alone, except on Saturday mornings, to retire to bed early so as to be able to get up early to study, and to do nothing that will interfere with that one object of my life-work. But alas! the resolution becomes very difficult to fulfil, and I thrust my books aside and go in search of some enjoyment.

To carry out these good intentions I bought a notebook in which to set down my homework, and work I intended preparing at home. Accordingly I retired to bed early, with the idea of rising early. Morning came, but I felt too tired to get up. So I turned over with the intention of getting up in half an hour's time; but slumber seized me, and I went soundly to sleep again. Suddenly I was awakened by the sound of the breakfast gong. I jumped out of bed, dressed quickly, and hastened to the breakfast which I thought I thoroughly deserved.

Shortly afterwards I hastened to school. First period: Geography. I had forgotten to learn the set homework; but no matter. I took my place and tried valiantly to sort out the different towns and for what they are noted. Second period: Algebra. I felt hurt, but soon resigned myself to my fate. I worked out my equations with the utmost ease, but unfortunately my answers would not correspond to those of the book. I felt dazed. Presently the master relieved my feelings: "We are going to take a new kind of equation this morning, as I think you all understand the previous



kind. There are 'Literal Equations.'" Accordingly we commenced work. I gazed fascinated at the figures and signs he put on the board. Where did he get them from? Later the lesson was interrupted by the bell, and we all gladly rushed outside for recreation.

Several days passed thus. I gave much thought to the matter. After all, why should I work? Happiness is all that counts in this world, and, strange to say, if I keep well away from work I find it very easy to be happy. No, I certainly do not believe in work.

"Worker."

## FORM NOTES

### I. Girls.

We have come through one year successfully, or, at least, successfully in most things. Geometry, with its confusing angles, lines and circles, at first seemed dreadfully hard, but we have got to the stage of being able to think of it without gently swooning. We have made a fair progress in French, although we do not feel equal to conversing with a Frenchman. Science is voted "good" by everyone, and our English lessons have been general favourites, with the possible exception of Grammar, a subject almost as bad as Geometry. Homework is, I think, something of an "Old Man of the Sea" to most, but if the Form would only try hard enough it would be easily overcome. A great improvement has been made since the beginning of the year in quietness, although there is still much to be wished for. If only girls would remember in lesson time that they have tongues with which to talk, and not between periods, it would be better, but then—human beings are always contrary, so we'll pass on. Sport and Gym are naturally liked, and looked forward to. On the whole the year has been a very happy one, our only anxiety now being the examinations.

F.H.

### I. Boys.

Our High School is still in its infancy, being not quite a year old, and after the regime of the Public Schools, it takes us a little time to accustom ourselves to prefects, and instead of having our masters over us the whole time, being put upon our honour, to do what we think best for ourselves and the school.

Our form has made good progress during the first nine months, considering that during the first term we had to adapt ourselves to the new conditions of school life.

The form has entered with zest into the school sports, but we hope that we are putting by far the greater part of our energies into our school studies.

In the future it is hoped that the School Sports Day will be looked upon as a great event, and that all the students will patronise it. We have some very good athletes in the school, and it is hoped that A. Brown, of the First Form Boys, will remain at school for several years yet, as he is a good jumper and runner, and should bring honour to his school. And although the school is still in its infancy, it is capable of showing some very good work done by its students. The manual training room is very eagerly sought after and there has also been some very fine work done there. Another place of attraction in the school is the school is the library, where there are some very fine and interesting books.

T.H.

### II. Girls.

"Please close the door!"

This is the mournful cry of the class prefect, which produces only blank stares and accusing glances, as everybody firmly declares that she was not last to enter. A sudden puff of wind puts an end to the argument, and the door swings to with a crash, just as one of the staff passes. However, second formers never worry for long, and the episode is soon forgotten.



Second bell has not yet rung, so there is still time to divulge a choice piece of information to one's friend before the master or mistress enters.

The young lady with the fair bobbed hair proudly announces that her newest frock is pale blue, while Miss B. sorrowfully bewails the fact that she had to have an egg for breakfast, as Dirty Dick entered the kitchen last night, and greedily devoured a piece of fish left on the table. (Dirty Dick, by the way, is the cat).

Miss G. says that her brother has been asking numerous questions concerning a certain dark-eyed beauty in Fourth Form.

Two of the girls have taken to fainting; they find this much easier to do than French. We all find Gym. most beneficial. It has certainly increased our weights, as the creaking of the Gym. floor during dancing exercises, can testify.

A Geographical question has been puzzling us: Is El Dorado in Europe, Africa, India, Japan, England or Australia? We've searched the maps and read our geography books, but the question remains unsolved. Most of the girls seem to think that it is in America.

Should anyone find a fine inspiration, would she please return it to Miss C., who, while composing an excellent poem, lost her inspiration, her verses remaining incomplete.

What the senior prefects would do without us we don't know, for then they would have nobody on whom to show their authority, because among countless accomplishments, Second Form has a great predilection for getting into scrapes.

## II. Boys.

The attitude adopted by the second year boys towards work has taken a great change for the better. At the end of the first term all the members of the staff were disappointed at the poor results made by this class in the

examination. Things were, however, in a much better condition at the close of last term. All the teachers remarked that the boys had at last settled down to work seriously, as the great improvement in their term marks showed. In most cases this improvement has steadily increased, and it is expected that by the end of this term the second year boys will have reached a standard above that of any other form in the school.

In all sport this Form is always well represented. Seven out of the fourteen High School students who played the Katanning footballers came from Room II. At the recent Sports Day the number of this famous Form held their own with the other classes, several trophies being won by the second year boys.

In the operetta "Princess Ju Ju," nearly all the principal boys came from our ranks, and many second formers will be included in the gymnasium display. Thus we have shown all the other forms that in sport, if not in behaviour and classwork, the second year boys are by far the best class in the school.

Several of the leading boys of this notorious form are leaving at the end of the year. These old comrades are wished the best of luck at their new occupations: also a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year by those who remain at school to uphold the improvement in the reputation of the second year boys. May the masculine members of next year's Third Form progress excellently in the Upper School, and if they are still separate from them, show the girls that in spite of all the talk about the present occupants of Room D., they are by far the best workers and players in the Albany High School.

R.H.

## III.

We believe it to be the custom for Form III. Notes to contain some refer-



ence to the Junior Exam., and it is not our wish to revoke a settled custom of this kind; on the contrary we think this an excellent means by which harassed third formers can relieve their feelings.

Much could be written about exams, Junior exams in particular, but as it probably would not come under the heading of "good literature," it would not be accepted for publication by this magazine. This exam about which so much has been written (and said) takes place on the twenty-third of this month; consequently all are hard at work; (?) but judging from some caustic comments the staff are not of this opinion. However, we wish all who are entering the lists the best of luck.

P.Y.

#### IV.

It is the first year of our existence at this school, and as there are no important exams. to be taken, there is not the strictest observance of study shown. The inhabitants of room G. have somewhat dwindled since the opening term, and the result is that there are now seven girls and two boys. They are, however, of an easy-going and placid nature and it takes a lot to disturb them.

It is extremely unfortunate that we have to share the room with the fifth's, for they are a rowdy and unruly crowd and even if some of their number consist of prefects (?) they frequently have to be reprimanded by their minors. Again, they are of a very untidy disposition, and it is quite a common sight to see books, cases, and even tennis shoes strewn all over the desks and floor. It is a common cry of the teachers that there is still too much noise coming from the class in private study periods. It happens to be unfortunate that the mistress' staff room is adjoining, so it behoves the girl members to keep silence. The only boys are of course, of a meek and retiring disposition.

But work is progressing favorably, and even if we do not relish the maths. lesson, we make up for it in English and French. Several of our girls promise to be good students for the leaving, and if they stay on should gain distinction. Our form has been well represented in the public functions, and in two cases they played the chief role in the "Midsummer Night Dream." Although we have not produced any champion athletes, better luck is hoped for the future.

In concluding, every success to the "Mag." and its publication, and to students in the coming exams.

Prefect.

#### V.

"Labour with what zeal we will, something still remains undone."

This is a common complaint among our formers, who are, at last, beginning to study earnestly, realising the leaving is only a month ahead. Nevertheless our spirits are by no means damped and we still indulge in moments of frivolity.

During this term there have been several important functions connected with the School. In September we made our first appearance on the stage, in presenting "Princess Ju Ju" and selections from Shakespeare.

Recently we held our first Sports Day, into which our formers entered with great enthusiasm. Were it not for two exceptions, our form would be comprised wholly of fine athletes.

Dr. Battye's interesting lecture on the history of our town was especially appreciated by the Fifth Form, who willingly devour any history whatever.

Yet our worries are many! In the first place, we have the misfortune of sharing the room with the Fourth Formers, whose loud gruff voices—the boys (two in number) most especially—carry all over the Upper School. In any case, it is certain that they always penetrate into the staff room adjoining and it is the unfortunate "Fives"



who are blamed, and told, that with such doings they will never pass the "Leaving." On the other hand, if we happen to be frivolous (such happenings often occur amongst us slaves as we are to study), one should see the looks of disdain and saintly dignified airs cast upon us by the Fourth's.

However, we do not wish to burden you with our worries, which will be lifted off our minds—in the common saying—"After the Leaving." In concluding, we wish the Magazine every success and the people taking exams. the best of luck.

G.N.

### ON DIT

That a member of H. G. has been advised to eat plenty of suet puddings for the benefit of her figure.

That "coy glances" are considered very useful in many ways by two Fifth Formers.

That golf has its pains as well as its pleasures.

That John Ridd, of H. B., was very anxious during the recent illness of Lorna Doone, of H. G.

That people in glass houses should not throw stones.

That a Treasure of the Lower School was afraid of spoiling her complexion on Sports Day.

That the visiting period is not during the lunch hour.

That Gym. costumes evidently do not become some 'fects' peculiar style of beauty.

That "Il a embrasse sa famille" was translated as follows "He embarrassed his family" by a "would be" French student.

It is very lucky for the Romeo and Juliet of the Third Form that they both do not take French.

That the affections of a tall dark boy are divided between two sweet damsels of his Form.

That a certain dark-haired young lady of the Fourth Form was very

pleased that ex-students were invited to the last school social.

That palpitation of the heart is very common during free periods.

That a certain Third Former specialises in Geography.

That the Fifth Formers go to sleep in Agricultural Science, although their snoring is not yet audible.

That a certain very tall member of Third Form should have been a parson.

That one of the Fourth Form boys who has been told that he need not study has decided to refrain from doing so.

That a member of the Second Form found chocolates very acceptable when she was suffering from the 'flu.

That a dark-haired young lady of Form H. finds riding on Sunday afternoons very pleasant.

### REFLECTIONS ON SUPERSTITION

On hearing that a school magazine was really going to be compiled, and that "the school expects every student to do his duty," the said students hoping to get an inspiration, gathered round the notice board, on which was posted a list of suggested subjects. The budding journalists hurriedly scanned the list: "A Description of Your Town." Quite impossible. "Politics." Still more impossible. "A Humorous Sketch." That sounds better, but how does one do a humorous sketch? "Draw on your imagination," is the advice of some wit. This is really excellent advice if one has the material to draw with.

So the journalists turned disconsolately away, but one, seeing a pin, joyfully picked it up, confident that now she would have an inspiration; a comforting belief, though ridiculous; but no more ridiculous than numbers of the other superstitions one meets with every day.

Take for instance the belief that if



a cat washes over its ears it will rain. Albany cats, of course, are quite safe in keeping their reputations and are hard-working animals but what of cats in dry districts? They must either go unwashed or openly confess themselves frauds. To sneeze a certain number of times does not mean that you are getting 'flu, but that you will shortly receive a letter; and when a garment has been put on inside out it must on no account be changed, or bad luck will result; while to break a mirror is certain to cast a blight on one's life for seven years; though how glass, backed with mercury, can influence the course of events, is hard to say.

Certain days of the week, too, have a peculiar spell, for to put to sea on a Friday is certain to result in disaster; and it is universally recognised as being unlucky to be run over by a motor car on a Wednesday. To walk under a ladder is also unlucky (if the ladder falls) and the author of this article would not dare to walk under a ladder; not that she is superstitious, of course, but she doesn't believe in taking risks.

M.H.

### ON DANCING

Oh! Dancing is a graceful art,  
Well loved by all the school;  
But all who come should mean to learn

And not to act the fool.

First, Second (?), Third and Fourth

Do all obey this rule;

But Fifth alone do not conform,

And ill become the School.

But to return to dancing now—

It causes much delight;

To trip around the room we try

With footsteps soft and light.

The Boston is the best of all,

It's full of swing and go;

The feet are moving all the time

With steps, now swift, now slow.

But some may not agree with that,

They like the waltz we know,  
The Boston is too fast for them;

But then, they are so slow.

But Jazzing, too, finds favour

Among a certain class;

They much prefer to walk around,

Which we think is a farce.

Thus Jazzes, Waltzes, Two-Steps,

Have all a certain fame;

And so we all find pleasure

In this delightful game.

"The Siamese Twins."

### REQUIESCAT

(To a rejected effort).

Screw on it roses, roses,

And never a spray of yew;

In the basket it reposes,

Ah! would that I did too.

Her verse the Mag. required,

She composed it with a will;

But her brain was tired, tired

And her effort came to nil.

Three days she spent in writing,

And trying her feeble best;

But the Ed.'s remarks were biting,

And her verse has now "Gone West."

Its beauty and its spirit,

Were rejected with all haste;

And now it doth inherit

The basket used for waste.

III. Form.

### SCHOOL SPORT

Upon the school curriculum there is no more enticing subject than that of sport. (It would be needless—nay, foolish—to argue this matter). Few can resist its many and varied appeals; and although it may be difficult to acquire a knowledge of the finer points of some games, there is little doubt of the presence of a certain love and interest which is absent—shall we say—in a maths. period.

Even before the studies were suc-



cessfully under way, the scholars had been divided into three factions—Gold, Green and Brown. During the year keenly-contested competitions in football, cricket and tennis for the boys, and hockey, baseball and tennis for the girls, have shown that the teams were fairly evenly balanced. Now, as the glad tidings of approaching examinations herald the close of the third term, the interest which has been maintained throughout is becoming even more pronounced. Green's boys proved themselves too strong, as cricketers, for the other factions, whilst the girls of that colour (no insult implied) vied with Brown for second honours. The football season saw Brown boys establish a lead, which, to some extent, was counteracted by their female supporters. Sports Day brought Golds once more into the picture, and Green's cricketing abilities (in view of their recent showing) may enable them to rid themselves of the handicap which they have incurred. Hence it is almost impossible to even hazard a guess as to which faction will emerge champions for 1925. The chart of points acquired shows the following:—

Brown .. .. .	175½
Gold .. .. .	173½
Green . . . . .	119

All these strenuous contests for supremacy, which extended chiefly over the first two terms, served to prepare the students for their encounter with Katanning early in September, on the hockey and football fields. Our guests failed to adapt themselves to the excellent playing conditions of our "rec.," thereby conceding victories in both departments.

This event was only exceeded in greatness by the holding of a Sports Day. Wednesday, October 21, was the day set aside for the auspicious undertaking, and, thanks to the excellent management of the formidable task, nothing untoward occurred to

mar the day's proceedings. It will indeed be no mean task, in years to come, to equal the standard of efficiency which characterised the control of the first Sports Day.

It is certain that the holding of such meetings in future will excite much more public interest and it behoves the competitors themselves to provide good entertainment. No doubt the pioneer fixture has served to show the latter the greatness of such an event, and in view of this, it is to be hoped that future Sports Days will be preceded by many weeks of arduous training.

Here it may be fitting, perhaps, to mention one of the greatest difficulties which had to be overcome in connection with school sport. One of the two grounds of the town afforded, during the greater part of the year, excellent opportunities for the holding of an aquatic carnival. Its capabilities, sad to relate, were not realised. And as the mud at the bottom was too muddy for members of the fairer sex, the poor lads were entreated to adopt "clean" tactics on its shining surface, during strenuous games of football. Contests with teams outside the school have been but rare occurrences for the boys, owing to both playing areas being utilised by the town's sporting bodies. Thus it is with hopeful eagerness that many look forward to the possibility of a cricket match against Katanning at that centre before the close of the year.

Throughout, little interest has been displayed in tennis. Bumping-board competitions were thoughtfully arranged, but players failed to respond. Among the boys, owing to their limited number, faction competitions in this department were rendered difficult. One hopes that in future years more interest will be displayed, and that when competitions are arranged, players will avail themselves of the opportunity of matching their skill against that of their selected opponents.



One more factor, bearing on the year's sporting events, remains to be recorded. Our hockey girls evince a pardonable pride in their achievements among other teams of the Albany Association. Three trophies were offered for competition and all of them have been secured by the school's first eleven—hockeyists, of course. Surely a most notable performance—one which their successors will find very hard to emulate. To these people then, who have secured such honour for the school, we offer our heartiest congratulations. (Perhaps it might be a little derogatory to their great actions to add that the males, chiefly through their inability to field a full eleven, only just failed to defeat them at hockey).

That the A.H.S. has entered upon its sport, so early in its career, is a fact much to be appreciated by the earliest students, and, we feel, one which will have far-reaching results on the future prosperity of the institution, in this department. Our inaugural year has indeed been one of great enjoyment—from a sporting point of view. Faction competitions have been arranged in football, cricket, hockey, tennis and baseball, so that there was offered a large field for selection. Even the fastidious, ever-changing tastes of the females were almost satiated by including in the sporting fixtures walking tours. Surely an excellent tribute. Moreover a Sports Day was held, and a visit received from a neighbouring school's representatives in football and hockey. Surely the traditions established will not fail to make their appeal to the scholars of the future, enabling them to uphold the honour and respect of the school in the realm of sport.

### HOCKEY

This year's hockey season will be memorable as far as the High School is concerned, for the First Eleven (High School "A") has succeeded in gaining the three trophies for which

there has been a keen contest among all teams. Throughout the season the games were strenuous and a fine sporting spirit animated the players. Even when the incessant rains left pools over the field, and made it almost impossible to run without falling, everyone of our team turned out, and only in the last few matches, when influenza overtook so many of us, was it necessary to put in an emergency.

The combination of the forward line, supported by a strong defence, was the secret of the success. In the beginning of the season the team seemed to miss many opportunities of scoring goals, through slowness in the circle, but after frequent "practice corners" on the Parade Street ground we soon remedied this.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF W.A.

In the ordinary course of events, many of this year's players will cease to be members of the A.H.S. Clubs, but the Second XI. has revealed the fact that there is ample material of the right sort to replace the retiring players, and supporters of the school will look forward to a fine display of talent in the hockey field next year.

### The "A" Team.

The hockey season has closed triumphantly for us, and well may the school be proud of its "A" team, and the three trophies won—but prouder still of the spirit which animated the eleven, a spirit of loyalty and comradeship, which carried them worthily through many awkward situations—both on the field and off it.

This was the result of the good sportsmanship shown by each member of the team, but much credit is due to the captain—so quick to respond to advice, so efficient in management. Happy the team with such a captain, and the captain with a team so keen and united!

May those who are leaving us at the year's end show the same spirit in whatever "team" life places them in the future!

D.H.



## SPORTS DAY

A report of that day must pay deserved credit to all students, of unfortunately limited number at present, to whose energy and endurance the success was due. The times registered and the results achieved, cannot do justice to the enthusiasm of those who participated in the School's first Sports Day, but we can be sure that, in succeeding years, when present difficulties have passed, and the numbers grown, the same enthusiasm is evinced, the achievements will compare more than creditably with those of the other secondary schools.

The title of School Champion went to J. Haire, followed by A. McArthur, runner-up. The former's performance was particularly praiseworthy, and in congratulating him, we wish him the best of good fortune in his efforts elsewhere. J. Perrin won Junior Championship honours, while competing also in open events. Miss F. Scanlon, the Champion Girl, won that title from an unusually large and enthusiastic number of competitors. We congratulate her.

The following are the results:—

100 yards Open Championship.—Haire, 1; McArthur, 2; Chester, 3. Time, 11 4-5secs.

220 yards Open Championship.—Haire, 1; McArthur, 2; Brayshaw, 3. Time, 28 1-5secs.

440 yards Open Championship.—Haire, 1; Perrin, 2; McArthur, 3. Time, 65 secs.

Mile Open Championship.—Haire, 1; Perrins, 2; Brayshaw, 3.

Open High Jump.—Haire, 1; Brayshaw and Clough, 2. Height, 5ft. 5in. (unfinished).

Open Long Jump.—Haire, 1; Fisher, 2; McArthur, 3. Distance, 18ft. 2in.

Throwing Cricket Ball.—Clough, 1; Haire, 2; Brayshaw, 3. Distance 70yds. 10in.

100 yards Open Handicap.—Haire, 1; Brayshaw, 2.

220 yards Open Handicap.—Haire, 1; McArthur, 2.

440 yards Open Handicap.—Haire, 1; Brayshaw, 2.

Mile Open Handicap.—Collins, 1; Stonehouse, 2.

120 yards Open Hurdles.—Haire, 1; Brayshaw, 2.

Under 16.

220 yards Championship.—Perrin, 1; Fisher, 2; Anderson, 3. Time 29 3-5 secs.

440 yards Championship.—Perrin, 1; Fisher, 2; Johns, 3. Time, 70 1-5 secs.

High Jump.—Hardie, 1; Fiveash, 2; Perrin, 3. Height, 4ft. 6½in.

Long Jump.—Fisher, 1; Brown, 2; Adderley, 3. Distance, 16ft. 3in.

100 yards Handicap.—Fisher, 1; Hardie, 2.

220 yards Handicap.—Stonehouse, 1; T. Fiveash, 2.

440 yards Handicap.—Prior, 1; T. Fiveash, 2.

120 yards Hurdles.—Prior, 1; Perrin, 2.

Under 14.

75 yards Championship.—Henson, 1; Lawless, 2; Frost, 3. Time 10 2-5 secs.

100 yards Championship.—Henson, 1; Lawless, 2; Frost, 3. Time, 13 3-5 secs.

75 yards Handicap.—Henson, 1; Frost, 2.

100 yards Handicap.—Henson, 1; Illsley, 2.

Novelty Events.

Sack Race.—K. Jefferis, 1; Haire, 2.

Siamese Race.—Kierath and Jefferis, 1; Hardie and Fisher, 2.

Obstacle Race.—J. and K. Jefferis, 1; Henson, 2.

Girls.

50 yards Championship.—N. Repacholi, 1; F. Scanlon, 2; B. Bott, 3.

75 yards Championship.—N. Repacholi, F. Scanlon, 1; B. Bott, 3.

100 yards Championship.—F. Scanlon, 1; M. Harris, 2; D. Richmond, 3.





"A" HOCKEY TEAM.  
 Standing -- Miss M. Harris, Miss M. Treasure, Miss P. Young, Miss N. Repacholi, Miss H. Beckett, Miss E. Bedwell, Miss D. Richmond.  
 Sitting -- Miss E. Farrell, Miss F. Scanlan, Miss M. McGuire.



50 yards Handicap.—D. Norrish, 1; M. Sherratt, 2.

75 yards Handicap.—E. Bedwell, 1; F. Scanlon, 2.

100 yards Handicap.—D. Norrish, 1; E. Bedwell, 2.

#### Under 14.

50 yards Handicap.—G. McCreery, 1; M. Stonehouse, 2.

75 yards Handicap.—D. Norrish, 1; M. Stonehouse, 2.

#### Novelties.

Sack Race.—N. Pratt, 1; B. Jenkin, 2.

Siamese Race.—D. Richmond and M. Harris, 1; J. Peat and E. Beckett, 2.

#### Faction Relays.

Boys.—Brown, 1; Green, 2; Gold, 3.

Girls.—Gold, 1; Brown, 2; Green, 3.

Old Boys' Race.—Green, 1; Oliver, 2; Nelson, 3.

Primary School, Boys.—Franklin, 1; Bedwell and Crisp, 2.

Primary School, Girls.—E. Cooper, 1; E. King, 2; L. Dawe, 3.

## CAMERA CLUB NOTES

This club was formed early in the year and a small body of enthusiasts joined together to try to improve their photography.

As the number of members is small, and winter has been passing, not many activities have been undertaken, but we are looking forward to the brighter days after the exams., when we shall be able to have some outings.

At the first meeting of the club Mr. Reedy was elected president, M. Brayshaw secretary, and Misses McGuire, Field and Vaughan, and Messrs. Kierath, Johns and Cooke were made members of the committee.

Under the control of this body, our dark room in the tower has been supplied with the necessary apparatus for printing and developing of films, and

a reference library of photo magazines has been collected.

M.B.

## PIONEERS! OH! PIONEERS!

Lamb, we are told, refused, although harshly treated by Fate, to call other people's attention to his sufferings. That the great essayist has been, and will be, praised for this, is indisputable. It may, therefore, appear presumptuous—nay, foolish—to you, Reader, if one were to suggest that in this article (which is meant not only to please but to excite compassion), it is the intention of the writer to oppose the doctrines of such a great man of letters as Lamb, and, recklessly, to lay before the gaze of everyone the manifold tribulations which have been undergone. Such a daring step may be partly excused when it is known that this is not intended to be the dirge of one person but (pardon the liberty) that of a body of persons.

Having delivered this exhortation, one feels that one is escaping the charge which might otherwise be laid, of displaying egoism or self-pity. Certainly not one of the students who attended the Albany High School in 1925 would be guilty of making such an accusation; it is for the benefit of scholars of succeeding years that this gentle hint is given. And before proceeding further it might be as well to state that, although others may have been sufferers of equal note, this essay, in the main, is meant to chronicle the hardships of those persons who were ex-students in 1926.

Does one really, in any way at all, feel superior to his fellow-man because he happens to be a pioneer? Consider the question fairly, and one ventures to predict that you will say "No." With great pomp and outward show of pride, you loudly proclaim to the students of 200 A.D. that you were one of those who



established the school; you, it was, who bore all the hardships, all the cares which are the necessary accompaniment of any new project. But at heart (confess it, O pioneer), do you not envy the present scholars their innumerable advantages? Things unread of, unthought of in your day, are now considered necessary in the conduct of school affairs. You point out the disadvantages under which you and your 1925 associates sweated—and take pride in so doing, but do you not wish that you could return and enjoy all the “modern” benefits?

The opening year was an eventful one for the students who were entering upon their fifth period of secondary education. Many of them, no doubt, would scarcely have dared to hope, a year or two previously, that they would ever be so fortunate as to complete their school life in such a building, of which you, reader, are exceedingly proud. To some extent, then, the fulfilment of such an ideal somewhat ameliorated the inconveniences of pioneering.

You, who are of an advanced age (it is to the students of the future that I speak) regard us, no doubt, with mixed feelings of compassion and good humour. Yes, you admit, they must have had numerous difficulties with which to contend, but—what strange ways they had in those days. And, looking at our photographs, you mercilessly criticise us, poor pioneers.

With all the modern equipment it may be difficult for the student of 2000 A.D. to conceive an idea of the school of which the earlier students were justly proud. Boastfully, the pioneers demand: Was it necessary for them to meander along some bush track, when, in their first year, they sought the spacious grounds of A.H.S.? Did their school kit, on any occasion, comprise an axe, a mattock or some other such like implement, thoughtfully included for the purpose of blazing the way to the buildings?

Doubtless, with these neatly gravelled paths across the hill, you can scarce believe that the 1925 students were forced to plough through yards of sand and to leap gaily over such impediments as large boulders or yawning chasms on their journey to and fro from the seat of learning. These were minor troubles: you will agree that they were a godsend in the matter of physical training. With complacent eye you view your cricket, football and hockey fields, your neatly arranged tennis courts. Remember, if perchance you are tempted to criticise in no friendly spirit the (you think) imperfections and limitations of your playing areas, that nought but a partly-cleared space confronted the gaze of the undaunted earlier students.

On sport afternoon there is now no necessity for the loss of half an hour's valuable playing time in order to reach the venue of activities. And what difficulties there were for the pioneers in the matter of gaining access to the ground! First of all a ten-foot fence (pickets in some places, galvanised iron in others) had to be carefully negotiated—either scaled or crawled under. Then from a labyrinth of paths in the tall talarina, one leading to the “oval” had to be selected. This usually ended in a cul-de-sac, so that one's trouble was wasted. A boggy race track (?), numerous ditches, small lakes of water—all had to be crossed by the enthusiastic young sports. Eventually “the shining levels of the oval” were arrived at, truly shining, for, during the wet season (which, by the way, had a habit of lasting for nine months of the year in those days), it was covered with Nature's tears. With never-failing courage, the students were wont to compare their passage to the ground with the storming of some mediaeval castle; and truly the pictures of your young gallants, arrayed for the coming battle, assailing the outer defences, then, in the absence of a drawbridge, wading the moats,



still retained some of the chivalry of bygone days. Articles of clothing, books, hurdles, poles, all experienced the sensation of scaling the barricades.

Traditions, which you now hold sacred, received their impetus during the first year of the school's existence.

Why not? you ask. Admittedly, this was as it should have been. But, consider for a moment the difficulty of making sundry youths of varying temperaments recognise the power of the prefects; of making them submit to the control of those persons to whom, in the previous year, they may have been guilty of offering impudence. It could scarcely be expected of the 1925 contingent of scholars that, from the very outset, they should regard their school in the proper light. Yet, towards the end of the year this school patriotism could be noticed; that great tradition which the later student now admires and respects was beginning to make its presence felt.

Financial difficulties may be but lightly touched upon, although to those who aspired for the establishment of a great school, they must have caused no little anxiety. To some extent they had their bearings upon the students who did not fail to respond to the call for help. None shirked the work set them, and few were the remonstrances when some new "saving" device was adopted.

For you, the joys of a school wireless set, of which we could only dream, have long since faded into insignificance. Nevertheless, you suffer yourself to feel vastly superior to those who occupied for the first time those desks which, at the present, you are pleased to call your own. Let it be conceded that, being connected with the outside world by means of your receiving set, you hold an advantage over the stu-

dents who preceded you. But one diversion that was the balm of those people's daily school life has long since failed to give effect to its exuberance of spirits. Much that you are endowed with, this pleasure that became almost too common, if such were possible with us, is denied you. What entertainment have you now, when the hands of the clock point to mid-day? None equal the charm and vigorous appeal of that shrill whistle which disturbed the peace and quietness of the class-room atmosphere, which awakened to life the drowsy students (we sometimes dozed in those days), and which caused them literally, to "jazz" through the most difficult problems in Algebra and Trigonometry. Well may you sigh and long for such a boon to come again; but if pioneers are pioneers, they must have some point of vantage over those who come afterwards to share the benefits of their labours. Let this be one and rest content.

(With apologies to Whitman.)

Come my pale-faced children,  
Follow well in order, get your school  
kit ready,  
Have you your pencils, have you your  
sharp edged axes?

Pioneers! O Pioneers!

For we cannot find the track,  
We must work, my hearties, we must  
bear the brunt of blazing,  
We, the earliest students of the Albany  
High School.

Pioneers! O Pioneers!

O you youths, you High School  
youths,  
So courageous, full of action, full of  
chivalry and friendship,  
Plain I see you, High School youths,  
see you tramping through the sand.  
Pioneers! O Pioneers!







