

Keith Grammar School &
Former Pupils' Association

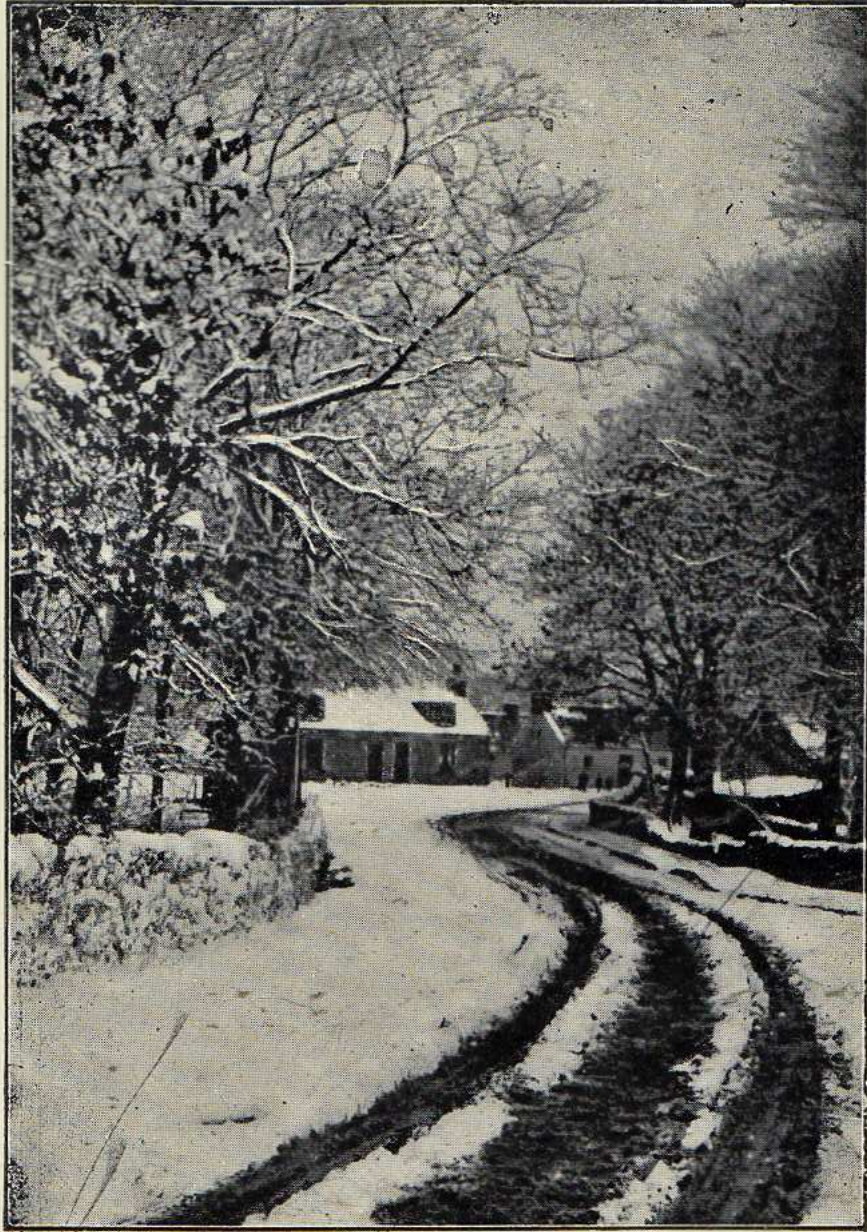
MAGAZINE

DECEMBER

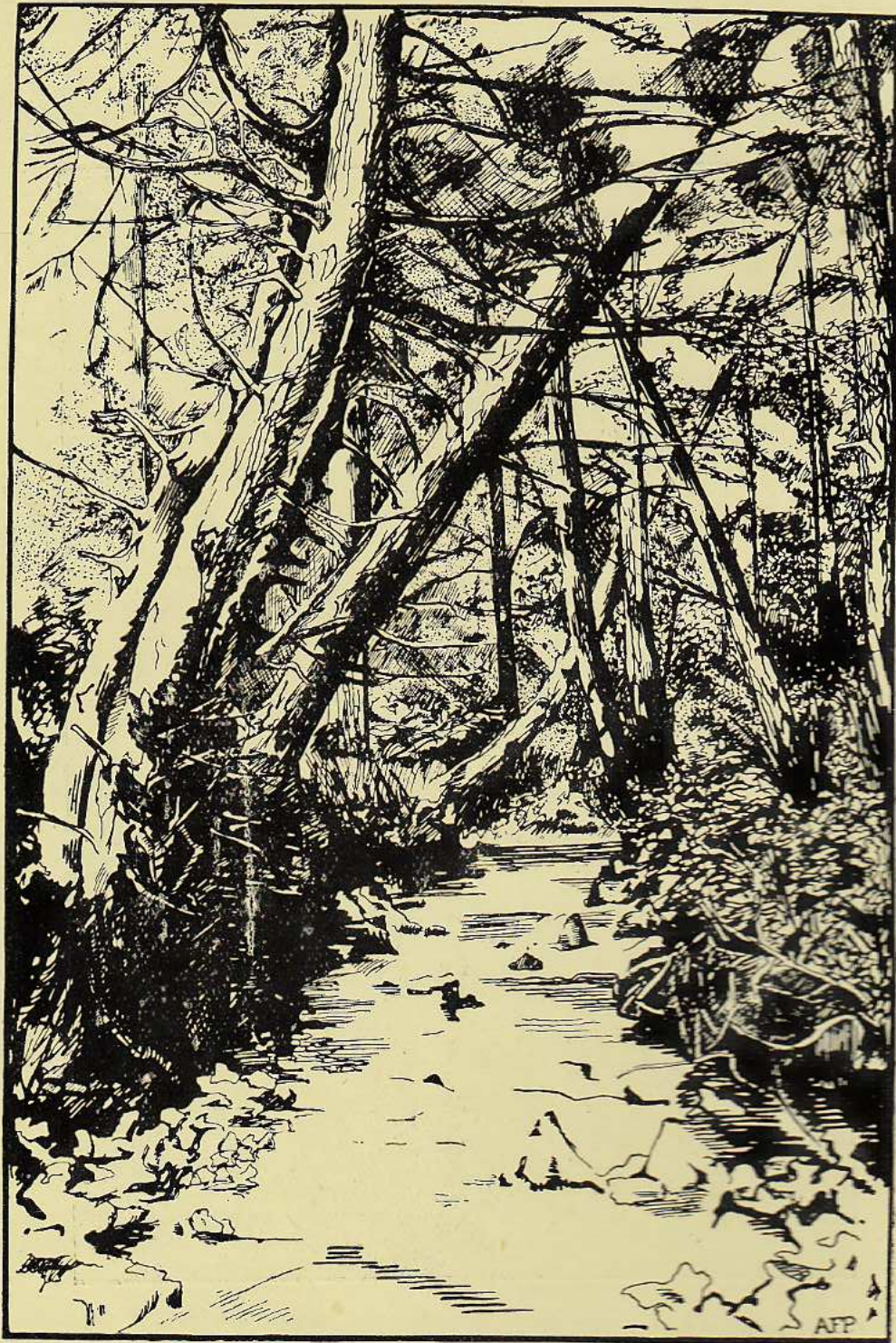
1925

No. 6

Price One Shilling



THE DEN ROAD.




THE BURN AT GREENWOOD.

—Agnes F. Pirie.

THE MAGAZINE

OF THE

Keith Grammar School 
Former Pupils Association

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Foreword

The season of goodwill is the appropriate time for happy recollection. We lay work aside to be merry and to be kind; quiet thought no less does us good. If the life of battle, the sunshine, the struggle and the triumphs of existence brace the mind, sweet also are the quiet evening twilight, rest, and memory. No recollections are so real or so fully satisfy the heart as those of the days of youth. To live again in thought our childhood's days, to see faces in the firelight of the kind folks with whom we worked and played or laughed and were mischievous warms us with a generous glow.

One main purpose of these pages is to reawaken these dim, half-forgotten thoughts and to bring back for our readers Keith as they knew it, the School, and the old figures that peopled their youthful world. The information afforded regarding the various activities of the Association and its flourishing child, the chronicles of the doings of individual Former Pupils, the scholarly and pawky verses, and the pictures of scenes around Keith should help the flow of reminiscence.

To all our Readers we wish a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year. To you, Readers Far Away, we who have remained at home give warmest greeting, breathing the spirit of these lines of Neil Munro:—

“Far have you wandered over seas of longing,
And now you drowse, and now you well may weep
When all the recollections come a-thronging
Of this old country where your fathers sleep.

“They sleep, but still the hearth is warmly glowing
While the wild winter blusters round their land;
That light of Home, the wind so bitter blowing—
Look, look, and listen! Do you understand?

“Love, strength, and tempest—oh, come back and share them!
Here is the cottage, here the open door!
Fond are our hearts although we do not bare them;
They're yours, and you are ours for evermore!”

'63-'73

A FEW REMINISCENCES AND ASIDES

"Time rolls his ceaseless course. The race of yore
Who danced our infancy upon their knee

How are they blotted from the things that be."

Immense changes have taken place in Keith since the year 1863. It may be confidently asserted that these have tended to the physical, intellectual, moral, and social improvement of the place.

From what we used to term "The Lodge" to its northern end, the Mid Street has been almost wholly rebuilt. The buildings then were very unpretentious, consisting mostly of low thatched dwellings having very primitive sanitary arrangements, with an occasional slated house of one or two storeys. Here and there was a house with its gable to the street. How well do I remember Johnnie King and his wife, Maggie, who occupied one of these houses and who supplemented their ordinary means of subsistence by selling peats! In front of some houses were stone seats, two of which rise vividly before my mind. Many a time have I enjoyed a sound snooze, stretched at full length on Tammy Simpson's bench (as it was called) or that of George Barnet. These were the days of tranquil repose. Hurry and bustle had not yet penetrated so far North. Poor George Barnet! He lost his savings in an attempt to establish his claim to the estate of Pitfodels, near Aberdeen. Who that knew him can forget his hearty and boisterous laugh, his warm salutation of us "loons" when we looked in at the "smiddy" door? The salutation was often couched in unorthodox language.

There were then no fine houses along the Broomhill Road; the Station Road had none of those attractive and beautiful villas that give it an air of comfort and wellbeing; the Kynoch mansions were non-existent, the places on which they are built being then ugly and unattractive spots. The well-known Isla Bank Mills, which have been the great factor in the development of Keith, were just in their infancy. These were originally a carding mill in the possession of the Kelmans (a family now non-existent in Keith) for several generations. Alongside the Station Road was the Tarry Dam, the exhalations of which bore a strong resemblance to those of Avernus. Not far from the town on the Banff Road has disappeared the small farm of Kempcairn with which many pleasant memories are associated. The kindly tenant and

his wife, James and Mrs Allan, were in the habit of inviting some of their boy acquaintances to a treat of "geans," which grew in profusion in their little orchard.

As regards education, the Education Act had not yet been mooted; consequently parents were under no compulsion to send their children to school. At this period there were in the town the Parish School, the Free Church School, the Ladies' Seminary, conducted by Mrs and the Misses Glass, and several Dame schools, the most important of these being that of Mrs Taylor on the Square. So many side shows naturally interfered with the attendance at the one over which Mr Smith presided. Mrs Taylor had been long engaged in the work and had now arrived at a fairly advanced age. Her school was so well attended that there were rarely vacancies. When one reflects on the difficulties with which these dames had to contend, the want of appliances, the crowded condition of the room, the lack of ventilation, the different stages of the pupils and the badly graded text books, one has difficulty in understanding how so much good work was accomplished. Reading, Scripture, a very little arithmetic, some writing on slates, along with a certain amount of practical work such as knitting and elementary sewing, were the subjects of instruction. Our fees were very moderate, 2d per week, and during the winter each pupil brought two or three peats occasionally. Being a mother herself, she instinctively knew how to deal with bairns. Of a kindly, sympathetic, and patient nature (which is the one great essential for a person to whose care the youngest are entrusted), she wound herself round the hearts of the little ones and gained their complete affection. We were not goody-goody, far from it; we played pranks such as children like to indulge in, could be a little boisterous when left to ourselves, tugged each other's hair occasionally, especially a girl's, but this large-hearted and affectionate woman could heartily sympathise with us if we did not proceed to extremes. The teaching in these Dame schools was of a rather mechanical nature. No attempt was made to see whether the child understood what it read. The power to read and memorise was what was mainly cultivated. In all conscience the worthy ladies had quite enough to do in securing these ends.

Staying somewhat longer with Mrs Taylor than was customary, I was about eight years old when I was transferred to the "big" school. My arithmetic was somewhat defective, but the energetic and capable teaching of Thomas Stevenson soon brought me up to the required standard. I have a distinct recollection of Mr Smith testing us in short division and of receiving a bawbee for expertness in doing a sum at the black-board.

The School at this time consisted of two large rooms, and of a small room which might be termed the master's sanctum, but

which owing to the great number of scholars (there being a roll of between 200 and 300) was generally utilised for teaching purposes. There was a large lobby with seats all round which was put to a similar use. The staff consisted of Mr Smith, Thomas Stevenson, and two or three pupil teachers, with the occasional employment of a monitor. In the North the school enjoyed a reputation beyond comparison. Mr Smith was facile princeps, the most outstanding and most successful teacher of University subjects within a very extensive area, the unique position achieved by his pupils at the Bursary Competition placing him incontestably at the head of the profession.

It has been said that the old parochial teacher's enthusiasm was concentrated on the lad of "pairs" and that the many were sacrificed to the few. That may have been true in some individual instances, but where there were men of the stamp of Smith, Ogilvie, and Grant (originally an old parochial), guided by a stern sense of duty, the charge is utterly devoid of foundation. Considering the paucity of staff, the number of scholars, and the variety of subjects, the wonder is that they accomplished so much. No doubt the teacher of these days, as was natural, rejoiced in the discovery of a lad of more than ordinary intelligence and did all he could to promote his advancement, in many cases supplying books and not enforcing the customary fee where payment would involve the parents in serious hardship. Apart from the University training, the general education was of a very substantial quality, as was evidenced by the numbers which entered the banking and legal professions, became clerks, and were apprenticed to chemists and the traders of the neighbourhood. In a word these schools satisfied the requirements of the times, they fully met the local exigencies.

Mr Smith was a man of exceptional vigour and force of character, possessing in a very marked degree the power of rousing enthusiasm and of evoking a love of work. His was "the eye of Mars to threaten and command." With the idler and trifler he showed his lack of appreciation in a very practical manner. His very look betokened determination and strict discipline, and when castigation was resorted to it was undoubtedly thorough and very impartially administered. It would not suit the present time, but one has to consider the prevailing conditions when he was born and bred. Severity bordering on barbarity characterised the period. In our Courts of Justice the death penalty was inflicted for almost every offence of stealing, some of which in our day would scarcely merit a day's imprisonment. How would we view the medical treatment considered necessary in those times for persons suffering from mental aberration? Lastly, how cruelly were we, at no distant date, dangled over the bottomless pit to effect our moral regeneration?

By 1865 Mr Smith's iron constitution had begun to give way under the severe pressure of work, and in November, 1866, he passed away, much lamented by all who were fully alive to the services he had rendered to the community during his 38 years of office.

With Mr Smith's vigour and fitness for work diminished during the last years of his life and with the appointment of an interim teacher for a considerable time (which does not tend to school efficiency), the glory of the institution had become somewhat dimmed. The heritors were particularly fortunate in the selection of a teacher by appointing Mr Joseph Ogilvie, who entered on duty in 1867. He was one of a brilliant band of four brothers, all of whom attained positions of the highest importance in the educational world. He had had a distinguished record at the University, and he came not as an untried hand to occupy the difficult position of successor to the great headmaster. Entering on the work of a school with so brilliant a reputation was sufficient to test the resolution and nerve of even one who had already given ample evidence at Methlick of his ability to produce work of a very high order.

The former prestige of the School soon revived under the invigorating and attractive personality of the new Headmaster. For six years he laboured in Keith till his promotion to the Principalship of the E.C. Training College, Aberdeen, with which the great success of his life is associated.

What were the outstanding merits of Joseph Ogilvie as a teacher? A real teacher is born, not made. Such was our friend. He had in an especial degree the power of arresting and sustaining the attention of his class, he excelled in clearness of explanation, so that the dull boy, provided he was not hopeless, could comprehend what might otherwise seem insuperable difficulties; he was a practical psychologist, he studied the character and temperament of his scholars and was thus in a position to deal satisfactorily and successfully with them; he was especially keen in detecting a "loon of pairts," but at the same time was fully alive to the difficulties of those whose intellectual qualities were of a rather meagre nature. He was a man who was happy in his work, which almost invariably means a successful worker. He was gifted with a rich store of humour, was courteous and genial to a degree which bespoke the kindliness and sympathy within. He could make allowance for the exuberance of youthful spirits and at times affected unconsciousness of small misdemeanours, and yet with all his good points he had his little peculiarities and idiosyncrasies which no one can spot better than a pupil. The perfect man, if such there be, is an abnormal being beyond the power of appreciation. Corporal punishment was rare and when

administered was not over-severe; he preferred that his pupils should look on it in the light of a disgrace.

Mr Ogilvie took special care with the Bible lesson. He was exceedingly well-versed in the Scriptures and was always ready with a pat quotation when there was an opportunity. In the earlier stages of our career certain hours were set apart once a week for a thorough drill in mental arithmetic, writing, and spelling. Two of the great mental experts were Jim Barnfather and Peter Laing. How well I recall the rivalries that existed between them! Jim on his defeat on one occasion threatened to memorise the ready reckoner, but on trial found that such a feat more than rivalled the labours of Hercules. How our attention was directed to the points necessary to the correct formation of the capital letters C, D, E, and S, etc., and to the lengths of l, p, g, d, t, etc.! Many a hearty laugh was raised by a joke at the fantastic shape of some of our productions.

In our most advanced stage the version, i.e., turning a piece of English into Latin took the most prominent position. To have our exercise returned "sine errore" was our great ambition. The errors were divided into three classes, "maxies," "medies," and "minies." A wrong gender was marked a "maxie," and meant a loss of four marks; a false tense, etc., involved a loss of two marks (a "medie"), while a miss-spelling was generally reckoned a "minie," one mark. We read a good deal of Caesar, generally two books of Virgil, a book or so of Horace, a book of Livy, and some Cicero (De Senectute or De Amicitia). In Greek one or two books of the Anabasis, a book of the Hellenics or Memorabilia along with a thorough grounding in Geddes's Grammar formed the amount generally aimed at. In our last year we supplemented our school work by a good deal of private reading and by a careful study of some manuscript versions. The great aim in all we did so far as classics were concerned was accuracy and thoroughness.

In English, during the last two years, our attention was directed to a complete mastery of Bain's Grammar. It was a severe test on the memory, and I question very much its importance as a mental stimulus. Pupils, I think, are well rid of this incubus, but, as a thorough knowledge of it was necessary for the Bursary Competition, we had to face the task of memorizing it. With regard to Mathematics, although Algebra and Geometry were not included in the Competition subjects, we covered the ground of the first three books of Euclid and worked up to the Binomial Theorem. The pupils in Mathematics of the present day have a graded system of text books that present the subject in a more attractive and a more easily understood form.

The School was examined every second year by the Dick Bequest visitor, Professor Laurie, who came unannounced and

proceeded to examine the class that happened to be on the floor. He made a more or less detailed report to the Trustees of all that took place when he was present and of his judgment on every class which he examined. The nature of the report determined the grant allocated to the Headmaster.

The most important event of the year, however, was the examination conducted by a committee of the Presbytery on a fixed day, when we all appeared in our Sunday best and best behaviour. As many of the ministers had previously acted as schoolmasters they were quite capable of putting us "through our facings." They were, however, in no way exacting and put us completely at our ease, trying to find out what we knew, not what we did not know. Messrs Mason (Botriphnie), Cushny (Fochabers), and Cruickshank (Mortlach) are chiefly associated in my mind with these "visitations." We boys used to enjoy the spirited discussions of Mason and Cushny on some debatable point; Mason was bluff, Cushny quiet and dignified, while Cruickshank was affable and cheery. The minister of Fochabers used to amuse us very much by his rather ancient way of pronouncing certain Biblical names, such as "Awbrahaum," "Sawraw," "Land of Can-awn," etc.

At the break up for the "hairst" holidays a prize of £1 was given for the best piece of mechanism. Wonderful exhibits of clocks, ploughs, threshing mills, etc., were made which showed how markedly clever some were with their hands (and heads). I have a recollection that John Turner, brother of Dr Robert, who rose to a prominent position in one of the Colonies, had a decided talent in this direction.

I intended drawing attention to the number of prominent families of my early days that have now become extinct so far as Keith is concerned, to the games we indulged in during the different seasons of the year, to our rambles by the "Burn of Drum" and in "Mill o' Wood," to the different spots we "dooked" in, to worthies such as "Rumlie," "Bokie Broon," "Mary Cutties," "Johnnie Coskie," "Struan Jean," and the "Grant," to the pies of Sophie Hay, the brandy wafers of Misses McConnachie, and the shortbread of Mrs Munro when the word dyspepsia and its troubles were unknown to us, to the pugilistic prowess of "Trek-lie" (derivation, treacle), "Tinkie," and "Fighties"; to "Hottle" who, when asked by the teacher to give an equivalent word for "gender" and when prompted by a neighbour with "sex," replied "bags"; and above all to the successes of the "Grammar School Cricket Club," but I find I must close and apologise for this "harum-scarum" production.

William Riddoch, LL.D.

In April of this year, 1925, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, the highest distinction of this kind that a Scottish university has it in its power to grant, was awarded to Mr William Riddoch, M.A., Rector of the Mackie Academy, Stonehaven. That this award and recognition of his services to education gave instant and widespread satisfaction (in a measure that similar awards have not always been successful in commanding) was well attested by the large number of public and private congratulations showered on Dr Riddoch. His pupils at the Mackie Academy presented him with the LL.D. gown and cap, while his staff of teachers entertained him to dinner and added the appropriate hood. He was also fêted by his fellow teachers in Kincardineshire and by the Stonehaven Golf Club, of which he is at present captain. Perhaps the finest tribute of them all, a number of his old Gordon's College pupils whom he had taught over thirty years before in Aberdeen, few all told but, almost without exception, distinguished in their professions, gathered from all corners of the land to spend an evening with their old master and give him a gift in token of their esteem.

In Keith, where Dr Riddoch studied as a boy under the late Dr (then Mr) Grant, the recognition of his work did not pass altogether unnoticed. The Council of the Former Pupils' Association, voicing, it was sure, the sentiment of all who cherish proper pride in the Grammar School and in the success of all who have been nurtured in it, sent Dr Riddoch a message of hearty congratulation. The present article is written to permit a wider circle of alumni to share that privilege and pleasure. An opportunity has been presented of emphasising our pride of school, the very spirit which our Association was instituted to intensify.

William Riddoch was born in the parish of Rothiemay in December, 1862, being the son of a farmer there. After some early schooling in his native parish he came to Keith, the school having then the title of Keith Combined Public School. A fellow-pupil of the Rev. John Mair—and both were outstanding examples of the value of Dr Grant's pedagogic skill in developing the talent of willing youths—he was 10th bursar at the "Comp." of 1880 and so entered on a university course of the highest distinction. First equal in Junior Latin, first in Senior Latin, second in Senior Greek and in Logic, first in Moral Philosophy—to say nothing of prizes lower than a second—he graduated in 1884 with double first class honours in Classics and Mental Philosophy, and was awarded two of the chief university prizes, the Hutton Prize as the most distinguished graduate in Classics and Mental Philosophy and the Bain Gold Medal as the best graduate with first

class honours in Philosophy. In the following year Mr Riddoch carried off the Fullerton Scholarship for Mental Philosophy—the university has no higher scholarship to offer. From 1885 to 1888 he served his teaching apprenticeship as one of the classical masters of George Watson's College for Boys, Edinburgh, the Headmaster of which at that time happened to be a native of Mr Riddoch's native parish of Rothiemay, the celebrated Dr George Ogilvie, one of a noted family of Scottish educators, a former pupil, by the way, of Fordyce Academy.

In 1888 Mr Riddoch was appointed Senior (one might almost say Sole) Classical Master of Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen. At that time the "Barn," as the Grammar School of Old Aberdeen was familiarly termed, had faded away from its bright glory under Dr William Dey (another Banffshire man, of Tomintoul). The new town Grammar School (the Rector of which was Dr James Moir, himself, it is worth recalling, a fine classical scholar trained at Keith) had no serious rival either in Gordon's College or in the country schools. A very brief interval, however, sufficed to make it clear to everyone interested—and who was not?—in the education of this north-east province that a new star had appeared above the horizon. Robert Gordon's College, building up a reputation as a "modern" school but hitherto of secondary importance as a classical establishment, suddenly established itself as the leading feeder of the University of these years, mainly by Mr Riddoch's work. A succession of successes, seldom if ever surpassed in brilliance by those of any other school, demonstrated skill and diligence of the highest order on the part of a great and honoured triumvirate of teachers, Basil MacLellan in mathematics, Charles Stewart (also of Tomintoul) in English, and William Riddoch in Latin and Greek, of which trio William Riddoch was not the least. In 1889 "Gordon's" secured the First Bursary, the coveted blue ribbon, and other six of the first ten places on the Competition list. In 1890 it had the first four places and another of the ten. In 1891 the first bursar again and other five of the ten were from the College. In 1892 it produced the first two bursars, also other four of the ten. In 1893 the Second bursar and other three—that year, it is worth recalling, the first bursar belonged to Buckie and was trained at Keith. To the super-excellence of its classical teaching more than anything else (in those days Latin and Greek accounted in most cases for 750 out of a total of 1000 marks at the Bursary Competition) Gordon's College owed that wonderful record; its great traditions, ever since worthily maintained, really date from the accession of Mr Riddoch to its teaching staff.

In 1893 Mr Riddoch elected to become the first Rector of the Mackie Academy, Stonehaven. There in a county mainly agricultural with a scattered population and no large towns, Mr

Riddoch has by sheer ability maintained his position as one of the foremost Scottish teachers of our time. On three occasions he has lowered the colours of the city schools and claimed the highest university bursary for Stonehaven. Other teachers of less distinction have clambered into positions of greater prominence; Dr Riddoch holds a position second to none in the judgment and affection of those that know.

Dr Riddoch's sympathies have been too catholic, his mental activity has been too intense, for him to rest contented with the single hobby of his teaching work. He has taken a prominent position in teachers' associations. He is a Fellow, and a member of the Council, of the Educational Institute of Scotland and has been President of the Kincardineshire Branch since 1919. He was Convener of the Aberdeen Secondary District of the Institute from 1921 to 1925. He is a Justice of Peace for the County of Kincardine. When war broke out in 1914 he was a Captain in the seventh battalion, Gordon Highlanders. He served in France from May, 1915, to December, 1918, first with his battalion and latterly as Commandant of a School of Instruction. He was promoted Major in 1917, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre in 1918. He also holds the Territorial Decoration (T.D.) for length of service.

From first to last Dr Riddoch's has been a career of rare merit. If one were to enquire into the secret of his success one would at once be confronted by these outstanding features of his composition—a sound physique, a cheerful contented mind, a strong will wisely directed and controlled, a massive brain acute and finely trained, exceptional moral strength—the product of honesty, clear calm judgment, good humour, fearlessness, consideration for others, and self-respect. Good humour he has in abundance; humour itself, spontaneous whimsicality of thought or expression, not very much. A trusty friend to cherish with pride, a comrade for the hour of stress, a teacher of amazing power, a gentleman in manners, head, and heart—such is William Riddoch. He was "Billy" to his pupils, the very name being proof of our admiration and the absence of fear. "Billy" he was to his men in the trenches too. One night, the story goes, when a serious push was on and Captain Riddoch required volunteers to capture a position under fearful risks, he told them what was in contemplation and simply asked if they would follow him. "Aye, Billy," they replied, "we'll follow you to Hell!" So strong was their admiration of the qualities that made a man.

No one who was there at the time can ever forget the sudden transformation of the classical school at Gordon's College due to Mr Riddoch's advent. His predecessor, a teacher of passable success, was a man of middle age, dignified, mild and reserved almost to the point of fear. In came this stripling, ambitious,



THE LATE
COLONEL
JOHN G.
FLEMING,
O.B.E., V.D., D.L.

MAJOR
WILLIAM
RIDDOCH,
M.A., LL.D.



keen, fiercely strenuous, able in a day to spot possibilities of improving the existing system, courageous enough to take drastic steps to achieve the standard of thoroughness he required. Confidence flamed up; with confidence eager industry—yet none worked so hard as the young master himself. The cost to him of having papers carefully marked and invariably returned within a single day cannot be known now; the work must have been sheer drudgery, but it was never grudged, always a labour of love. Scores of clever men—and Mr Riddoch had all the advantage of teaching the brightest boys of the north, once his own brilliance had attracted them—bless the day when William Riddoch entered Gordon's College and opened for them the road to success. Sparing of praise, still more sparing of blame, he toiled with and for them; and years but deepen their knowledge of the debt they owe to him.

Such is the man whom the University of Aberdeen has delighted to honour. Keith Grammar School, which boasts his name on its tablets of brass, may well feel proud of the part it played in producing a teacher so great, a gentleman both modest and worthy.

A. E.

The Late Colonel John G. Fleming

The widespread regret which the lamented death of Colonel John G. Fleming has occasioned and his many public services have received notice in the daily press. It is sufficient here to place on record the great loss which education in Banffshire and Keith Grammar School have sustained by his demise.

As Clerk to many of the old School Boards, to the County Committee on Secondary Education, and in recent years to the Education Authority, Mr Fleming had an intimate knowledge of, and took a most helpful interest in, the progress of education in the county. He framed the various schemes that were adopted to suit the changing conditions, and, generally, proved himself an admirable Clerk. His minutes were models of neatness, accuracy, and brevity; his guidance of business, shrewd; his legal advice, both cautious and wise. To Keith Grammar School he was a sympathetic friend, always ready to promote its welfare by all the means in his power.

Mr Fleming was a man of fine presence, great personal dignity, beautiful courtesy, and unfailing tact. Little given to the display of emotion, he preferred to let the genuine kindness of his nature flow out in quiet actions little suspected even by his friends. Former pupils everywhere mourn his loss and extend their sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Kempcairn

Sixty years ago the farmhouse of Kempcairn was to be seen by every wayfarer on the road from Keith to Banff. Standing with its steading and garden just beyond the first milestone on the way from Keith, it occupied a prominent position on the rising ground to the left of the road. To the wayfarer it had, indeed, presented itself to view some two or three hundred yards further back. So easy was it to be seen at that point that the eye could not miss it, even had the presence of the plantation which fringed the road not limited the view to the right. So pleasant and inviting did it look withal that the eye continued to dwell on it as one wended one's way northwards, until the slope of the road of "Kempcairn's Brae" made further view impossible.

To-day only such a wayfarer as holds still in his mind the remembrance of what had stood there, or possesses within himself the necessary psychic power to reproduce what he has not seen in reality, can visualise what I have mentioned. For of the buildings not one stone remains upon another. Even the garden with its many trees and flowers is no more. Should, however, a pilgrim of to-day with an interest in the matter walk along the toll road, say, for fifty yards beyond that first milestone, he will see on the sloping grass-covered bank on his left the faint remains of an old footpath. This path, creeping up the bank as it did sixty, seventy, eighty, or a hundred years ago, passes now, as it did then, the little thornbush still growing there, and loses itself on the top of the rise. To-day it ends there. In the old days it turned abruptly to the left at this point, and became the "baakie," which divided the fields on either side and led directly to the house itself. Seen near at hand the house was as pleasant to look upon as it was when viewed from the road. Shaped somewhat like the capital letter L, with the long limb facing to the east, it ran parallel to the road. The walls, of a good height, were bright with whitewash on their "harled" surface. The roof was well thatched, and the thatch well secured. All was tidy, well-kept, well-cared-for, comfortable-looking. In front of the house were four great bushes of sweet-briar, of odour almost overpowering, and on the trellis (one would nowadays call it the pergola) which encased the parlour door, rioted a wealth of honeysuckle. Sweet-williams grew by the parlour window, and the homely caraway by the kitchen door. The great peat stack was at the north end of the building, on the way to the steading. Just outside the path which ran along the front of the house and divided the path from the adjoining field was one of the brightest bits of green sward it has ever been my luck to see. The long house was not really one house but two, built together like the twin-villa of suburbia.

The second house, the more northern one, if judged from its construction and fittings was evidently of later date than its neighbour. Each was complete in itself. The older was devoted to the work of the farm, the little room at the end of the capital letter being used as a "milkhouse." Where the two houses were joined an opening had been made in the wall, and this was closed by a door on either side. The intervening space being of ample proportions formed a happy "cache" for a youngster when the game was "hide and seek."

As to the steading, the barn, stable, and sheds were well built and up-to-date, the "byres" much less so. The cornyard was attractive in a boy's eyes because it contained two cherry trees, one of great size, both very prolific. As last year's corn stacks had gone before this year's cherries were ripe and this year's stacks had hardly arrived, the ladder necessary to reach the outmost branches had to be placed, not against one of the stacks, but against the tree itself. Even with the added aid of a forked stick some of the extreme outstanding pendants were difficult of attainment. But the garden, which stood on the northern side of the steep stony cart-track leading from the toll road, was possibly the most noteworthy feature of the farm. It was large even in my time, and much larger earlier, before the eastern wall had been removed to permit of the encroachment of the neighbouring field. Outside the western wall were the pollard willow trees (the saughs) that provided the scaubs (gaelic squab, a sheaf or besom) required to make or mend the baskets for potatoes or turnips. Inside the walls were seven or eight apple trees, a jargonelle pear tree, black, white, and red currant bushes, and many varieties of gooseberries (grosarts, Fr. groseille). Several of the apple trees bore codlings. One tree had for fruit a small red-cheeked apple, hard as a nut when pulled in August, but fragrant sweet and juicy when it had lain in a drawer until Christmas. Of gooseberries I have not seen elsewhere so many varieties in one garden. The nearest approach to this was in a neglected (now entirely renovated) garden at Ballechin Cottage at which we made holiday in 1900 and 1901. As with the fruit so with the flowers—roses in profusion (cabbage, moss, rose of sharon, and the like), great-petalled and sweet-smelling, and many old world flowers such as violets, thyme, balm of gilead, myrrh. A flowering hop grew on a long pole close by the garden seat in the south-west corner. Along the south wall were five great "gean" trees, capable of being climbed easily from the wall. We called them "geans," but they were really the small black cherry of France (whence I have no doubt they came), very sweet to the taste, and dyeing the lips and tongue deeply, allowing no chance of the eater's escaping detection—not that fault was ever found, for the "geans" and the "grosarts" were there

and in such abundance that it was not easy to finish them before they became over-ripe.

Very different is this Kempcairn which I have described from the Kempcairn depicted in the Rev. Dr J. F. S. Gordon's "Book of the Chronicles of Keith." There on page five is a picture of the "House of Kempcairn, Priest's House and R.C. Chapel in 1783." The latter two, which had been built about that time, were humble in appearance, and must have been greatly improved before my time, the windows enlarged, the roof of the chapel brought into line with the height of the other house, and a vestry added.

The old mansion house, on the other hand, must in its day have been of considerable size, as became the residence of one of the "thirteen lairdships of which the Kingdom of Keith could boast." This house, described as ruinous in 1742, had completely disappeared before my day, leaving probably the size of the garden as the only testimony to its importance. Be that as it may, I fancy that in the house which I knew one may trace both externally and internally the improving hand of the Rev. Walter Lovi. That cleric, the second occupant at Kempcairn of the "Stryla Mission," was a man of personality and culture. He had travelled widely. We are told that his evening lectures in Keith drew great crowds. He erected the R.C. Chapel of St. Thomas at Keith, towards which Charles X. of France on Mr Lovi's application gave a generous money present, and remembering his reception by the Keith Loons that monarch commissioned M. Francois Dubois to paint for the new chapel the magnificent picture, "The Incrudulity of St. Thomas," which now adorns its altar.

When the new chapel was ready for worship the services at Kempcairn were discontinued, and my grandfather, James Allan, took over from Mr Lovi in 1835 the tenancy of the small farm there. Thus it came about that the one-time chapel became my grandfather's kitchen, and the vestry my grandmother's "milk-house." My grandfather's tenancy continued until 7th June, 1872, when "all and whole the cattle and horses, household furnishings, . . . and also a first rate three-horse threshing mill, with stacks of corn, hay, and straw, &c.," were sold off, and later the house demolished, and the fields divided.

J. ALLAN GRAY.

Clerk Saunders

(A Variant of an Old Scots Ballad).

Clerk Saunders and May Margaret
Played ower yon gowffin' green,
And close and canny was the game
Was played thir twa between.

"We've tied, we've tied!" Clerk Saunders cried,
"We've tied withoot a doot."
"Fie na, fie na!" said May Margaret,
"Till aince ye've puttit oot."

"Come, caddie, lift the flaggie oot
And lichtly lift awa the pin,
And ye may swear and save yer aith
I canna dae but get it in.

"Set baith yer feet ahint the hole,
Lat's see the putter noo, ma loon,
And ye may swear and save yer aith
I canna dae but get it doon."

The caddie he's ta'en up the flag
And lichtly lifted oot the pin,
And set his twa feet roond the hole
And a' tae guide Clerk Saunders in.

Clerk Saunders he begood tae putt
And sair he warstled wi' the line,
And aye he'd dicht awa the dubs
Or pu' the tither gowan fine.

It fell as he begood tae putt
And tyaved to get the line
That bye cam' her braw brithers
Wi' haughty looks and fine.

That bye cam' her five brithers
Wi' angry looks and stark,
They said, "We have but ae sister
And here she's gowffin' wi' a clerk!"

Then up and spak' the first o' them,
"I'se warran' he's thirty bob a week!"
Then up and spak' the second o' them,
"I'll brain the bounder wi' ma cleek!"

And oot and spak' the third o' them,
 "The carle's jacket's foo o' steeks,"
 And oot and spak' the fourth o' them,
 "What tyler made the blighter's breeks?"

Then up and gat the fifth o' them
 And never a word said he,
 But he's ta'en oot his buik o' rules
 And loot Clerk Saunders see.—

"Gin ye atween ye and the hole
 Sud pu' the gowans fine
 Or draw yer han' tae dicht the dubs,
 That hole ye'll surely tine;

"Or gin yer caddie rins afore
 And lichtly lifts the pin
 And sets his twa feet roond the hole,
 That hole ye canna win!"

Clerk Saunders swore and Margaret mad
 Tae hear him swear sae pat,
 "O didna ye tell me," she said
 "Ye used nae words like that?"

"And didna ye tell me," she said,
 "(I thocht ye telled the truth!)
 That aye ye played plus twa at Keith
 And scratch at Lossiemooth?"

"And noo ye dinna ken the rules,
 Ye've tint the game by ane,
 Clerk Saunders, ye may gang yer gait,
 And I'se gang hame ma lane!"

O then Clerk Saunders started up,
 An angry man was he:
 "Noo wae betide yer bauld brithers,
 An ill death may they dee!"

"And wae betide ye, ye ill man,
 For a' ye be sae braw,
 Ye hinna tint ae match tae me,
 Ye've been the deid o' twa!"

School Sports : 1876-78

We cannot help feeling that in any attempt to describe the amusements of our school days in the later seventies of last century we are dealing with antiquities. Games did not occupy a colossal space in the public eye or a royal position in the press as they now do, enthroned in such large-type headings as "The Realm of Sport."

Let not the more highly-favoured modern youths read with a disdainful smile the short and simple annals of the School Sports such as they were in those happy days. One thing in particular militated against organised sports and the regular and systematic practice necessary for proficiency in the more popular games of cricket and football. (Maybe this drawback was not all loss; who knows?) The week-end is the most convenient time for practice; but only two or three out of the large number of senior boys of that time were natives of the town and most of the others went to their homes at the week-end, returning on Monday morning. Hence there was no Senior School Cricket team. But it was not always so. In the early seventies, when Frank Sellar was captain, he numbered among his eleven such men as Gillies, Eyval (who are still with us), and the demon left-hand bowler "Doughy," who was the terror of all who had to face him with the willow. There was then a cricket team that could more than hold its own against all-comers.

Although there was little in the shape of systematic organisation or sustained method in our school sports there were miscellaneous outlets for sheer animal energy other than methodical games. Suddenly and without premeditation a number of the more athletic lads, arranging themselves in pairs that seemed well-matched in point of strength, would engage in an exciting wrestling match; or when snow was on the ground they adjourned to a neighbouring field, junior and senior boys with sometimes a sprinkling of amazons to aid. A snowballing battle royal would then be waged, till the little burst classroom bell sounded the signal "Cease firing."

Certain pastimes were severely seasonal. Wind or no wind, at a certain time in the spring season the spirit would seize some junior boy. "He won't be happy" till he constructs and "flees his dragon." In a marvellously short time the sky becomes flecked with these precious "draigons," some of which get hopelessly entangled on trees and telegraph wires. Simultaneously with "draigon-fleeing" other junior boys are smitten with the "bool" or marble fever. Regardless of weather conditions, you may see these enthusiasts playing the game of "Plaggie" even in the

freezing slush by the dyke sides along the road, alternately beating their palms on their backs and breathing on their fingers to keep them warm.

Sundry games were played during the spare half hour or so after dinner up to two o'clock. "Chevy Chase" was a favourite with the bigger junior boys. After choosing sides they ranged themselves in what they called their two dens. Diagonally opposite each den was the prison. The side that lost the toss had to send the first prisoner to prison. He began by shouting "Chevy!" and rushing along the diagonal past his opponents' den to his own. Some of the enemy would rush out to catch the prisoner, others, friends from the other den, would run out and catch these enemies by touching them. Soon the prisons were filled up. Each prisoner had to be relieved by one of his own side who had to reach the prison untouched. The liberator was permitted to walk back, but the released prisoner had to run the gauntlet. Obviously, when in full swing, this might be called a game of universal and perpetual motion, very suitable for a cold day. No human umpire could settle the dozen simultaneous disputes as to which of each pair of disputants last left his den. The umpire had the right to catch his neighbour who was out of den before him, and so exposed himself. Indeed they all seemed at times to be umpires and the noise of tongues was indescribable.

In the winter months a favourite game with the senior boys was football, played between the dikes on the playground with a cricket ball. Every member of the class that owned a pair of feet took part in this game during the mid-day interval. With the heat of the day in winter time the surface of the ground was covered with "glaur" about an inch deep all over and of the consistency of rich cream. The condition of our boots at the close of the game can be more easily imagined than described. It speaks volumes for the patience and perseverance of our admirable landladies that they produced our boots each morning in quite a presentable condition without murmur or complaint beyond venturing such a query as "Whar' on earth hae ye been wi' yer beets?"

We played "Association" football, but we did not bother too much about the minutiae of the rules, for we never dreamt of challenging outsiders. We simply wanted to exercise ourselves in getting a jolly good kick at the leather.

One memorable football match stands out clearly in the writer's memory. In this instance we were intrigued into what proved almost an Homeric contest between School and Town. It had been well advertised and for once the citizens thought it worth their while to turn out to witness the prowess of their tradesmen and shopkeepers pitted against the "school loons."

The writer has a vivid recollection of the tickled curiosity with which the school team scanned the bearded faces of their rivals, who in the aggregate presented a somewhat formidable appearance. They were, however, only a miscellaneous assortment of unseasoned drapers, grocers, and clerks, though all desperately keen. They were captained by James George, of Earlsmount, an expert, equal to any other two or three.

No sooner was the ball kicked off than the town's team came on like a hurricane. It seemed as if they were to take the school goal by storm. It was, however, in the safe and "siccar" keeping of George Grant, "Muckle Dod," as we affectionately termed him. They kept up a furious pace for the first ten minutes or so, but by and by they began to "get puffy," while the youngsters were only getting into their best pace. Before halftime the first goal was scored. It must have dawned upon the modern expert that we did not stickle too nicely about orthodox places in the field. There was such a thing as "off side," although some of the combatants' ideas about it seemed a little hazy. They were all out for a jolly good game, and both victors and vanquished were unanimous that they had it. The whole thing was simply delightful.

The typical Highland athletic sports claimed a fair amount of attention in the warmer summer days. There is a green sward at the foot of Earlsmount brae on the banks of Isla and adjoining the railway bridge. It was a favourite resort for such sports as putting the stone, throwing the hammer, leaping, wrestling, and quoits, these being varied by pitch and toss, for which a smooth path was reserved.

We must not forget to mention "Hares an' houn's." When summer suns are glowing and the welcome notes of the lark and mavis stir in boyish hearts the irresistible longing for woods and glades, "Hares an' Houn's" fit their mood to perfection; and, truth to tell, on Friday mornings even the senior boys—perhaps they more than any—feel this seasonal spell all too overpowering.

One such sunny day we sat sweating at the weekly trial version, and as we looked out on the green trees and blue skies the voice of the charmer seemed to say:—"Hurry up! Hurry up! and away to the woods, away!" How could the lumps of human nature we call boys disregard what in their deepest "inwards" they felt to be an imperative summons? Anyhow, on one well-remembered sunny day the trial version seemed to be disposed of in record time, and all the versionists were gathered together with one accord on the banks of the Isla at a lovely spot not far from the Camel Stane and the Auld Kirkyard. Suddenly a spirit of

childish friskfulness seized some members of the group and it became infectious and articulate. In less time than it takes to tell they were transformed into two groups, one of hares, and the other of hounds.

Alick Smith ("Curly") and the writer were soon the only remnant of the hares. Through the Square and out the Den road we went "at all we could lift and lay down." By this time the pack were in full chase. When nearing Tarnash we ascended an eminence that commanded a good view of the path we had traversed. We used what breath remained in our bodies to climb a tree. The top of a tree may seem a very improbable situation in which to find two hares. Biologists might very likely explain the fact in either of two ways. It might, on the one hand, be looked upon as an example of daring evolutionary variation; or, keeping in view the human strand in our texture, this strange phenomenon might be accounted for as a reversion to ancestral type!

We were beginning to get tired of our hard seat and our protracted vigil. Moreover, it was nearing dinner time, and nature, even in the form of a hunted hare, abhors a vacuum. Thinking the pack had lost the scent, we gave a loud halloo. To our horror it was answered by a loud yell from the pack as they appeared round the nearest corner at the top of their speed. But they soon passed by, almost beneath our perch, and were soon out of sight. Judging the coast to be clear we thought it advisable to descend. We were just in the act of doing so when a straggling cur that had fallen behind the pack espied us and set up a yelping. We instantly replied with "Dip him in the burn!" But as our movements signified that we meant business, the creature ceased his barking and disappeared with his tail between his legs—"ut ita dicam," as Cicero would say. It is wonderful how stupid, timid creatures gain courage through sheer force of numbers. To make a long story short, we retraced our steps "quam celerrime," as Caesar has it, and reached our "digs" in safety, feeling splendidly appetised for our mid-day meal, and leaving the hounds to follow at their leisure.

No account of the sports of those days would be complete without something, however brief or imperfect, about the pastimes of the girls. This is a task that could be best performed by one of their own number, who will not need to give to the title of her article so precise a date as the present writer has done! Still we may be permitted to give a few reminiscent scraps.

We can recall an abortive attempt on the part of a group of girls to initiate some of us into the mysteries of "Hippin'-beds." The apparatus was of the simplest, a circular wooden disc about six inches in diameter. The "hippin'-bed" consisted of a system of parallel and also diagonal lines scratched on the ground. The

player places the disc at the first space, then, hopping on one foot, she propels it from one space to another, one remove at a time, till she reaches the further end, when she brings it back through the whole maze of spaces till it reaches the starting point.

On one occasion a school girl went through this performance with amazing rapidity and precision, without a single hitch. After completing this practical demonstration of her powers she threw out the challenge, "Now play me that!" The whole thing looked as simple as shelling peas. In fact, in our boyish view, it seemed altogether too childish for youths on the verge of manhood. One of us, however, provoked by the challenge, had the temerity to accept it. He had no sooner lifted the one foot than he found that his equilibrium was provokingly unstable. With much ungraceful whirling of arms after the manner of a windmill, he ultimately succeeded in poising himself preparatory for the first hop. He must somehow hit it, and he did. The sudden impact of the big clumsy hoof made the disc fly right out at the other end of the bed. To be just to the player, he did send it straight, but no points were given for that. Amidst a scream of inextinguishable laughter he rushed away in confusion round the nearest corner. So far as we recollect we did not go back for a second lesson at the game of "hippin'-beds."

Gentle readers, we know you will believe us when we say that this rambling effusion is not meant for a systematic treatise on school sports. We rejoice to think that the infant room in schools is made to resemble more and more a happy home, and that the little ones find when they go to school that play's not quite "done," only finely blended with work. It is true in a sense that when manhood and womanhood are reached childish things are put away. But there are things that remain hidden deep and imperishably graven on the plastic tablets of the heart and the memory of early years. They are ready under the fitting stimulus to flash out, even in extreme old age, with that vividness that pertains to the evergreen memories of the sunny days of childhood. Look at that group of young fellows on the verge of manhood, suddenly seized with that frolicsomeness and exuberant joyousness of happy children which finds ready and spontaneous expression, after the manner of other days gone by, in "hares an' houn's," "leap frog," or any other game befitting their irrepressible friskiness. Some hidden spring is mysteriously set free. An unseen hand has touched the button, and like so many live wires the whole group in sympathetic unity becomes electrified in every nerve. They have for the moment recovered the spontaneity, the imaginative and dramatic instincts of childhood.

But enough of such prosy philosophisings! As we write, we imagine we feel laid upon us the gentle touch of the editorial hand, and methinks we hear one saying unto us sotto voce (which is, being interpreted in the heathen tongue, "Ye maunna tell't abeen yer breath"), "My dear contributor, may I be allowed to confide unto thee that in these days we are beginning to be 'fed up' with what they call the psychology of childhood?" adding as a kindly closure in Homeric phrase—sweet echo of the Greek classroom at old King's—"That will suffice." It is the sports of school days, however simple, that we associate with the sunniest spots in our memory. Still they are clearly seen, though receding into the distant past. "Hares an' houn's" with all its healthful fun and abounding humour brings back the fragrance of pine woods, pictures of flowery meadows, and dreams of beauty in dog-rose covered braes, yea, and withal something of bitter-sweet when we remember that many of the hunted of those happy days have been long since laid in their last peaceful lair, and many of the hunters have been long ago "home from the hill."

G. B.

Catullus to Lesbia

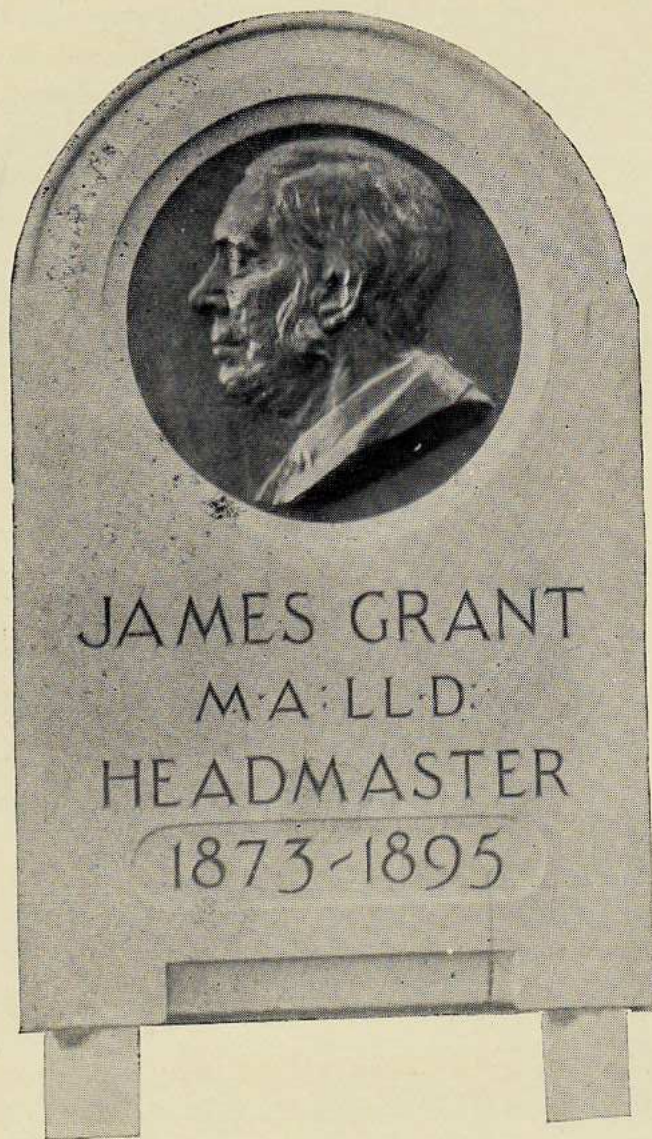
Peer of the gods he seems to me
 Ay blest (if this wild word may be)
 Above Heaven's highest bliss,
 Who sits with thy face facing his
 Somewhiles and hears, and looks on, thee;

Thee sweetly smiling: ah! on me
 When thou dost smile my senses flee
 Rifled and overcome:
 A look and lo! my lips are dumb;
 My Lesbia, but one look from thee

And speech is frozen; stings of pain
 Shoot keen as flame through every vein,
 A soundless sound I hear,
 A drumming pulse in either ear,
 Then on my eyes the dark amain!—

Ease hath this bane, Catullus, brought,
 And ease thy boast and overthought
 Thy evil case creates:
 By this proud Kings and happy States
 Have oft aforetime come to nought.

R. C. T. M.



THE DR. GRANT
MEMORIAL TABLET.

Erected by Public Subscription.

The Dr Grant Memorial Tablet

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

The memorial erected by voluntary subscription from members of the F.P. Association and other friends to commemorate the great educational work of Dr James Grant, Headmaster of Keith Combined Schools from 1873 to 1895, was publicly unveiled on July 3, after the annual distribution of prizes, by Mr William Mitchell, K.C., Edinburgh, President of the Association. There was a large gathering of Dr Grant's former pupils and the general public.

Mr Mitchell said:—The position which our School has come to occupy among the northern schools has only been reached by strenuous and intelligent work on the part of both masters and pupils, aided by the progressive spirit of the School Boards and Education Authority appointed to supervise education in this district. I can well remember Mr Simon Laurie, then Professor of Education in Edinburgh University, who as Examiner for the Dick Bequest Trustees well knew the state of education in Banffshire, saying that Central Banffshire was the most highly educated district in the world. Far be it from me to contradict so well informed an educationalist as Professor Laurie; yet let us say, with that becoming modesty which we all know to belong to the natives of Keith, that we hope that his words were true. But if he stated a fact, then I do not hesitate to say that no one did greater service in accomplishing that fine result than our revered former headmaster, Dr Grant.

Well equipped he was for his task both mentally and physically, yet in him the man was greater than the scholar; rather, let me say, his broad human sympathies, his high ideals, and his immense driving power were never submerged in the often rather barren details of mere scholarship. His ideal was to equip men for life, to stimulate in them the ideal of self help and honest untiring work so as to stand four square to every wind that blows. Learning he revered for its own sake, and with that spirit he imbued his pupils in a way that affected them throughout life. Probably no Scottish schoolmaster in a similar position had more successful pupils in all the walks of life, whether in professional or commercial circles. I will not delay you by naming them, but Dr Grant was proud of his boys and girls and never ceased to hold up the best of them as examples to be followed by his other pupils. Cramming in every shape and form he detested. Shams and pretences were his abomination; but the earnest worker, no matter how lacking in ability, was sure to receive from him kindly encouragement and sympathy.

We who knew him miss his kindly humour, his caustic but not ill-conditioned criticisms on men and things, his happy reminiscence, his right wrathful but virtuous indignation. Seldom did he punish, but when he did it was a sight for gods and men—and we lived happily ever afterwards, or at least a little while after. His whole heart was in his teaching, and even when he lay unconscious in his fatal illness the dying lips continued the work that the soul had ceased to direct.

We remember him as a powerful and interesting personality, of a strong courage that was not daunted even in his blindness, whether in the inmost recesses of the Cairngorms or in the ceaseless traffic of London. An old friend of his and mine told me how the Doctor passed a night under the shelter stone at Loch Avon and bathed at six in the morning in its icy waters. Those who have visited these wild places will understand what that means.—But I will not detain you with reminiscences.

Many years ago friends and former pupils subscribed for the Dr Grant Gold Medal presented annually to the dux boy or girl of the School; but it has been thought fitting to have some more intimate memorial of our late revered headmaster. Accordingly steps were taken to have a likeness of him cast in bronze to be placed on the walls of the school where he laboured so long and so devotedly, that future generations might know what manner of man he was.

Unfortunately, materials for a likeness in profile were scant. There remained but one photograph and a death mask which the forethought of the late Provost Petrie Hay, Dr Turner, and other friends caused to be made. The stucco cast did not present the features as they were in life. Yet in spite of these difficulties the sculptor, Mr Pilkington Jackson, of Edinburgh, has brought home to us, I think with considerable success, a likeness of our old teacher as we knew him, and it is worth recording that Mr Jackson told me that he never beheld features more indicative of force of character.

With all reverence and much love I unveil these features, in durable bronze, so that they may be a kindly memory of those who remember Dr Grant, and an inspiration to those who come after us.

Personalia

BIRTHS.

- Robertson.—At Sydney, Australia, on 27th February, the wife of Mr William B. Robertson (née Jemima Milne), a son.
- Mackenzie.—At the Schoolhouse, Cullen, on 2nd April, to Mr and Mrs David Mackenzie, a daughter.
- Calder.—At 26 Balshagray Avenue, Partick, Glasgow, the wife of Dr H. M. Calder (née Margt. H. Stewart), a daughter.
- Millar.—At Kualalumpur, F.M.S., on 12th April, the wife of Mr John Millar (née Jean Donald), a daughter.
- Esplin.—At Inch, on 12th May, to Mr and Mrs Frank Esplin, a daughter.
- Dunlop.—At Kilmarnock, on 2nd July, the wife of Mr Adam Dunlop (née Margt. Grant), a daughter.
- Gysin.—At Masky, Beverley Gardens, Golder's Green, London, on 29th September, the wife of Mr Charles Gysin (née Josephine Anderson), a son.
- Anton.—At Benreay, Buckie, on 11th November, the wife of Mr A. E. Anton (née Catherine Craigen), a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

- Urquhart—Phillips.—At St. Andrew's Church, Cairo, on 22nd January, 1925, Robert W. Urquhart, M.A., O.B.E., His Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Cairo, to Brenda Gertrude, second daughter of Professor and Mrs W. R. Phillips, Cairo.
- Currie—Smith.—At Palace Hotel, Aberdeen, on 4th March, by the Rev. M. Stewart, M.A., B.D., Francis Patrick, only son of the late Mr A. Currie and of Mrs Currie, 117 Mid Street, Keith, to Annie Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Smith, 180 Mid Street, Keith.
- Cardno—Watt.—At Keith, on 10th April, by the Rev. John Will, B.D., Boharm, Lewis, son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Cardno, Fraserburgh, to Margaret Bella, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Watt, Maryhill, Mulben.
- Daldry—Henderson.—At Keith, on 17th July, by the Rev. D. C. Murray, M.A., David, son of Mr and Mrs W. Daldry, Glasgow, to Margaret Elsie (Maisie), daughter of Mr and Mrs John Henderson, Aldersyde, Keith.
- Murray—Gair.—At Aberlour Parish Church, on 21st July, by the Rev. P. Riddel, assisted by the Rev. A. D. Duff, Donald, son of Mr Robert Murray, Johannesburg, to Mary Rae, eldest daughter of Mr T. T. Gair, Customs and Excise, Carron.
- Daye—Angus.—At St. David's Church, Aberdeen, on 30th July, William George, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Daye, Aberdare, to Maggie Cameron, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Angus, 57 Moss Street, Keith.

Reid—Gray.—At Keith, on the 2nd September, by the Rev. D. C. Murray, M.A., George Stewart, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Reid, Aberdeen, to Mary Watson, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Gray, Fife-Keith.

Mitchell—Sheild.—At St. Dunstan's Church, West Peckham, Kent, on 16th September, by the Rev. William Moore, William Mitchell, K.C., 17 Great King Street, Edinburgh, to Kathryn, widow of Edwin Sheild, New York City.

Williams—Pearson.—At Keith, on 21st October, by the Rev. M. Stewart, B.D., Charles S. Williams, reporter, "Banffshire Herald," to Christina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Wm. Pearson, 120 Mid Street, Keith.

Cant—Grant.—At Keith, on 11th November, by the Rev. M. Stewart, B.D., John McDonald Cant, son of the late Mr and Mrs George Cant, Bogton Place, Forres, to Annie Brown, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Grant, 114 Mid Street, Keith.

Maconachie—Addison.—At Keith, on the 18th November, by the Rev. M. Stewart, George E. A. Maconachie, Q.C.I.S., Midland Bank, Ltd., Fleetwood, Lancashire, to Ethel Doris, youngest daughter of the late Alexander Addison and of Mrs Addison, Hazelwood, Keith.

Roy—Cowie.—At Jackson Villa, Trinity, Brechin, on 25th November, by the Rev. Dr Coates, Robert Roy, Val d'Or Estate, Straits Settlements, son of the late Mr Robert Roy and of Mrs Roy, 48 Land Street, Keith, to Rose, daughter of the late Robert Cowie and of Mrs Cowie, Little Keithock, Brechin.

Hay—Young.—At Montclair, New Jersey, U.S.A., on 2nd December, James McGregor, only son of Mr and Mrs George Hay, 150 Land Street, Keith, to Mary (Molly), third daughter of the late Mr William Young, baker, and of Mrs Young, 15 Land Street, Keith.

DEATHS.

Wilson.—At Schoolhouse, Drummur, on 7th January, Dora Mary, second daughter of Stuart Wilson, M.A., headmaster, Botriphnie Public School, aged 26 years.

Hunter.—At 20 Belvidere Crescent, Aberdeen, on 24th January, Minnie Poole Allan, wife of Ralph Hunter, bank agent, aged 33 years.

Macfarlane.—At 32 Hermitage Gardens, Edinburgh, on 6th April, Rev. W. H. Macfarlane, late minister of the South U.F. Church, Keith, and for many years Chairman of the Keith School Board.

Mitchell.—At London on 20th May, F. A. B. Mitchell, solicitor, Keith and Huntly, aged 48 years.

Mackay.—At 70 Park Road, Rosyth (at the residence of his brother), on 26th July, George Mackay, M.A., Director of Education, Trinidad, beloved husband of Agnes Jean Baptiste, and fourth son of the late John Mackay, aged 45 years.

Joss.—At Los Angeles, California, U.S.A., on 13th August, James Haldane Joss, second son of Angus Joss, plumber, Keith.

Pirie.—At Aberdeen on 21st October, Susan Stewart Pirie, only daughter of Rev. Dr Pirie and Mrs Pirie, The Manse, Nairn.

Moir.—At 140 Land Street, Keith, on 14th November, John Sinclair Moir, last surviving son of the late James Moir, Blinkbonny Cottage, Keith.

Grant.—At Banff on the 3rd December, Elsie Gordon Grant, daughter of the late James Grant, LL.D., headmaster, Keith Schools, aged 59 years.

OBITUARY.

Mr Wm. C. Welsh, headmaster of Pitmedden Public School, Aberdeenshire (who married Miss Kate Hendry, 160 Mid Street, Keith), died in December, 1924. He was for some time a teacher at Keith Grammar School and afterwards at Crossroads School, Grange.

Mr George MacKay, son of the late Mr John MacKay, Mary Place, Keith, died in the autumn of this year at Rosyth. He held many important positions abroad and was latterly Director of Education in Trinidad. He entered the Colonial Education Service as an assistant master of Victoria School, Seychelles; later he was appointed headmaster of that institution and he was made an Inspector of Schools in 1904. He was also Chief Inspector of Schools, Mauritius and Fiji. Mr MacKay held a commission as Captain and Commanding Officer of the Fiji Schools and Defence Cadet Corps in 1918.

Mrs Forrest (née Mary Allardyce) was a pupil of Keith School under the headmastership of the late Dr Grant. Mrs Forrest was a teacher before her marriage, and from the time of her husband's death in 1916 she taught in Durban. News has just come to hand of her death there in January of this year.

Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Dr William R. Duguid, M.A., Buckie, died at Bournemouth on 5th May. After strenuous war-time service he retired (though continuing to act as a consulting physician) and took up public work in the Banffshire Education Authority and Buckie Town Council.

The remains of Miss Elsie Gordon Grant, daughter of the late Dr Grant, Headmaster of Keith Combined Schools, who died at Banff on 3rd December, are interred in the family burying ground at Keith. A number of Keith gentlemen representative of the School, the F.P. Association, and of her father's friends in Keith, attended the funeral. A wreath from the Association "for her father's sake" was laid on the grave.

ACADEMICA.

Aberdeen University.

The degree of LL.D. was conferred at the Spring Graduation on Mr William Riddoch, M.A., T.D., F.E.I.S., Rector of Mackie Academy, Stonehaven, a former pupil of Keith School.

Graduates in Arts.

Miss Jane Kindness, Grange, with First Class Honours in Modern Languages. Miss Kindness also won the Senatus Medal in Modern Languages.

Miss Bessie Barclay, Botriphnie, with Second Class Honours in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

Graduates in Medicine.

Mr Frank Sumners McLean, Keith.

Mr James A. R. Paterson, Newmill (with distinction).

Miss Edith Bruce Wilson, Botriphnie (with distinction).

Mr James Anderson, Dunallan, Keith, has passed the Final Law Agents' Examination entitling him to practise as a solicitor.

Miss Margaret Scott, Milnewood, Keith, secured 32nd place in a recent Civil Service Examination in which over 2000 candidates competed. She has obtained a Civil Service appointment in Glasgow.

Dr George Riddoch, F.R.C.P., London, has been appointed external examiner in Medicine for the University of Aberdeen.

In his article on "The Bursary Competition" contributed to the "Aberdeen University Review," Mr Emslie, Rector, Keith Grammar School, says *inter alia*:—

"The Bursary Competition was never intended for all and sundry; those who have not the physique, the virile intellect, the keen enthusiasm for study, the ambition to excel that it demands should be encouraged to leave it alone. The path that must be trodden by the select few who aspire to a good university career and look to superior ability, superior education, and extra hard work to lift them up on the social ladder and into positions of good emolument can never in the nature of things be easy. If the goal is ever to be reached the road to it must be difficult enough to discourage all but the worthiest few. A system of education which seeks to eliminate strain, which pooh-poohs the intense pursuit of knowledge (whether as knowledge or for profit and power) is bound sooner or later to rob us Scotsmen of the advan-

tages we achieved as the result of our national character and of a system of education that suited and developed it. Where the Competition is an objective, the teachers are more alert, the better pupils more devoted, the best traditions more jealously guarded, the finer section of the public more keenly interested in educational work—and the ordinary education is not less vigorously attended to, and physical, literary, and social relaxations are not more neglected, than in similar schools where the Competition does not exist. The ability to give reasoned answers to questions and to muster facts out of one's brain clearly, concisely, and logically, and in good form within a given time and without extraneous aid is not a thing to sneer at, but a most valuable talent to possess."

A noteworthy addition to the memorabilia of Aberdeen University is the publication of an attractive book, entitled "Records of the Arts Class, 1889-93," edited by Mr A. W. Mair, Professor of Greek in Edinburgh University. The class records and the honours gained by the members, and the present professions and addresses of those surviving are given. There are three fine illustrations in the book—King's College about 1670; Marischal College, 1682-1840; and King's College in 1822. Not the least attractive feature is an introduction by the editor which is highly entertaining.

In a paper read before the Aberdeen Branch of the Women's Educational Union Mr D. M. Andrew, M.A., Rector of the Aberdeen Grammar School and Hon. President of the Aberdeen Branch of the Keith Grammar School F.P. Association, discussed the decline in the number of men entering the teaching profession and mentioned the following as factors which are reputed to deter people from taking up teaching as a career—the inadequacy of the remuneration, absolutely and relatively; the slowness of promotion; the methods of promotion; the meagre extent to which educational work was recognised by the universities and the state as compared with other forms of public work; and, lastly, the conditions under which the work of the teacher was carried on. Mr Andrew regretted the present tendency to exalt the administrative side of education as against the teaching side; teaching was the vital form of service, administration the subsidiary. The conflict of studies and its reaction on the teacher were, he thought, one of the factors which put teaching in an unattractive light to some.

GENERAL.

Miss Alice C. Lyon, M.A., has gone to Calabar as a missionary of the United Free Church. She was dux of the School and medallist in English in 1914. In the same year she

entered Aberdeen University as 5th bursar, and after graduating with Honours in English, held teaching appointments at Montrose and Aberlour.

Mr J. S. Taylor, M.B., has been appointed senior resident medical officer at the Aberdeen City Hospital and assistant Medical Officer of Health in Aberdeen.

Mr J. A. R. Paterson, M.B., has obtained an appointment at New Cumnock Hospital, Ayrshire.

Mr Frank S. McLean has obtained an appointment at Burton-on-Trent.

Mr William Greenlaw, M.A., M.B., is in practice in Bradford.

Mr Donald Murray, M.A., B.Sc., has been appointed headmaster of Skene Public School, Aberdeenshire.

Mr Alexander Peterkin, M.A., formerly Classical Master at Keith Grammar School, has been appointed Rector of Kirkcudbright Academy.

Mr J. J. Gemmell, M.A., B.Sc., formerly second master at Keith Grammar School, has been appointed Headmaster of Selkirk Public School.

Mr James Taylor, M.A., is second master of the Morgan Academy, Dundee.

At a meeting of the Glasgow Education Authority on 26th February, Mr Robert M. Allardyce, M.A., M.C., was selected as Deputy Clerk and Deputy Director. He is a son of the late Rev. William Allardyce, Rothiemay, and had been Executive Officer to the Clackmannan Authority since 1919. During the war he served with the 6th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Mr James Mair, M.A. (with First Class Honours in Classics), LL.B., principal teacher of Classics and English in West Coats H.G. School, Cambuslang, has been appointed Headmaster of Stonelaw Secondary School.

Mrs Taylor (née Florence Bates) has been appointed Headmistress of Tomnavoulin Public School.

Mrs Munro (née Marian Henderson) was a pupil and afterwards a pupil teacher under the headmastership of Dr Grant. She now resides in Helmsdale, her husband being headmaster of the Higher Grade School there.

Mr P. Stewart Annand, for many years agent of the North of Scotland Bank at Tobermory, has retired and is now resident at St. Ninians, Banff Road, Keith.

Among the visitors to Keith last summer were the following F.P.'s from abroad:—Mr Charles T. McConnachie, Windsor, Ontario; Mrs Stokes (née Jeannie R. I. Cameron), Buenos Ayres; Mr Robert Roy, Straits Settlements; Mr R. B. Kennedy, Malay States; Mrs Gordon Key (née Alice Bruce), Pretoria; Mr John L. Riddoch, Kenya Colony; Mr Alex. Mackenzie, Straits Settlements; Mr R. W. Urquhart, O.B.E., British Consulate, Athens; Mr Harry Horsfall, Ceylon; Mr and Mrs Peter Grant (née Jeannie A. H. Taylor), Puntas Arenas; Mr Robert E. Gilbert, Ris Gallejos, Argentine Republic, S. America.

Mr Alex. Simpson, Straits Settlements, and Mr Allan M. Clark, I.C.S., Bengal, are expected home in a few months.

Miss Christina Snowie Eddie, M.A., is engaged to be married to Dr A. Guthrie Badenoch, a medical missionary of the United Free Church in Nyasaland. She is going out to Africa to be married in the spring.

Miss M. Hay, formerly of Paithnick, Grange, is a prominent member of the Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine Association in Edinburgh.

Miss Elsie Riddoch, Tarryblake, Grange, is a teacher of domestic science in Leeds.

Mr Robin Turner is a student in Agriculture at Edinburgh University.

Mr R. W. Urquhart, M.A., O.B.E., has been appointed British Vice-Consul at Athens.

Colonel J. J. George, O.B.E., Macduff, Convener of the County of Banff, has been appointed Clerk to the Lieutenancy of Banffshire in place of the late Colonel J. G. Fleming.

Rev. J. Garrow Duncan, B.D., Kirkmichael, had the honour of presenting and reading the Address of Aberdeen University in Hebrew to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on 2nd April. The discoveries he has made of the old wall of Jerusalem constitute a notable achievement in archæology.

Rev. George Birnie, Speymouth, has been made a J.P. for Elgin and Moray.

Aberdeen Branch

VISIT TO BLAIRS COLLEGE.

In the region of a century ago there were two boys in attendance at the parish school of Mortlach, then under the inspiring care of John Macpherson. One left school to begin his life's work as herd laddie to the parish minister on the glebe lands. The other joined the Army. In the course of the years one went West and the other went East, and when, after the lapse of more than a generation the two old class-mates met in London, one had become a peer of the realm and a great financial magnate, the other a Field-Marshal in the British Army and Commander-in-Chief in India. "Oh, George, can all this be really yours?" was the admiring exclamation of Sir Donald Stewart when Lord Mount Stephen took the friend of his boyhood to his London house.

One of the cherished items in the valuable picture gallery of historic paintings at Blairs College, on the Lower Dee, is a portrait of Bishop Hay, who, at Letterfourie, rebuilt the Chapel of St. Margaret of the Craigs; who, after his ordination at Rome, began his missionary career at Preshome, but whose name is, more than any of these things, indissolubly linked with the fortunes of the little thatched cottage at Scalan, in the sequestered Braes of Glenlivet, which then represented the one place of education in Scotland for lads who had a vocation for the Roman Catholic priesthood, and the education of lads in the north of Roman Catholic landed families. The old seminary had been burned down after Culloden, and the house that was subsequently erected to house the scholars was no better than a turf hut. In modest new premises that succeeded it, Bishop Hay was consecrated in 1769; here, ten years later, Bishop Hay presided at a meeting of the administrators, when it was agreed that the prayers of the Church should be made for the dynasty that followed the Stuarts; and it is "with this famous pioneer of the Catholic religion in Scotland"—as he has been described by a Churchman—that there is identified the highest state of efficiency of the humble College at the Scalan. From the little babbling Crombie that flows by the base of the Bochle, the seminary was in 1799 removed to Aquhorties, near Inverurie; in 1829 it was transferred from the Don to the Royal Dee, and could the spirit of the Bishop (as one can envisage it from those gentle eyes that look down on the visitor from the walls of the College) be able to hold converse with its President, Msgr. McGregor, assuredly the substance of his exclamation would just be akin to that of Field-Marshal Sir Donald Stewart, as his memory wandered back to the old grim days of the Braes of Glenlivet after the final fall of

the Stuarts at Culloden, and as in turn, he looked down upon these noble rooms and stately spires and extensive buildings of granite, and all that they so graciously imply, that come in direct succession from that little turf hut in which Bishop Geddes gathered his scholars after the destruction of the modest seminary by Cumberland's troops. Somewhat less than a quarter of a century ago large extensions were opened at Blairs, largely through the indomitable efforts of Bishop Chisholm, whose work both in Banff and Aberdeen will for long be fragrant; and to-day there are in course of construction other buildings estimated to cost well over £20,000, these providing for new class and lecture rooms and separate lodging accommodation for 200 students. It is not yet a century since the old Laird of Pitfodels proposed the transfer of the College to his estate of Blairs. The transformation in our own day has been very great. The wondering eyes of Bishop Hay look down with beneficent gaze on a College of St. Mary the completeness and grandeur of which must be, to him, almost beyond belief, and the real significance of which is emphasised by the fact that there has of late been expended at each of the Scots Colleges at Valladolid and Rome, in the extension of the buildings, a sum much larger than the contract price of the new buildings at Blairs, all illustrating the ever-growing number of students of the Church in Scotland who wish to become candidates for ordination as priests.

In connection with Keith School F.P. Association there is a flourishing branch in Aberdeen, with Mr Davidson as president, Miss Robertson as secretary, and Mr John M. Barclay as treasurer. On a recent Saturday its members, to the number of over 50, paid a visit to the College, through the kind permission of its president, Msgr. McGregor. With these office-bearers there were associated as a committee for the arrangements, Miss B. Emslie, Mr Norman C. Anderson, and Mr Frank Inglis. The occasion proved to be of abounding interest, certainly not the less so from the circumstance that the head of the College is himself a loyal son of Keith, and there were among the company those who had been his class-fellows by the banks of the Isla. The little drive up the south side of the Dee was made amid physical surroundings of an appealing kind. The short journey went past the grounds of Banchory House and Ardo, and, turning in by the College grounds, along a path where bright rhododendron is flourishing amid the wealthy greenery of trees, past the great figure of the Mother and Child, the company were soon being welcomed by the President in the portico under the Tower. On the other side of the Dee glimpses were had of the pleasant lands that lie around Bieldside and Murtle, representing that orderly wooded and closely cultivated scenery that is associated with more kindly parts than is, on occasion, the rugged North.

The College is particularly fortunate in its art treasures. Its portrait of Mary Queen of Scots is unique and is known throughout the spheres of art and history. The visitors of Saturday looked upon it long and eagerly, for, while there are many portraits of Scotland's most famous Queen, this one, by common consent, represents her face and cast of countenance with fidelity and truth. Its history is well known. One of the ladies who attended the Queen to the scaffold was Elizabeth Carroll. In the morning Mary distributed her trinkets and jewellery about her, and to Elizabeth Carroll she gave a miniature of herself; she settled at Antwerp, where she died in 1620, where she got this portrait painted from the miniature, and where her will is registered, a copy of it being at Blairs. By it she left the miniature and the picture, which she described as representing "My Royal Mistress, dressed as she was at her martyrdom" to her nephew, Rector of the Scots College at Douai, and it hung there till the revolution of 1793. That year, when the Republican troops were marching through the land and destroying everything, the Rector, Rev. John Farquharson, a Tomintoul man, closed down the College and made for the coast, but before doing so he took the picture out of its frame and concealed it in a disused chimney. He went back after the settlement of Waterloo, and recovered the picture; it was in the Scots College in Paris in 1816, and in 1831 the Government in Paris gave permission for its removal to Scotland, along with other pictures now in Blairs, where there are day-books that show payments for the removal and carriage of the pictures from Leith to Aberdeen. The painter is not known, but it is very typical of the Flemish School, and Msgr. McGregor mentioned that authorities are perfectly satisfied that in this world-famous portrait the Queen is seen as she really appeared.

Alongside this picture is another portrait of the Queen which came from the Scots College at Paris, very valuable, for it represents Mary when she was Dauphiness of France. Another Stuart portrait followed in that of the Old Pretender, the Chevalier de St. George, whose cause fell in the '15 at the battle of Sheriffmuir and in the surrender at Preston. This picture of him who styled himself James III. and VIII. has been reproduced in many history books. It was painted for the Earl of Middleton, whose family threw in their fortunes with the Stuart cause, the second earl acting for a time as principal adviser to the Chevalier at St. Germain, while the third Earl spent three years in the Tower of London after he was captured in the unlucky expedition of 1708 which ended so ignominiously for James; the portrait was given by the Earl of Middleton to the Scots College in Paris.

With as much interest as on anything they saw in the College the company looked upon the portrait of the Last of the Stuarts,



THE LATE
COLONEL
JOHN G.
FLEMING,
O.B.E., V.D., D.L.



MAJOR
WILLIAM
RIDDOCH,
M.A., LL.D.

the Cardinal Duke of York. He was born in 1725, just 200 years ago now, at Rome, the second son of the Chevalier St. George. He became a wealthy Bishop of the Church, and had his favourite residence at Frascati, but the French Revolution stripped him of his fortune and for three years he had to take refuge in Venice. On the death of his brother, Charles Edward, in 1788, the Cardinal styled himself Henry IX., and he caused a medal to be struck—of which there are examples at Blairs—with the inscription—“*Henricus Nonus Magnæ Brittanniæ Rex; non voluntate hominum, sed Dei gratia.*” In 1799, when he was reduced to destitution, George III. sent him £2000; the gift was gratefully accepted, and in the following year George granted him a pension of £4000. With the Cardinal's death in 1807, the male descendants of the Stuart kings became extinct. The Cardinal gave special sittings for the portrait that is at Blairs.

Just by this representation of the Cardinal Duke is one of the most striking portraits in all the collection at the College. It is found in the beautiful likeness of Bishop Hay, whose kind old face bespeaks the virtues and the beneficence with which was endowed the most eminent of the Catholic Bishops of Scotland since the Reformation. The Bishop died in 1811 and this portrait was painted at Edinburgh in the winter of 1807-08 by Sir George Watson Gordon, the first President of the R.S.A., another good example of whose work is in the Art Gallery, Aberdeen, in the portrait of Priest Gordon. Attention was directed also to a striking portrait of Cardinal Beaton, a portrait this that is widely known.

The company would fain have lingered among these historic paintings, the fame of some of which is known throughout the world, but time called, and, led by Msgr. McGregor, a visit was next paid to the Library, a large and noble apartment, abounding in rare works and literary treasures and with its massive book-cases occupied by many thousands of volumes. They saw holograph letters of Queen Mary; of communications coming from her there are over 70 in the Library. There were seen also the signatures of James IV. and VI. The oldest document in the Library is a papal bull of February 1, 1177, issued in the interests of wandering Scoti on the Continent who wished their monastery to be exempt from the interference of the local Bishop. Another most valuable historical document consists of the charters of the Church properties in Glasgow from 1195 to the 16th century, constituting much of the material for the earliest history of what was known as “Glasgu.” Magnificently illuminated manuscripts were shown, and some gorgeously illustrated books, with miniatures and decorations; there were here missals that were in use in Scotland before the Reformation; there were seen rare Sarum missals, one of them a “Defaced” Sarum, with all references to the Pope struck out, also parts of the service that were not to be

used, for the Reformation had now occurred, although the old literature had still perforce to be in use, since there was no other; there are collections of pre-Reformation Prayer Books bound together, and there is a copy of Hector Boece's History. Msgr. McGregor pointed to a collection of old Red Sandstone fossils from the Burn of Tynet that had come from Canon Kyle, Preshome; also to what is known as the Holyrood Chalice, a vessel of hammered silver, that, after being taken from Edinburgh, was for long at Preshome, and was handed over to the College Library by the late Bishop Chisholm. In the sphere of incunabula, the Library has many treasures, and a little corner is devoted to an exhaustive bibliography of the North-East of Scotland. And one saw with pathetic interest the little alarm clock that had been used by Bishop Hay at the lonely Scalan.

The beautiful church was an object of reverent interest. It has an imposing roof of open woodwork; the Stations of the Cross are represented in magnificent fashion; behind the altar are lovely windows of allegorical figures, and the walls are panelled with slabs of chaste marble. All is of a quiet beauty and grace in keeping with noble surroundings and inspiring associations.

There need hardly be mentioned the heartiness with which a vote of thanks to Msgr. McGregor was given for all the trouble and kindness he had bestowed on his visitors. The little ceremony took place after a somewhat belated tea, the commissariat wagon having been delayed in coming from the town, but probably its contents were only all the more enjoyed when it did arrive. Afterwards, Msgr. McGregor entertained his visitors to strawberries and cream, the former from the beautiful College gardens, the latter from the skilfully managed College farm. Mr Davidson, in a few warm sentences, gave expression to the gratitude of the company for all the kindness that had been shown them, and the cheers that he asked for their host were heartily given. Msgr. McGregor made in reply a characteristically happy and pleasant little speech. He very kindly said that whatever pleasure they had felt in being there was as nothing to his pleasure in having such visitors with him. He briefly recalled some old days at Keith school—which he had left 52 years ago—when it consisted of two class-rooms—Mr Smith's room and "the mannie's ine" [end]. The company spent a pleasant hour or two further in the beautiful grounds of the College, and in the cool of a lovely summer evening enjoyed a bright run alongside the river back to the city. The first excursion of the Aberdeen Branch of the Association could not possibly have been to a prettier spot or to one that has so many associations with the history of life and thought and civilisation in these North-Eastern parts, and it was crowned with a success that suggests a similar inspiring outing on just some such pleasant summer occasion.

Miss Lizzie Henry, L.L.A.

By her old pupils the news of Miss Henry's approaching retirement and departure from Keith will be received with great regret. With one exception she was the sole survivor of the Higher Grade Staff of Keith School as we knew it in the days before the war. More than any she represented to our eyes the continuity of the school tradition. Her presence there was indeed an assurance as of something timeless and unchanging. We could not believe there would come a day when she would not be seen trudging up Mid Street with an armful of exercise books, weary but indomitable. That day is come, however, and while we regret her going, we must not begrudge her her release. She has earned her discharge. In our next issue we hope to deal more comprehensively with Miss Henry's work at Keith; meanwhile we would only assure her of the gratitude and affectionate regard of her old pupils. "The good citizen," says the ancient moralist, "strives like an athlete all his life long, and then when he comes to the end of his striving he has what is meet." Miss Henry is of that high company and may now claim its rewards.

Acknowledgments

Our grateful acknowledgments are due to the contributors of the various articles and reports that appear in this number—in particular, to Mr Barclay, editor of the "Banffshire Journal," for permission to reprint the article on "A Visit to Blairs College"; also to Miss Agnes F. Pirie for her excellent pen and ink drawing of "The Burn at Greenwood"; to Mr R. C. T. Mair for again placing his gift of happy verse at our service; to Mr W. Pearson and the Hon. Secretary for the use of photographs and photo-blocks of Keith views; and to Mr Henry Alexander, editor of the "Aberdeen University Review," and his Editorial Committee for their kindness in lending the photo-block of the Rev. Thomas Laing, M.A.

CURIOSITIES OF SCIENCE.

Question: What is the Spine?

Answer: The Spine is a bunch of bones up the back holding the ribs; the skull sits on one end and I sit on the other.

Doldrums are army rations of spirits.

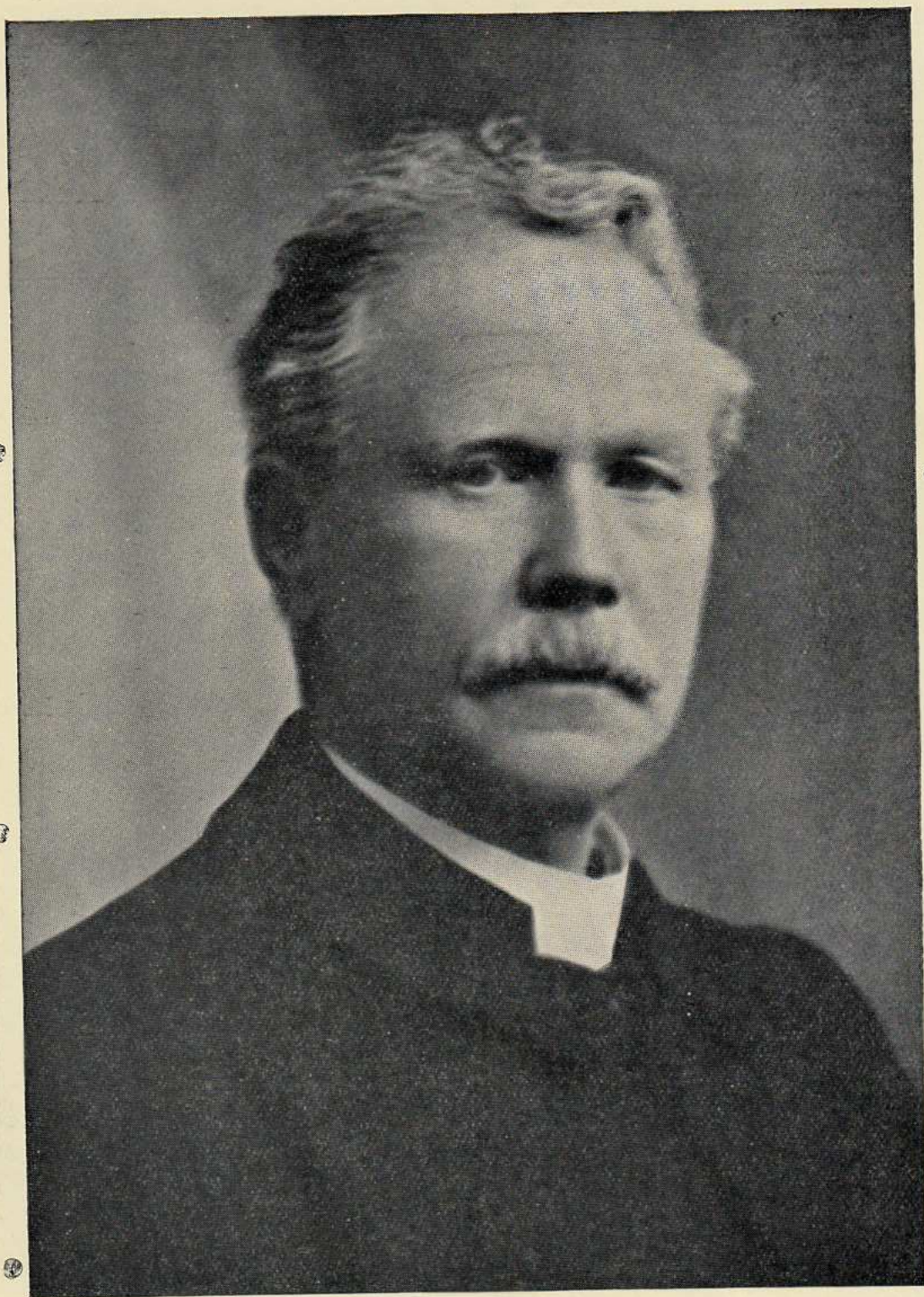
In Holland the people make use of water power to drive their windmills.

Rev. Thomas Laing, M.A.

The Aberdeen University Review of March, 1925, contains a reference to a remarkable achievement of honourable work and determination. In the autumn of 1924 Rev. Thomas Laing, senior minister of the United Free Church, Lumsden, was capped Master of Arts of Aberdeen University. Mr Laing was born near Keith in 1851; he was the son of a crofter and one of a family of eight. He received his early education first at a dame's school and then for a few months at a side school, where he made a slight acquaintance with arithmetic. In his tenth year he had to go out to work as a farm servant to support himself and assist his parents and the younger members of his family. He worked as a farm servant for thirteen years, employing his scanty leisure in reading what books he could afford to buy. In 1874 at the age of twenty-three he went to Keith School as a pupil of Dr Grant's, and after a year's study entered Aberdeen University. With such meagre preparation it was hardly to be expected that he would be able to graduate, but by dint of intense application he succeeded in passing every subject for the degree of M.A. except Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, which in these days were compulsory subjects. After leaving the University he entered the Free Church Divinity Hall. During the whole of his college life he had to support himself and pay all his fees and expenses. He did this by undertaking mission work. On finishing his Divinity course he acted as assistant in various places and was then called to Lumsden as colleague and successor to Rev. Harry Nicol, the father of the late Sir W. Robertson Nicol. He laboured there with much acceptance for thirty-two years and retired amid warm demonstrations of affection and appreciation. Yet his retirement was not to bring immediately the cessation of toil. He never ceased to regret the circumstances which had prevented him from graduating. Once again he resumed the study of mathematics, although he found that in the seventies it required more effort and time than before. He took his place in the examination hall along with boys younger than he had been when he sat the examination fifty years before. He passed successfully and received his degree at a special capping ceremony.

Comment on a story of this kind is almost an impertinence. Keith School is rich in the laurel wreaths of academic renown, but to our thinking there are few of these that will not seem cheap and tawdry things beside the chaplet worn by this man of seventy-three. His old school salutes him!

T. M. T.



REV. THOMAS LAING, M.A.

Former Pupils at Aberdeen University

Jane Kindness has graduated M.A. with First-class Honours in Modern Languages. She has gained the Senatus Medal in Modern Languages and the First Prizes in the Senior Honours Courses in French and in German.

Isabella McCallum has obtained the degree of M.A. In the Merit List (Junior Honours Course) her name appears 9th in Geography and 12th in German.

MERIT LISTS.

Greek—Prize, 2nd, Kenneth M. Laing, Glenlivet.

Prize, 6th, Thomas J. Laing, Glenlivet.

Greek History—Prize, 1st, Kenneth M. Laing.

Prize, 6th, Thomas J. Laing.

Latin (Graduation Class)—Prize, 6th, Kenneth M. Laing.

Order of Merit, 9th, Thomas J. Laing.

Order of Merit, 36th, Jean A. Stuart, Keith.

Pathology—2nd Class Certificate, Mary C. Riddoch, Rothiemay (65 per cent.).

Public Health—2nd Class Certificate, Mary C. Riddoch (64 per cent.).

Systematic Surgery—2nd Class Certificate, Mary C. Riddoch (66 per cent.).

Law—2nd Class Certificate, William A. Leslie, M.A., Keith.

Geography (Junior Honours Course)—Order of Merit, 11th, Elizabeth C. Davidson, Keith.

Order of Merit, 14th, Bessie J. Barclay, Botriphnie.

HISTORY WITHOUT TEARS.

The Good Queen Bess came to a muddy place in the road, but the gallant Sir Walter took off his beautiful cloak and spread it on the ground for her to step on.

"I am afraid," said the Queen, "that I have spoiled your beautiful cloak."

But the gallant Raleigh merely replied, "Mon Dieu, et mon droit," which being translated means "My God, you are right."

In 1620 the Pilgrims crossed the ocean, which is known as the Pilgrim's Progress.

Charles I. was going to marry the Infanta of Spain. He went to see her, and Shakespeare says he never smiled again.

Tennyson, the greatest prose writer that ever lived, wrote the Iliad and Paradise Lost.

School News

Dr Grant Gold Medal, Dux of the School—

Adeline Grant, Keith, and
Elspeth M. Milne, Isle of Skye (equal).

Silver Medals:

English—Adeline Grant.
Latin—Elspeth M. Milne.
French—Elspeth M. Milne.
Mathematics—Adeline Grant.
General Excellence—John Goodall, Keith.

Bronze Medals:

Science—John Goodall.
Dux, Class V.—Mary E. Fiddes, Keith.
Dux, Class IV.—Robert G. Rhind, Keith.
Dux, Class III.—Alice J. Milne, Keith.
Dux, Class II.—Florence Traves, Botriphnie.
Dux, Class I.—Annie W. C. Cruickshank, Grange.
Dux, Primary Dept.—Roland F. MacKay, Keith.

Arts Bursary List—Positions gained by K.G.S. Pupils:

6th year—

12th—John Goodall, Keith.
17th—Elspeth M. Milne, Isle of Skye.
55th—Adeline Grant, Keith.

5th year—

79th—Catherine H. B. Stewart, Keith.
82nd—Mary E. Fiddes, Fife-Keith.
83rd—Isobel G. Geddes, Keith.

John Goodall was awarded a Greenskares Bursary (£30 for four years), and Adeline Grant a Redhyth Bursary (£25 for four years). Elspeth M. Milne received an open Competition Bursary of £20 for four years. Three of the four Greenskares bursaries open to Banffshire are now held by pupils of Keith Grammar School.

Special Prizes for the Study of the Scots Tongue
(Presented by a Member of the F.P. Association).

Alice J. Milne.
Thomas R. S. Campbell.
Isobel C. Goodall.
Jean Chapman.
Janetta Johnston.
Alice S. Wilkinson.

Ernest Simpson.
Gladys F. Stephen.
William Innes.
Mary Auchinachie.
Winifred Davidson.
Helen Mitchell.

Winifred Milne.

FROM THE RECTOR'S POST BAG.

The following letter was received from Chicago:—

"Enclosed find cheque for the benefit of your 'Dinner Fund.' I hope you will be able to keep it going, as a comfortable stomach is an asset either for study or for play."

J. McK.

Jan. 2, 1925.

From Midnaporr, Bengal, India, came the following:—

"In the last copy of the 'Banffshire Herald' I read an account of the school concerts and must congratulate you on their success. There is no doubt that the school ought to have a playing ground of its own, but it takes some time to stir up the enthusiasm of the people of Keith. I sincerely hope you have more success than I had when I once attempted to realise subscriptions for the School Athletic Fund. One gentleman told me that football was a brutal game indulged in only by barbarians, and shut his door in my face. Another assured me that if I devoted to Latin verbs half the time which I wasted on the Fife-Keith 'leys,' there would be some chance of my name appearing on the Bursary list."

A. M. C.

June 24, 1925.

From far Seattle on the western coast of the U.S.A. was sent "from a Gordon's College (Aberdeen) Loon, Class IV.b, 1888-1890," a descriptive booklet of pictures showing the park, playgrounds, and boulevards of the American city. The gift was sent to encourage the School playing field scheme, and shows how far behind we are in Keith as regards facilities for systematic training in games. Seattle has an extensive recreation system embracing 2000 acres in area and including municipal bathing beaches and bath houses, public golf course, social centres, equipped and supervised playgrounds, besides the usual park and boulevard features. There are 44 parks in the city and 25 playgrounds, not including children's playgrounds in parks. And £750 to £800 is all that is asked to permit of the boys and girls attending Keith Grammar School having very moderate facilities for playing games!

BRIGHT IDEAS.

Pax in bello=freedom from indigestion.

Caesar ventum secundum nactus=Caesar getting his second wind.

Vestigio notato humano=Their wet clothes being marked.

Keith Grammar School F.P. Association

OFFICE-BEARERS.

Honorary President.

Mr Alexander Emslie, M.A., Rector, Keith Grammar School.

President.

Mr William Mitchell, K.C., Edinburgh.

Vice-Presidents.

Ex-Bailie Charles McGregor, Oldmore, Keith.

Mr John Taylor, The Knowe, Keith.

Hon. Secretary.

Mr John Mitchell, Keith.

Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs Robert Thomson, Mid Street, Keith.

COUNCIL.

Professor A. W. Mair, M.A., Edinburgh University.

Mrs Garrow, Keith.

Mrs Robert Thomson, Keith.

Miss Madeleine Kennedy, Fife-Keith.

Miss Elsie J. Raffan, Balnamoon, Grange.

Miss Mary Riddoch, Tarryblake, Grange.

Miss E. J. Stewart, Glencottar, Keith.

Mr James Anderson, V.S., Keith.

Bailie George Petrie Hay, Keith.

Mr Charles Machattie, The Park, Keith.

Mr John Mitchell, Ardmore, Keith.

Mr J. A. R. Paterson, Newmill.

Mr Herbert J. Sandison, Keith.

Mr Wilson Smith, Aberdeen.

Mr Alexander Sutherland, Boharm.

Mr Edward Taylor, M.A., Leith.

Mr George Taylor, Westview, Keith.

Dr J. S. Taylor, City Hospital, Aberdeen.

Mr T. M. Taylor, M.A., LL.B., Edinburgh.

Mr B. Fraser, Keith.

Mr Alex. Davidson, Keith.

COMMITTEES.

Magazine.—Mrs R. Thomson, Miss E. J. Stewart, Mr Thomas M. Taylor, M.A., Mr Wilson Smith, and Mr Alexander Emslie, M.A. (Editor).

Reunion.—Mrs R. Thomson, Mrs Garrow, Miss Ruth Smith, Miss Jeannie Taylor, Mr G. J. Lobban, Mr Geo. Taylor (Westview), and Mr Herbert J. Sandison (Convener).

Membership.—Mrs R. Thomson, Mr John Taylor, Mr Bert Fraser, and Mr J. Mitchell (Convener).

Sports Field.—Mrs Thomson, Mr Fraser, Mr Geo. Taylor (Westview), Mr Mitchell, and Mr Emslie (Convener).

ABERDEEN BRANCH OFFICE-BEARERS.

Hon. President—Mr David M. Andrew, M.A., Rector, Aberdeen Grammar School.

President—Mr Wm. Davidson, 168 Mid Stocket Road, Aberdeen.

Secretary—Miss Annie Robertson, Denmore Schoolhouse, Bridge of Don.

Treasurer—Mr John M. Barclay, M.A., 11 Rosebery Street, Aberdeen.

Committee—Mrs Barclay, Mrs Moir, Miss Emslie, Messrs N. C. Anderson, F. Inglis, A. Anderson; Miss Riddoch, and Mr Wilson Smith.

Summary of Business

(1924-1925).

Finance.—

Income.

Credit Balance from 1923	-	-	-	-	£55	3	3
Members' Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	29	17	6
Balance from Reunion, 1923	-	-	-	-	1	17	0
Interest on D.R. in Bank	-	-	-	-	0	17	3
Total					£87	15	0

Expenditure.

Ordinary Expenditure	-	-	-	-	£23	7	6
War Memorial Tablet	-	-	-	-	22	9	1
Credit Balance	-	-	-	-	41	18	5
Total					£87	15	0

Membership.—22 new members and 3 life members were added in 1924.

Aberdeen Branch.—A flourishing Branch of Former Pupils resident in or near Aberdeen has been formed, largely owing to the efforts of Miss Robertson, Denmore Schoolhouse, Bridge of Don. A separate report of the activities of the Branch will be found on page 47. The Treasurer of the Aberdeen Branch forwarded the sum of £6 15/-, being the total amount of the subscriptions of 54 members at 2/6 each.

Prizes for the Study of the Scots Vernacular.—Dr J. Allan Gray, Leith, offered prizes amounting to £2 2/- for the encouragement of knowledge of the Scots vernacular tongue. The Association conveyed to Dr Gray its cordial appreciation of his generous gift. The prizes were awarded to the pupils who were found to be most proficient in their knowledge and recitation of selected poems of Robert Burns.

Playing Field.—The Association at its Annual Meeting expressed its hearty approval of the efforts of the Rector to obtain a suitable playing field for the School, and its desire to help in bringing the project to a successful issue.

School Prizes.—The usual donations of a silver medal and of £5 for the School Sports Fund were continued.

Reunion of 1924.—The Reunion Committee reported a credit balance of £1 17s 6d, and the Council decided to place this sum to the credit of the Dr Grant Memorial Fund.

Portraits of Rectors.—Ex-Bailie McGregor reported that he had secured enlarged photographs of the following former Headmasters—James Smith, M.A. (1829-1866); Joseph Ogilvie, LL.D. (1866-1873); James Grant, LL.D. (1873-1895); John Mair, M.A. (1895-1907). It was remitted to Mr McGregor and the Hon. Secretary to have the portraits suitably framed with a view to their being hung in the School.

Dr William Riddoch, Rector, Mackie Academy, Stonehaven.—The Council placed on record its great gratification at the award by the Senatus of Aberdeen University of the honorary degree of LL.D. to Mr William Riddoch, M.A. (1884), with First Class Honours in Classics and in Mental Philosophy, Rector of Mackie Academy, Stonehaven, a former pupil of Keith Grammar School. The Hon. Secretary conveyed to Dr Riddoch the hearty congratulations of the Association on his having received this high distinction, and duly received from Dr Riddoch a letter in grateful acknowledgment.

Miss Grant, Art Mistress.—The Secretary was instructed to convey to Miss Grant, Art Mistress of the School, the grateful

thanks of the Association for the appropriate design which she had supplied for the cover of the Magazine.

Proposed Alteration of Rule 7 of the Constitution.—At a meeting of the Council held in the Grammar School on 16th November, 1925, the Hon. President gave the following notice of motion for the Annual Meeting on 30th December, 1925:—"That Rule 7 of the Constitution be altered to read as follows—"That the Annual General Meeting be held on a date to be fixed by the Council and duly advertised in the local press, but a General Meeting may be called at any time by the Council or at the request of ten members conveyed to the Secretary in writing."

The Dr Grant Memorial Tablet.—The tablet was duly erected and Mr W. Mitchell, K.C., President of the Association, unveiled it at the annual prize distribution on 3rd July, 1925. A large number of Former Pupils witnessed the ceremony. The cost of the tablet was over £80, raised by subscriptions from members and old pupils, and the sculptor, Mr Pilkington Jackson, Edinburgh, has received payment from the Hon. Treasurer.

The President.—On the occasion of the marriage of the President the Council on behalf of the Association sent to Mr Mitchell its hearty congratulations and good wishes.

THE ABERDEEN BRANCH.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

This Branch was formed at a meeting of Former Pupils of Keith Grammar School held in Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, on 27th March, 1925. Office-bearers and a Committee of Management were appointed, consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and six members of committee (three ladies and three gentlemen), to act along with the three University students who already formed the Aberdeen sub-committee of the Association. It was unanimously agreed to ask Mr D. M. Andrew, M.A., Rector, Aberdeen Grammar School, to become the first Hon. President of the Branch, an office which Mr Andrew very kindly agreed to accept.

The Branch was inaugurated by a whist drive and tea in the West-End Café, Union Street, on 22nd April. The arrangements were in the capable hands of a sub-committee (Mr N. C. Anderson, convener), and as a result of their efforts the gathering proved a great success, upwards of 90 former pupils and friends being present. During an interval in the proceedings the

chairman, Mr Davidson, welcomed the members in a felicitous speech, and the Hon. President, Mr Andrew, also addressed the gathering. With the assistance of Mrs Davidson, Mr Andrew also presented the prizes to the successful players.

On 27th June the Branch held a summer outing, when, by the kind permission of Msgr. McGregor, President of Blair's College, Maryculter (a distinguished Former Pupil of Keith School and a Life Member of its Association), members and friends to the number of over 50 journeyed by motor charabanc to Blairs and enjoyed the privilege of visiting its beautiful church and of viewing the historic paintings and other treasures of the College. The arrangements were carried out by the same sub-committee as for the inaugural whist drive, and the outing proved most successful. A hearty vote of thanks expressed to Msgr. McGregor the visitors' appreciation of his kindness and their cordial thanks for his unsparing efforts to promote the enjoyment of the afternoon.

The Committee of Management decided to hold a social gathering in the West-End Café, Union Street, once a month during the winter, from October to March, with the Annual Business Meeting in addition, on some date in November. This was considered necessary as the Annual General Meeting of the Association takes place at Keith on a date in December, and a sufficient time must elapse between the two to permit of any representation from the Branch being duly sent to the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

The membership consists of Full Members (that is, Former Pupils or Former Teachers of Keith School) and Associated Members, wives and husbands of Former Pupils or Teachers and members of the Parent Association in Keith who desire to be affiliated to the Aberdeen Branch. The fee for membership for this year is 3/6 for Full Members and 1/- for Associated Members. The enrolment at this date is 54 Full Members and 23 Associated Members, making a total of 77.

Subscriptions for 1926 become due on 1st January and may be paid any time throughout the year. The financial year ends on 11th November, when all accounts require to be made up and audited, in order to be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

The syllabus for the current winter session, giving full information as to the dates and nature of the meetings, is now in the hands of members.

The opening gathering took place in the West-End Café on 23rd October and was loyally supported, 75 members and friends being present. It took the form of a social evening, music and

tea interspersed with short intervals for talk. The same sub-committee as formerly carried out the arrangements with credit, Mr Frank Inglis being deservedly complimented on his varied and interesting programme. The Chairman was in his usual happy vein, and the President's reminiscient address was greatly enjoyed. Many pleasant memories and amusing incidents were recalled by him of the time when in the days of youth by the banks of the Isla we "sat at the feet of Gamaliel."

The arrangements for the Annual Meetings were left in the hands of Mr Barclay, Treasurer, who also secured for the Branch the privilege of meeting in Gordon's College buildings.

Rules and Constitution

(Approved at Annual General Meeting, 1920)

1. The Association shall be called the Keith Grammar School Former Pupils' Association.

2. The objects of the Association shall be to promote intercourse among Former Pupils, to keep them in touch with one another and with the School, and to advance the interests of the present pupils.

3. The Association shall consist of Ordinary and of Life Members.

4. All former pupils of the Grammar School or Keith Parish School and all past and present teachers of the School shall be eligible for Membership.

5. The subscription for ordinary membership shall be 2s 6d per annum, payable on or before 31st December, and the subscription for Life Membership shall be £2. These subscriptions shall entitle members to a copy of the Magazine, which shall be issued annually and shall contain a complete list of Members and their addresses.

6. The financial year shall end on 11th November, and the accounts of the Association, made up to that date and duly audited, shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

7. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in December on a date fixed at previous Annual Meeting and duly advertised in the local press, but a General Meeting may be called at any time by the Council or at the request of ten Members conveyed to the Secretary in writing.

8. At the Annual General Meeting the following office-bearers shall be elected—Hon. President, President, two or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, and, if desired, a Joint or Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

9. At the same Annual General Meeting a Council shall be formed consisting of Office-bearers and not less than 15 or more than 20 Members. The Council shall have power to appoint an Executive Committee from their own number and also, for special purposes, sub-committees which need not be composed entirely of Members of the Council.

10. All Office-bearers and Members of Council shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.

11. Intimation of General Meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be made to each Member within the United Kingdom seven days before the date of the Meeting, and intimation of Council Meetings shall be made to each Member of Council not less than three days before the date of the Meeting. Notice of motion for a General Meeting, Annual or other, shall be sent in writing to the Secretary at least ten days before the date of such meeting.

12. No alteration shall be made in these Rules and no rule shall be added except with the consent of two-thirds of the Members present at a General Meeting.

List of Members

LIFE MEMBERS.

Alexander Emslie, M.A., Rector, Keith Grammar School.
 Rev. D. M. Forrester, U.F. Manse, Broughton, Peebles-shire.
 Charles George, S.S.C., 31 Alva Street, Edinburgh.
 Mrs Gilchrist (née Alice Mitchell), 30 Great King Street, Edinburgh.
 John Gillies, M.A., Careleon, Cults, Aberdeenshire.
 J. Allan Gray, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed., 107 Ferry Road, Leith.
 Dr R. G. Henderson, 116 Egerton Street, Oldham.
 Harry Horsfall, Huntly.
 Alex. J. Innes, Box 461 E/Ville, Congo Belge, Central Africa.
 Ex-Provost John W. Kynoch, Isla Bank, Keith.
 Dr P. W. Macdonald, Grasmere, Radipole, Weymouth.
 Chas. T. McConnachie, The Dominion Bank, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.
 Right Rev. Mgr. James Canon McGregor, St. Mary's College, Blairs, Aberdeen.
 James D. McPetrie, M.A., Madras House, St. Andrews (Hon. Life Member).

Wm. Mitchell, K.C., 17 Great King Street, Edinburgh.
 W. Munro, 23 Great Castle Street, Oxford Circus, London, W.1.
 John Reid, M.A., C.A., 6 Golden Square, Aberdeen.
 F. W. Robertson, 28 Cameron Street, Stonehaven.
 Dr Alex. H. Skinner, Hankow, China.
 Robert F. Stephen, Badlipar Tea Co., Koomtai Division, Badlipar P. & T.O., Assam.
 Dr A. G. Thomson, 32 West Allington, Bridport.
 Dr R. S. Turner, 18 Dean Park Crescent, Edinburgh.
 Wm. Turner, Villa Palma, Algeciras, Gibraltar.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

Miss E. Addison, Hazelwood, Union Street, Keith.
 Alexander Anderson, 69 Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh.
 Wm. Anderson, Jr., Santa Elena, Argentine, South America.
 Charles Anderson, Jun., 80 Land Street, Keith.
 James Anderson, M.R.C.V.S., Craigisla, Keith.
 Miss J. Anderson, 40 Fife Street, Fife-Keith.
 Wm. Anderson, Jr., Brunscar, Keith.
 Miss B. Annand, 9 Athole Gardens, Glasgow, W.
 James Annand, 136 Moss Street, Keith.
 Miss M. S. Annand, 9 Athole Gardens, Glasgow, W.
 Patrick D. Annand, 102 Mid Street, Keith.
 P. Stewart Annand, St. Ninian's, Banff Road, Keith.
 Alexander Auchinachie, Beaufort, Keith.
 Mrs Balfour (née Agnes H. Moir), 75 Glasgow Road, Perth.
 Mrs Barclay (née Jeannie Macpherson), 23 Westfield Terrace, Aberdeen.
 Mrs Alexander Barclay (née Margaret Wilson), Bogallie, Botriphnie.
 Robert J. T. Beverley, Elrick Villa, Keith.
 Rev. George Birnie, M.A., B.D., The Manse, Speymouth.
 Mrs Boucher (née Elizabeth J. Reid), Wern, Ardersier, Inverness-shire.
 James Bowie, Brunswick Lodge, 404 Moss Lane East, Manchester.
 Miss Agnes Boyne, Blinkbonny, Keith.
 Alexander Boyne, Jr., Blinkbonny, Keith.
 John W. Brown, Drakemyres, Keith.
 Rev. W. R. Brown, M.A., Kerse Parish Church, Grangemouth.
 Wm. Brown, Church Cottage, Keith.
 Robert A. Cameron, Drum Road, Keith.
 Mrs Cardno (née Margaret B. Watt), 7 Palgrave Road, Gt. Yarmouth.
 Mrs Chalmers (née Ida Davidson), 60 Norfolk Road, Erdington, Birmingham.
 Allan M. Clark, M.A., I.C.S., United Service Club, Chowringhee, Calcutta, Bengal, India.
 Robert Cruickshank, L.C.P. Schoolhouse, Auchnagatt, Aberdeenshire.
 W. Cruickshank, Engineer-in-Chief's Office, G.P.O. (West), London, E.C.
 Miss Currie, M.A., 117 Mid Street, Keith.
 Francis P. Currie, Turner Street, Keith.
 Mrs F. P. Currie (née Annie Smith), Turner Street, Keith.

George A. Currie, B.Sc. (Agri.), Dunnydeer, Koumala, N.C. Line, Queensland.

Alexander Davidson, Edithfield, Keith.

Mrs D. C. K. Davidson (née Isabella Ross), Tembeling, Pahang, F.M.S.

Miss Elizabeth Cruickshank Davidson, M.A., Edithfield, Keith.

J. A. Davidson, Midthird, Botriphnie, Keith.

Miss M. Davidson, M.A., Mackie Academy, Stonehaven.

John H. Dawson, Regent Street, Fife-Keith.

Miss E. Donald, Higher Grade School, Coatbridge.

Thomas M. Duncan, M.A., Ansfield, Keith.

James Eyval, Beechwood, 24 Drive Road, Govan, S.W.

John Eyval, M.A., 66 Land Street, Keith.

Mrs Fiddes (née Jessie Barnfather), Bank House, Regent Street, Fife-Keith.

Robert Finlay, Annislea, Liberton, Edinburgh.

Bert Fraser, Kirkhill, Keith.

Mrs Fraser (née Wilhelmina K. Kelty), Kirkhill, Keith.

Miss F. P. Garrow, Craigiebrae, Richmond Road, Huntly.

Robert W. Garrow, The Bield, Keith.

Mrs R. W. Garrow (née Catharine Annand), The Bield, Keith.

Wm. Garrow, 5 Kingsley Avenue, Crosshill, Glasgow.

Colonel J. J. George, C.B.E., Macduff.

Robert E. Gilbert, West Manse, Grange, Keith.

Mrs Gordon (née Jeannie Thomson), 1 Henley Road, Auckland Park, Johannesburg.

Robert Gordon, Ryefield, Galashiels.

Mrs Robert Gordon (née Jeannie Hendry), Ryefield, Galashiels.

Miss Gaynor Grant, 122 Mid Street, Keith.

John A. S. Grant, Crooksmill, Keith.

John Grant, 122 Mid Street, Keith.

Mrs Grant (née Jeannie A. H. Taylor), 49 Regent Street, Fife-Keith.

Miss Grant, 122 Mid Street, Keith.

Peter Grant, 49 Regent Street, Fife-Keith.

Miss Jessie D. Gray, Wellington Terrace, Fife-Keith.

Mrs Gray (née Mary Bennett), Mill of Park, Cornhill.

Miss Green, 1 Duff Street, Fife-Keith.

Dr Wm. Greenlaw, Royal Infirmary, Bradford.

Mrs Grieve (née Jean Machattie), 107 Mid Street, Keith.

Miss Guthrie, 7 Crosshill Villas, Rothesay.

Miss A. Guthrie, 5 Balloch Road, Keith.

Mrs C. Gysin (née Josephine Anderson), 8 Beverley Gardens, Golders' Green, London.

Fritz W. Petrie Hay, Padang Estate, Padang Serai, S. Kedah, M.S.

George Petrie Hay, Mid Street, Keith.

James Petrie Hay, Mid Street, Keith.

Miss J. Hay, L.L.A., 392 Currie Road, Durban, S.A.

Miss Margaret Hay, 12 Marchmont Street, Edinburgh.

W. D. Hay, B.Sc. (Agr.), County Agricultural Organiser, Principal of the Farm Institute, Cannington, near Bridgwater.

Dr James Hendry, Buxton.

Robert Hendry, Viewmount, Keith.

William Hendry, 11 Bellevue Crescent, Edinburgh.

Miss Henry, L.L.A., Grammar School, Keith.

Miss C. B. Herd, The Orient Girls' College, Skegness.

Edward H. Herd, 74 Land Street, Keith.

Mrs Herivel (née Mary Machattie), 637 Calle San Martin, Buenos Aires.

Miss J. Howie, 36 Regent Street, Fife-Keith.

Mrs Hunter (née Marion Davidson), St. Ronan's, Mavisbank, Selkirk.

Jas. G. Hunter, N. of S. Bank, Ltd., Moorgate Street, London, E.C.2.

Ralph Hunter, N. of S. Bank, Commercial Road, Aberdeen.

Rev. Robert Ingram, M.A., B.D., Auchmithie Manse, Arbroath.

Mrs Innes (née Christina Fraser), Craigpark, Old Kilpatrick, Dumbar-tonshire.

Mrs Imlah (née Jeannie Brown), High Street, Buckie.

Miss J. Jamieson, Scotlandwell, Leslie, Fife.

Alexander B. Joss, Faragon, Succoth Place, Murrayfield, Edinburgh.

Charles Kemp, Northcote, Dufftown.

Miss M. Kemp, Parkmore, Dufftown.

Wm. Kemp, Parkmore, Dufftown.

Douglas Kennedy, Amulree, Fairfield Road, Inverness.

J. G. Kennedy, Ailsa, Rose Avenue, Elgin.

Miss M. Kennedy, Valeview, Fife-Keith.

Robert B. Kennedy, Golden Grove Estate, Bukit Tengah, P.W.S.S.

Mrs Gordon Key (née Alice Bruce), Mental Hospital, Pretoria, South Africa.

George Kynoch, The Cliffords, Keith.

Graham Laidlaw, Regent Street, Fife-Keith.

Roy A. Laidlaw, Regent Street, Fife-Keith.

George Laing, L.D.S., Laurel Bank, Keith.

Rev. W. S. Laing, M.A., U.F. Manse, Whitehills, Boyndie.

Miss Jean A. Laurie, 82 Moss Street, Keith.

W. A. Leslie, 8 Golden Square, Aberdeen.

George J. Lobban, Regent Square, Fife-Keith.

Mrs Walter Lyall (née Alice Robertson), 10 High Street, Macduff.

Mrs McCaskie (née Nellie Roy), c/o MacKinnon, MacKenzie, & Co., Bombay.

Miss C. McConnachie, 156a Mid Street, Keith.

F. G. McConnachie, Connage, Buckie.

W. M. McConnachie, Nelson Terrace, Fife-Keith.

Chas. McGregor, Oldmore Lodge, Keith.

Miss H. K. McHardy, 14 Ashmount Road, Upper Holloway, London, N.19

Miss Bessie Machattie, Springbank, Keith.

Charles Machattie, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., Serai, Bagdad, Iraq.

- George Machattie, Union Street, Keith.
 Miss L. Machattie, 1 Wells Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W.8.
 Mrs Machattie (née Lizzie Barbour), The Park, Keith.
 Norman Machattie, The Park, Keith.
 David McKenzie, M.A., Schoolhouse, Cullen.
 Miss M. McKenzie, 148 Mid Street, Keith.
 Robert H. McKenzie, The Binn, Burntisland.
 John Macpherson, B.Sc. (Agr.), Director of Agriculture, Oxford.
 Wm. Macpherson, Mains of Mulben, Keith.
 David McMillan, 148a Moss Street, Keith.
 Mrs McMillan (née Nannie Machattie), The Park, Keith.
 Mrs McTaggart (née Mary Robertson), Manse, Glenelg, Inverness-shire.
 R. S. McWilliam, Garguston, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire.
 Alex. Maine, Box 1, Port Alfred, Cape Province, South Africa.
 James Mair, M.A., H.G. School, Rutherglen.
 Robert C. T. Mair, M.A., LL.B., Medwyn, Buchanan Drive, Cambuslang.
 Mrs Melvin (née Louisa Laing), The Square, Keith.
 Robert Milne, Corsedean, Huntly.
 Frank C. Mitchell, 22 Hamilton Street, Inverness.
 Henry Mitchell, 22 Great King Street, Edinburgh.
 Jack Mitchell, Gowanlea, Keith.
 John Mitchell, Ardmore, Keith.
 Mrs Mitchell (née Ella Kelty), Ardmore, Keith.
 Mrs Mitchell (née Margaret Robertson), 182 Mid Street, Keith.
 Mrs Moir (née Isabella McGregor), 73 Argyll Place, Aberdeen.
 Lewis Morrison, Armstrong College of Agriculture, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 Alfred Morrison, Temperance Hotel, Buckie.
 J. Gordon Munro, Solicitor, 7 Howe Street, Edinburgh.
 Miss Munro, 221 Martin Avenue, Elmwood, Winnipeg, Canada.
 James W. Murray, 99 Land Street, Keith.
 Miss E. A. Nicholson, 34 Binden Road, Rylett Road, Shepherd's Bush,
 London, W.12.
 Miss M. A. Nicholson, Fern Cottage, Fife-Keith.
 Miss N. Nicholson, 34 Binden Road, Rylett Road, Shepherd's Bush,
 London, W.12.
 Dr Janet C. Nicol, Royal S. Hants Hospital, Southampton.
 R. W. Nicol, S.S. Chaldon, c/o Messrs Enriquez, Fletcher & Co., 136
 Fenchurch Street, London.
 Isaac Ogg, Sungei Bahru Estates, Masjid Tanah, Malacca, S.S.
 Miss Paterson, M.A., Newmill, Keith.
 Dr Paterson, Old Cumnock, Ayrshire.
 Thomas Paterson, Newmill, Keith.
 James Pearson, 120 Mid Street, Keith.
 Wm. Pearson, 118 Mid Street, Keith.
 James Pirie, 85 Mid Street, Keith.
 Rev. James E. Pirie, M.A., B.D., Bridgend, Perth.
 Miss May Pirie, 63 Moss Street, Keith.
 Mrs Porter (née Jeannie Eyval), 13 Nelson Terrace, Fife-Keith.

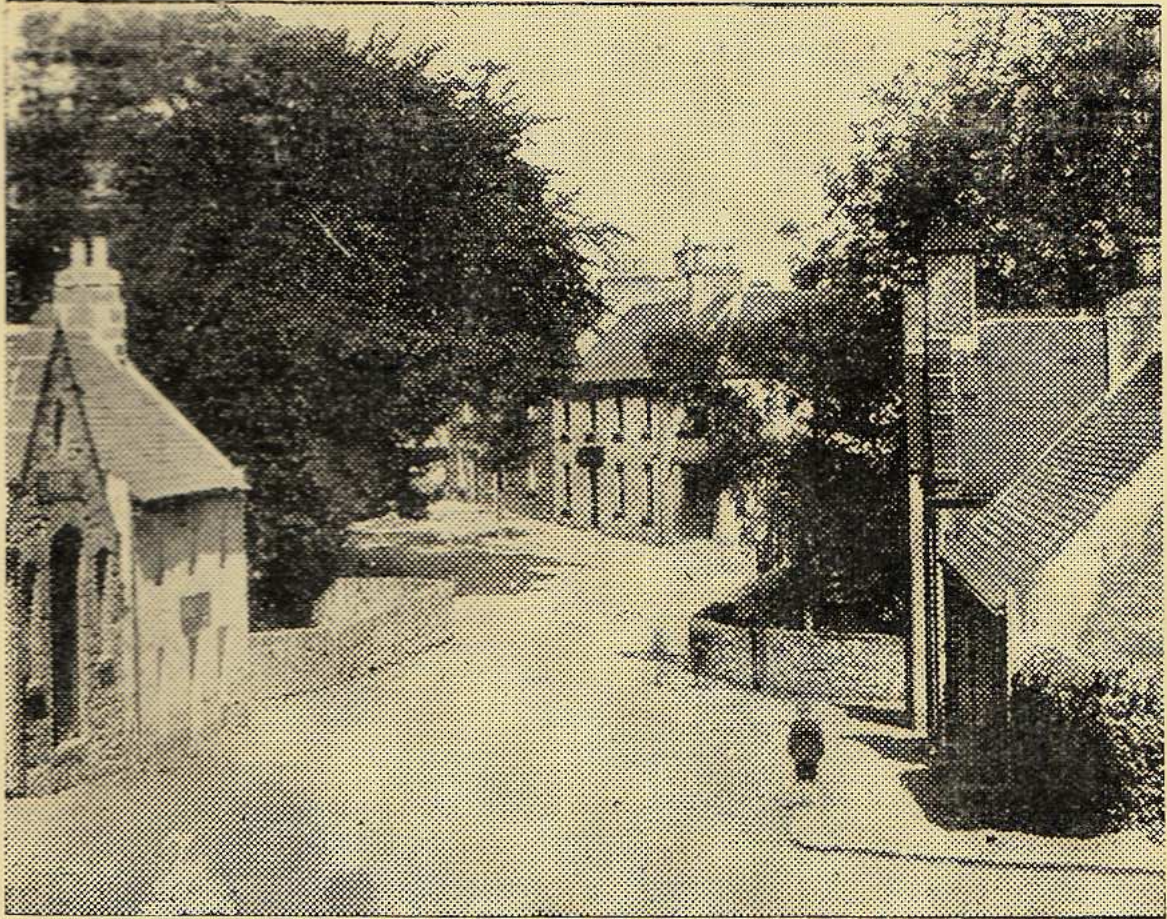
- Miss M. J. Porter, Melbourne, Australia.
 Miss Ella Raffan, M.A., The Academy, Bathgate.
 Miss Elsie Raffan, M.A., High School, Kirkcaldy.
 Miss Minnie Raffan, Balnamoon, Grange.
 George Reid, M.A., Summerbank, Hamilton.
 Mrs Reid (née Mary C. Howie), Summerbank, Hamilton.
 Mrs Rennie (née Patricia O'Gorman), Jamaica.
 Miss Riddoch, Tarryblake, Rothiemay.
 Wyness Riddoch, Tarryblake, Rothiemay.
 James A. T. Robb, Woodbine, Ferryhill Road, Aberdeen.
 Miss Mabel Robb, Dalmhor, Crieff.
 Miss Annie Robertson, Rosebank, Keith.
 George O. Robertson, C. & E.O., Banff Distillery, Banff.
 John J. Robertson, C. & E.O., 30 Kingsgate, Aberdeen.
 Miss Margaret Ross, 54 Regent Street, Fife-Keith.
 Miss Roy, Public School, Craigellachie.
 Miss Elsie Roy, Public School, Craigellachie.
 Miss N. Roy, Academy, Elgin.
 Miss Patricia Roy, Mortlach Higher Grade School, Dufftown.
 Robert Roy, Val D'Or Estate, Bukit Tambun, Province Wellesley, Straits Settlements.
 H. J. Sandison, 144 Mid Street, Keith.
 Mrs H. J. Sandison (née Georgina Roy), 144 Mid Street, Keith.
 Miss Sandison, Highfield, Keith.
 Miss J. Sandison, Girls' High School, Chesterfield.
 William Sandison, Highfield, Keith.
 Miss Margaret Scott, Labour Exchange, Elgin Street, Glasgow, C.5.
 Dr Wm. Scott, Clarence Cottage, Ruthwell, R.S.O., Carlisle.
 Charles Sibbald, 165 Mid Street, Keith.
 Miss Simpson, 44 Fife Street, Fife-Keith.
 Miss B. Simpson, Nelson Terrace, Fife-Keith.
 John Simpson, Secretary, Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society,
 8 East Parade, Leeds.
 James Smith, M.A., The Schoolhouse, Whithorn, Wigtownshire.
 Mrs Lind Smith (née Tibi Thomson), Craighill, Keith.
 Miss Smith, 180 Mid Street, Keith.
 Wm. Smith, East Church Street, Buckie.
 Wilson H. Smith, 52 New Terrace, Rosemount, Aberdeen.
 Miss E. Souter, 5 Regent Square, Keith.
 Miss Elizabeth I. Stewart, Glencottar, Keith.
 Miss Jeannie Stewart, 45 Inverness Terrace, London.
 Miss Mary A. R. Stewart, 79 Castle Street, Banff.
 Mrs Stewart (née Mary McKenzie), 1452 Broad Street, Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A.
 W. H. B. Stewart, O.B.E., Glencottar, Keith.
 Angus Stillie, Isla Bank Cottages, Keith.
 Mrs Stokes (née Jeannie R. I. Cameron), Buenos Aires.
 Miss Strachan, M.A., H.G. School, Aberlour.

Alex. W. Sutherland, Westbank, Mulben.
 Alex. Taylor, 168 Mid Street, Keith.
 Miss B. Taylor, 49 Regent Street, Fife-Keith.
 Miss Cissie Taylor, Earlsneuk, Keith.
 Edward R. Taylor, M.A., Leith H.G. School.
 George Taylor, Westview, Keith.
 Mrs George Taylor (née Janet Dawson), Westview, Keith.
 Mrs George Taylor (née Elsie Cruickshank), Earlsneuk, Keith.
 James Taylor, 46 Bingham Terrace, Dundee.
 John Taylor, The Knowe, Keith.
 Patrick Taylor, 17 Rollscourt Avenue, Herne Hill, London, S.E.24.
 Mrs P. Taylor (nee Jeannie Kelman), do. do.
 Dr Thomas Taylor, Denburn, Bare Lane, Morecambe.
 T. M. Taylor, M.A., LL.B., 48 India Street, Edinburgh.
 Miss Taylor, The Knowe, Keith.
 Mrs Taylor (née Isabella Hay), O.B.E., Ugie House, Keith.
 Mrs D. Thomson (née Ella Mitchell), Gateside, Fife.
 Mrs R. Thomson (née Lizzie Laing), 158 Mid Street, Keith.
 Rev. Wm. Thomson, M.A., Townhead Manse, 14 Moffat Road, Dumfries.
 Miss M. J. Urquhart, The Sheans, Boharm, Dufftown.
 R. W. Urquhart, M.A., c/o British Consulate, Athens.
 Mrs Valentine (née Edith Mitchell), Dumfries.
 Charles Watt, St. Leonards, Rose Place, Elgin.
 Miss Matilda Watt, M.A., Maryhill, Boharm.
 Captain W. R. Watt, 1st Battalion 5th Gurkha Rifles, "F.F.," Abbottabad,
 India (N.W.F.P.)
 D. W. W. Whitelaw, c/o John D. Forsyth, C.A., 906 Yorkshire Building,
 Vancouver, B.C.
 Miss A. H. Will, Turner Street, Keith.
 Dr Edith Bruce Wilson, c/o Dr Wood, 49 Lordship Lane, Wood Green,
 London, N.22.

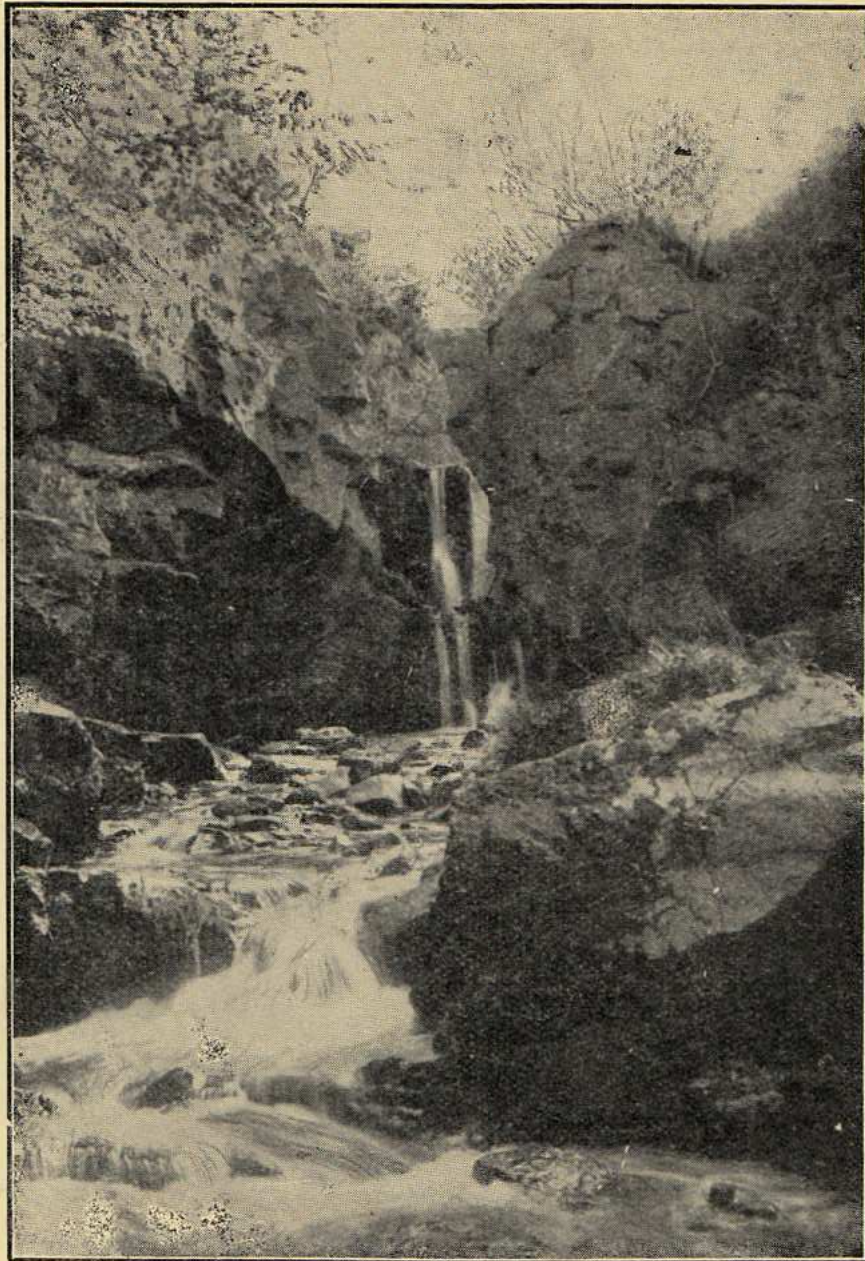
ABERDEEN BRANCH.

Alexander Anderson, 20 View Terrace, Aberdeen.
 Norman C. Anderson, 1 Hilton Avenue, Woodside, Aberdeen.
 William A. Anderson, 62 Bon-Accord Street, Aberdeen.
 David M. Andrew, M.A., 51 Carlton Place, Aberdeen.
 Miss B. J. Barclay, M.A., Stripeside, Botriphnie, Keith.
 John M. Barclay, M.A., 11 Rosebery Street, Aberdeen.
 Mrs John M. Barclay (née Florence Moir), 11 Rosebery Street, Aberdeen.
 Miss Booth, 616 King Street, Aberdeen.
 Mrs Burnett (née Penelope Strachan), 53 Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen.
 Alexander Cruickshank, 4 Queen's Gate, Aberdeen.
 Andrew Cruickshank, 15 Morven Place, Aberdeen.
 John Cruickshank, c/o Nelson, 43 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen.
 Alexander Davidson, 12 Murray Place, Aberdeen.

- William Davidson, 168 Mid Stocket Road, Aberdeen.
 Mrs Eddie (née Margaret Addison), 103 Blenheim Place, Aberdeen.
 Peter Edwards, M.A., B.Sc., 3 Rosemount Place, Aberdeen.
 Miss B. Emslie, 235 Westburn Road, Aberdeen.
 James P. Farquharson, 70 Chapel Street, Aberdeen.
 Miss Fleming, 67 Fountainhall Road, Aberdeen.
 James M. Forbes, 6 Caroline Place, Aberdeen.
 John Gauld, 30 Allan Street, Aberdeen.
 Mrs Gauld (née Elsie Gilies Taylor), 30 Allan Street, Aberdeen.
 James Gordon, 138 George Street, Aberdeen.
 Frank A. G. Inglis, 286 Great Western Road, Aberdeen.
 Joseph J. Johnstone, 117 Bon-Accord Street, Aberdeen.
 Miss J. Johnstone, Ingleside, Dyce, Aberdeenshire.
 Miss K. Johnstone, Ingleside, Dyce, Aberdeenshire.
 John Kidd, Rowandale, Cults, Aberdeenshire.
 James McAllan, M.A., Schoolhouse, Monymusk, Aberdeenshire.
 George McCurrach, 8½ Margaret Street, Aberdeen.
 Mrs McCurrach (née Annie Davidson), 8½ Margaret Street, Aberdeen.
 Miss M. J. McKay, 49 Holburn Street, Aberdeen.
 William Malcolm, 213 Great Western Road, Aberdeen.
 James Menzies, Falcon Buildings, Old Aberdeen.
 Donald Murray, M.A., B.Sc., Central H.G. School, Skene, Aberdeenshire.
 Frank Newlands, 12 Springbank Terrace, Aberdeen.
 Miss Annie Riach, Parkhill Schoolhouse, Dyce, Aberdeenshire.
 Miss Annie Robertson, Denmore Schoolhouse, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.
 John D. Robertson, 18 Cairnfield Place, Aberdeen.
 Miss Robinson, 85 Fonthill Road, Aberdeen.
 Miss Hetty Robinson, 85 Fonthill Road, Aberdeen.
 Miss M. A. Sandison, Fairlaure, Arbeadie Terrace, Banchory.
 John Simpson, Palace Hotel, Aberdeen.
 Miss Nelly Simpson, 68 Springbank Terrace, Aberdeen.
 Rev. A. Hood Smith, M.A., The Manse, Newmachar, Aberdeenshire.
 Mrs S. A. Smith (née Annie Troup), 27 Carlton Place, Aberdeen.
 Mrs Stewart (née Isabella Simpson), 19 Forbes Street, Aberdeen.
 Miss Nelly Strachan, 53 Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen.
 Dr J. S. Taylor, City Hospital, Aberdeen.
 Mrs James Third (née Eliza Ross), 34 Braemar Place, Aberdeen.
 Alexander Walker, Walfield Crescent, Aberdeen.
 James Watt, Blairton Hotel, Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire.
 Miss Margaret Watt, Old Town Schoolhouse, Inch, Aberdeenshire.
 John Wilkie, 102 Stanley Street, Aberdeen.



"BRIGGIE'S" CORNER.



FALLS OF TARNASH.

"By dark Tarnash if I only could
But watch the plashin' water fallin'!"

