

THE MAKING OF A NEWSPAPER.

BY AN OLD BOY.

Many are the difficulties that face the writer of an article of this character. In the first place, he must try to give an intelligible account of a big subject in few words.

In the making of a newspaper there are many processes, each of which could scarcely be satisfactorily described in the whole space at disposal, so it is possible here to give only a brief outline of the method of production in the hope that a general idea of the processes may be formed in the minds of those who are entirely unacquainted with the work that goes on inside a newspaper office. If an interest is aroused sufficient to engender the desire for further information the best way of satisfying the wish is by seeking practical demonstration, which is generally easy to manage. Another difficulty the writer encounters is that the subject has been so exhaustively dealt with, and, moreover, so profusely illustrated, in modern encyclopædias, especially the children's encyclopædias, that many of those whom he seeks to inform may already know more than he is able to tell them. The reader's indulgence is, therefore, craved.

The making of a newspaper starts with the gathering of news. Perhaps the editor and sub-editors would contest that statement, and from their point of view they would be perfectly right. We are not dealing here, however, with the birth of ideas or the issuing of orders and instructions, but only with actual work as it may be seen. Besides, the editor's sanctum is too holy a place to desecrate, and its secrets must remain inviolate. The actual work of the making of a newspaper, then, starts with the news gatherer or reporter. Besides the reporters on the office staff there may be correspondent reporters in other towns all over the kingdom, and there are those attached to news agencies in all parts of the world. They are all connected in one way or another with the office. They get their news, or "copy" as it is called, to the office in various ways. The man on the staff may write his copy—a report of a meeting, of an accident or any other happening, of an interview with someone who has special knowledge of the subject to be dealt with, or of any other of the thousand and one things on which a reporter has to glean information—in the office, or he may, if he cannot get there in time,

telephone it for some other reporter to write. The correspondent in another town may send his copy by post or telephone, whichever is most convenient according to the time of publication in relation to the time of the occurrence he is describing. The news that is sent by the news agency—accounts of important happenings all over the world—comes into the office by telegraph, but not as a rule through the Post Office. The Post Office telegraph is comparatively little used for the transmission of news services nowadays. It has been found quicker and more satisfactory to have the news transmitted direct from the news agency's head office in London by wires leased from the Post Office, so most newspaper offices of any standing are now equipped with the Creed telegraph machine.

This is the first machine we examine on our tour of the office, and it cannot fail to evoke interest if not wonder. The messages are first dealt with in London by a machine after the style of a typewriter, which, instead of printing letters, punches holes in paper tape to represent the Morse code. This tape is then put through the transmitting machine, and the punching is reproduced on another tape by the receiving machine in the newspaper office at the rate of anything up to 200 words per minute. This punched tape is then put through the telegraph printing machine, which transcribes the punched Morse code into printed words at a rate up to 150 words per minute.

All the copy as it arrives by post or is written up or given in by the reporters or pasted up in the telegraph room is taken to the sub-editors, whose duty it is to scrutinise and to accept or reject what is submitted to them. They put the copy in order, make it readable, cut it down to the length it is deemed any particular subject merits, and put it generally into shape for presentation to the readers of the paper. They devise headlines and sub-headlines to make everything as attractive as possible, and they must envisage how it will all look when it appears as a complete whole, doing all their work with an eye to the appearance of the paper when printed. And all this they must do without losing consciousness of the flight of time, for they, more than anyone else, are responsible for the appearance of the paper at its proper time. Everything must be subordinated to time, for whatever happens printing must begin at the very minute appointed. So the sub-editors' room as edition time draws near is often an exciting scene. There is much to do and little time in which to do it, and everyone is working at full pressure. The "subs" are urging the reporters to hurry up with

wanted copy, and the newsroom foreman is in turn asking the "subs" to send it out quicker, and all the time the clock is ticking away the precious minutes. It is often an almost incredible rush during the last hour or so, but there is always order amid the apparent chaos, and the sub-editors always get through somehow and always just on time.

When the sub-editors have done their best—or, as the reporters would say, their worst—with the copy, it goes through to the newsroom, where it is divided up into convenient "takes" or lengths for the linotype operators to deal with. The linotype is another machine which always inspires wonder on first acquaintance. The operator sits at a keyboard something like that of a typewriter, and he and his machine convert the copy into lines of type at the average rate of from two to three lines per minute. The type is cast line by line by the machine in an alloy of lead, tin and antimony. As each section of copy is finished the lines are assembled in proper order with the other sections dealt with by other men and a proof is printed for the reader to examine for mistakes and to make corrections. When that is done the lines of type, now roughly in column form, are taken to be assembled in a steel frame, or "forme," the size of one page of the newspaper, where everything is placed in the order in which it is destined to appear in the printed paper. The columns are adjusted to the exact length required, and the forme is locked up so that all the lines are tightly held.

The next machine we come to is the mangle. Here the page of type is put on a planed iron bed and when it has been ensured that all the lines are exactly level, the "flong," a sheet composed of asbestos and tissue paper to the thickness of stout cardboard and a little larger than a page of the newspaper, is laid over it. The iron bed is then set in motion and travels under a large cylinder which puts pressure on the flong covering the page of type so great that a deep impression is left by the type on the flong.

We have now finished with the type, which is taken back to be melted down for further use, and the next stage of our journey is to the foundry. Here we see the flong put in the casting machine in which it forms the mould from which a metal casting is to be made. The casting box of the machine is semi-circular in shape, so that when the flong is fitted into it and molten metal is run into the box the result is a plate of metal about half-an-inch thick and weighing from about 65 to 95 lbs. according to the width of page required. We thus see the page in type once more, but now in one solid block and in semi-circular shape.

The casting machine cuts the plate, as we now call the page, to exactly the right width and after it has been bored to the right internal diameter and a little necessary trimming has been done it is sent down to the machine room.

Here the plate is fastened on to a cylinder of the printing machine, which is rather an awe-inspiring affair, especially if it is one of the big 32-page machines, and as it is the late news-page of the paper we have been following on its journey to the press, everything is ready to begin printing as soon as the exact time for the start arrives. In the meantime we stand by for stop-press news, which comes down direct from the newsroom in the form of lines from the linotype machines fastened into what is called the "fudge box," an arc-shaped contrivance which is clamped on to a shaft in the printing machine so that the lines of type may print directly on to the paper as it travels through the machine.

When the signal is given for the start, the huge machine begins slowly and gradually gathers speed until, after it has been ascertained that everything is going right, it is turning out newspapers folded and counted into dozens at the rate of from 30,000 to 36,000 copies per hour. We see that the paper comes from great reels at one end of the machine, weighing from four to five hundredweights each according to width, and holding about five miles' length of paper. We follow the course of this web of paper and see it go over and between rollers until it comes to the cylinder on which the plate was fastened. There are four plates, by the way, on each cylinder. Here we pause to watch the inking apparatus. The ink travels from its reservoir by way of many rollers covered with some form of composition of the consistency of soft rubber until it is spread evenly over the surface of the type on the plates. The paper web goes between the plated cylinder and another cylinder round which blankets are stretched by which the impression necessary for printing is given. The paper travels on till it comes to another similar pair of cylinders where the other side is printed. It then goes to the folder where it is cut, folded and counted.

The printed papers are now taken in piles to the publisher, who, with his assistants, makes them up into parcels and bundles and despatches them by van or train to the newsagent. We watch this operation for a few minutes and then go away with the thunder of the printing machines still in our ears.

DEBATING SOCIETY NOTES, 1925.

At the time of the writing of these notes, only four meetings of the Debating Society had been held for the Session 1925-26.

At a General Meeting of the Society held on Friday, October 23rd, the following were elected as Officers:—President, the Head Master; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Mayers and Mr. Huxtable; Secretary, L. Slater; Assistant Secretary, M. Gilbert; Treasurer, J. H. Garnett; Committee, A. Walton, A. Greenhalgh, J. H. Garnett; Sergeant-at-Arms, N. Abbott.

It was also decided to ask the President for the correct ruling with regard to the membership of the Forms LVa., LVb., LVc., so that it might be provided for in the rules.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 1925.

At the opening meeting held on this date, Abbott proposed the motion that "Modern man relies too much on machinery for the provision of his comforts, physical and otherwise." The proposer based his remarks on the thesis that machinery minimises manual labour, and hence is not conducive to physical fitness. Walton, in opposing the motion, said that the whole question was a matter of degree, and that machinery provided the necessities of life rather than its comforts. Sutcliffe, N., in supporting Abbott, asserted that comfort was impossible without good health, attained by physical exercise. Reece, the seconder for the opposition, stated that machinery was necessary to transport town workers into purer air. On the debate being declared open for discussion, the following members spoke:—Greenhalgh, Taylor, E. R., Mr. Mayers, Bottoms, V. S., Mr. Buckley, Humphreys, Walkden, Hensor, Garlick, Ellis and Garnett. After the various summings up, the vote was taken, resulting in the motion being rejected by 18 votes to 9.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 1925.

At the meeting held on this day Abbott proposed the motion that "Physical bravery is of greater value than moral courage." He stated that moral courage implied resolution, and physical bravery, action, the former being unable to withstand the latter. Taylor, O., in opposing the motion, said that moral courage always preceded physical bravery and, moreover, that its achievements extended beyond the physical into mental spheres. Bottoms, V. S., the seconder for the proposition, said that in a crisis physical bravery was necessary, and moral courage useless. Ellis, in

supporting Taylor, gave historical examples of moral courage triumphing in circumstances where physical bravery would have been futile. On the debate being declared open, the following members spoke :—Gilbert, Taylor, E. R., Garnett, Greenhalgh, Mr. Mayers, Taylor, O., and Abbott summed up, and in the vote being taken a surprising result occurred, 26 voting against the motion and 1 (Mr. Mayers) for.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 1925.

At a meeting held on this date, Slater proposed that "Honesty is the policy," expressing the view that honesty was a social obligation and led to social safety and happiness. Greenhalgh, in opposition, stated that legal dishonesty was prevalent in all spheres of life, especially advertising, and it seemed to prosper. Gilbert, the seconder for the proposition, gave numerous examples of honest people who had benefited by being honest. Abbott, the seconder, brought to the notice of the members a wonderful compound "Zip" which seemed capable of solving all the problems of existence, including the one under discussion. On the debate being declared open for discussion only three members voiced their opinions, namely :—Sutcliffe, Mr. Buckley and Mr. Huxtable. After the final summings up the vote was taken. The result was that the motion was rejected by 16 votes to 8.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1925.

At a meeting of the Society held on this date Taylor, E. R., proposed the motion that "Nationalism is destined to give place to Internationalism." He traced the growth of unity amongst nations from the time of the Roman empire. He instanced the Boy Scout movement and the League of Nations in support of his contention that internationalism is growing. Garlick, the opposer, stated that insurmountable obstacles to internationalism were racial and temperamental differences and the individualistic spirit.

Bottoms, V. S., supporting Taylor, E. R., said that goodwill between nations is continually increasing and hence internationalism is destined to come. Hensor, the seconder for the opposition, said that nations could not be expected to give up their independence, for which they had struggled so long. On the debate being declared open, the following members spoke :—Walton, Abbott, Greenhalgh, Mr. Huxtable, Garnett, Sutcliffe, Garlick and Taylor then summed up, and the vote was taken. The motion was rejected by 30 votes to 9.

THE LIBRARY.

The Librarians are pleased to report that there has been a very great increase in the number of boys to make use of the Lending Department this term, and that many boys from the Lower School are amongst them.

The Upper School, too, seems to have swallowed its pride and consented to borrow books. Without a doubt this is owing to the addition of the works of several popular authors to the stock.

Owing to this increase, both in members and books, the Librarians are now very busy indeed which, of course, is as it should be.

The books given by several members of last year's Upper Vith and Lower Vith Forms have been highly appreciated, and Mr. Elischer's gift of seven books by P. G. Wodehouse was received with joy.

The juvenile books, too, have been largely augmented by the handsome gift of five of Ballantyne's works and eight of Kingston's by Mr. W. W. Brierley, to whom we are greatly obliged.

Appended is a list of some of the other books presented since the publication of the last Magazine. We regret our inability to publish the complete list owing to lack of space.

Rhodes, F., twelve books by various authors. Letham, three books by Joseph Conrad. Hetherington, "The Rover" by Joseph Conrad. C. J. Tither, "Winsome Winnie" (Leacock), "Damsel in Distress" (Wodehouse), "Love among the Chickens" (Wodehouse). Mr. Green, "Nonsense Novels" (Leacock), "Return of Clubfoot" (V. Williams). J. K. Hadfield, "Through Veldt and Forest" (Collingwood), "Condemned as a Nihilist" (Henty), "The Young Franc-Tireurs" (Henty), "Under Foch's Command" (Brereton), "Piccadilly Jim" (Wodehouse), "Carry on, Jeeves" (Wodehouse), "P. Smith, Journalist" (Wodehouse).

Books by P. G. Wodehouse have also been given by E. Hartley, H. Longbottom, E. F. Wright, Dunkerley.

The following gifts were also appreciated:—"Just William" (Crompton), by Longbottom; "Still William" (Crompton), by Joslin; "More William" and "William Again," by W. B. Potter.

First let me sing the virtues of Five Shillings. Wordsworth was right. The child is father of the man, and you have never been really a boy till you become an Old Boy. For an Old Boy tastes stolen fruit, the golden apples of the myth, that obliterate years. Time will soon and surely bring in his revenge, yet for the moment he is outwitted.

To go to a Dinner is the first sign of being impressive and enfranchised as an adult, for a Dinner is the ornamentation on prosperity and success, as a toast is their slogan. But prosperity and success are not youth, and after all there is no one so fit as a Schoolboy, as you so often told us when our robust days of thoughtless health were blissful ignorance. We disbelieved then your *Et ego in Arcadia vixi*, as if ut with the subjunctive could have a place in any Arcadia.

It is a pity that we have no School Song, wherewith to salute the toast of the School. True, the School is not yet Forty Years On, and we may vainly hope to match, greatly though we envy that song. But School Songs demand no high poetic level. No doubt a School gets the song it deserves, so if we make our memories worthy enough someday, from somewhere, we may hope to get a worthy School Song. It will then be neither flabby, nor obviously and foolishly uplifting.

And so John and I came home, and remembered more things on the way, which are not to be told here, because they concern only the two of us. Of such is the Fellowship of Five Shillings. And yet you know, Mr. Editor, I am not the Treasurer: I have no eye on my balance sheet as I write. I am just

AN OLD BOY.

CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE OLDHAM HULMEIAN."

Dear Sir,

In perusing back numbers of the "Hulmeian," the writer has come upon many and varied excuses for what the different scribes call the "paltriness" of their efforts. In spite of careful manipulation none of these, although sorely needed, appear to be of the slightest use in this case. Fortunately, however, there is another and apparently original one to hand: the difficulty of writing a Cambridge Letter is greatly enhanced by writing it in Oldham.

When a traveller returns from a far country he is usually asked what impressed him most. The newcomer to Cambridge has two things forced upon his notice almost as soon as he arrives: firstly, the large number of bicycles that skim (or perhaps more accurately "skid") about the streets, and secondly, the great facilities provided for losing oneself. This latter is principally brought about by the discontented character of the streets, which change their names every few yards.

Assuming that our new arrival has successfully eluded the bicycles, foiled the evil genius of the streets and finally arrived, his next duty is to choose between various societies, representatives of which flock around him, thicker than leaves in Vallambrosa, or than Middle-School boys round an ice-cream cart. The difficulty is created by the fact that all the societies have quite satisfactory aims.

It would be futile to attempt to protray the scenic and architectural beauties of the town and neighbourhood, and so any of your readers who desire to know more of them have two courses open: they may buy a guide-book or, a much more sensible plan, they may come to the University and see them.

W. R. JOSLIN.

BANKING AS A CAREER.

When a choice of careers is being made the first and the most important consideration is the prospect of success.

In reviewing banking, the first point to be remembered is that a position in a bank is for the working life of the holder.

As regards salary, in all the English banks a clerk is certain of a specified minimum salary of between £260 and £300 on reaching the age of twenty-eight or thirty years. A youth of sixteen or seventeen years will commence at about £60 or £75 per annum, and his salary will increase until the specified minimum is reached. After that point, salary largely depends on merit. A successful man, although his salary will not reach princely heights, may receive a salary running into four figures. Large salaries, that is, above £1,000, are not common; although there are many well-paid posts for efficient workers. The holder of a position in a bank is at least secure from extreme penury. Further, in the majority of cases, the salary is paid free of income tax. In most banks there is also a yearly bonus in addition to the salary.

The employee of a bank is also assured of a yearly pension on retirement. He becomes eligible for this pension, which is usually two-thirds of his salary, at the end of forty years service : these are the conditions in most of the banks.

Provision for dependents is also made. The Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which exists in all the large banks, provides for a pension for the widow of a member, and for the education of any children that may be left.

Another consideration to be borne in mind is that a holder of a position in a bank enjoys a certain amount of social prestige.

In these days of extreme competition for work entrance into the service of a bank is no easy matter. The more important banks are besieged with applications : hence, to be successful, a candidate must be possessed of certain qualifications.

Firstly, it is very desirable that the applicant should hold a matriculation or similar certificate. In the majority of cases this affords exemption from the banks' entrance examination. Most banks now insist on new members of their staff attempting the examinations of the Institute of Bankers, and the possession of a recognised school certificate is of great assistance to the young bankman, because it affords exemption from the Qualifying Examination of that body. Banks also like their staff to come from families of good social position.

The question of age is also important. Candidates who have not reached the age of sixteen years are never accepted. It is very unusual for applicants who are over eighteen years of age to be accepted. Since, however, the appointment is not made until several months after the receipt of the application it is usually advisable to apply as soon after obtaining some recognised school certificate as possible.

The advantages accruing from the possession of a Higher School Certificate are well worthy of consideration.

The usual method of applying for a position in a bank is to communicate with the Manager of the local branch of the bank, whose service it is desired to enter. He is in a position to advise the applicant on such points as the prospects of admission, and the desirability of entering the bank's service as young as possible, or of undergoing a course of higher education.

There is one other point worthy of note. Banks prefer to take members of their staff from a recognised secondary school. They do not favour candidates from so called commercial colleges ;

neither do they look with favour, under ordinary circumstances, on applicants from other businesses. The desirability of a University education before entering a bank is a very controversial point. Judging from recent expressions of opinion by men who hold high positions in the banking world, it would seem that it is preferable to enter a bank straight from school and obtain a technical education afterwards.

F. J. C.

THE LONG-SUFFERING CLASSICS.

A few translations (sic !)

The Consul spoke for his family.
 Consul radius nam sua familia.

Most men therefore,
 Hominissimi iguntur.

Post equitem sedet atra cura.
 After horsemanship the dark lady sits down with care.
 (Dark care sits at the horseman's back).

Arma virumque cano.
 Arms and poison for the dog.
 (Arms and the man I sing).

Senex promissa barba.
 The old man having been promised a baby.
 (An old man with a long beard).

Magnopere.
 Grandfather.
 (Greatly).

Nemo magis rhombum stupuit.
 No one was more astonished than the turbot.
 (No one could have shown more amazement at the sight of the turbot).

They kept watch to see how many times the
 Emperor had been assassinated.

They all died regularly every year.

In order to encourage the soldiers, and to increase
 their spirit, he had decreased their pay.

The island was both itself and for a considerable
 portion round it thickly wooded.

The translations in brackets are not only for the benefit of the
 modern side.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

President : Jonathan Fletcher, Esq.

Hon. Secretary :
George Ross, Esq.

Hon. Treasurer :
John Swales, Esq.

The Association elected the above officers at the Annual General Meeting on November 25th, 1925, after expressing their appreciation of the services of Mr. W. W. Brierley, the retiring President, and Mr. E. Fitton, the retiring Secretary.

The year's activities began on Monday, December 14th, when a hundred Old Boys gathered at Whitehead's Café and found amongst themselves sufficient talented entertainers to provide an excellent programme.

It is very evident that Smoking Concerts are a well-established feature of the Association's programme.

There is a strong movement to develop an Athletic section of the Association, and the preliminary steps will be taken in the course of a few weeks.

Many members are anxious to see the Association settled in its own premises, and it is hoped that here also the Council will be able to make some progress this year.

The Annual Dinner will be a reminiscence by the time these notes appear.

Later a Soiree is to be held under the joint auspices of the Old Girls' Association and the Old Boys' Association.

The Association is still growing in numbers and in strength, and the Council hope that boys who are about to leave will regard membership of the Association as a natural continuation of their school life.

G. R.

OLD BOYS' DINNER AND SMOKER, 1924-25.

(From "Oldham Chronicle").

A GOOD SCHOOL.

ENCOURAGING THE SPIRIT OF COMRADESHIP.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS.

About eighty Old Boys of the Oldham Hulme Grammar School met at the Annual Dinner of the Old Boys' Association at the School on Wednesday evening, and enjoyed themselves in the manner usual on such occasions. The Association is now fast growing in numbers and there are many signs that under the energetic guidance of the present officials it will, as the hope was expressed in one or two of the short speeches that followed dinner, grow in good influence and usefulness as it grows in numbers. It is the present aim of those officials to bring into the Association all the Old Boys with whom they can get in touch. As nearly 1,400 boys have passed through the School and only 250 are members of the Old Boys' Association they are a long way from their ideal, but they would be helped if those who have allowed their membership to lapse, or have not yet joined, would communicate with the Secretary, Mr. Ernest Fitton, 32, Counthill Road, Oldham.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. W. Brierley, the President, Mr. Jonathan Fletcher took the Chair, and after the usual loyal Toast had been honoured he congratulated Mr. S. S. Hammersley, M.P., on being the first member of the Association to gain Parliamentary honours, but hoped he would not be the last. He then asked Mr. Hammersley to propose the Toast of the School.

Mr. Hammersley said: "What a flood of memories is revived by the words 'My old School.' We all have recollections of our schoolboy days. The mind goes back to incidents, almost forgotten, and in our memories we re-enact those events, sometimes joyful, sometimes painful, which formed the landmarks of our days at School. How we can enjoy the remembrance of those few occasions of achievement and good behaviour! How, through the separating years, we can smile at the recollections of our own self-pity on the many occasions when behaviour, not so good, received condign punishment.

"With some people the recollection of their schoolboy days are faint, the ties which connect them to their earlier years are frail; but we, gathered together to-night in honour of our old School are among those whose memories of boyhood are fresh—whose links with the past are firm."

Here Mr. Hammersley gave several amusing incidents relating to his experiences at the School.

"While I am proposing the Toast of the School," he continued, "I would like to pay a tribute to the Head Master, under whose care the School has grown and prospered. I remember the work of those Masters who were at School when I was a boy with feelings of great appreciation. I would like to make special mention of one (now dead) who to my mind placed the welfare and good name of the Hulme Grammar School, Oldham, second to no other consideration. I refer to Mr. Pymm. In every sphere of activity for the good of the School, whether in respect to boys or Old Boys, he was indefatigable. I look back upon his memory, not only with deep respect, but with a feeling of personal gratitude.

"A School that is a good School, is a curious place. It is impersonal, yet in its influence it is particularly personal. It is not so much compounded of bricks and mortar, as made up of the successive impressions which the characters of those who have passed through it, both Masters and Boys, have left upon its fabric. It is these impressions which form the spirit of a School, and, after all, the spirit of a School is the essence of the School itself. For every little addition which we in our time may have made to the spirit of our School, our School has repaid us, not once or twice, but a hundred fold. All of us here are in its debt, and with that knowledge I ask you all to drink with me to the continued success and prosperity of the Hulme Grammar School."

Mr. A. G. Pickford, the Head Master, replied to the Toast and was also humorously reminiscent. He congratulated Mr. Hammersley on his success at the election, and said that he could look back with pride and pleasure on his 22 years at the School. He found that without exception his boys had done something of which he might be proud. They might not always have done what they should have done—that was hardly to be expected—but they had all done something to bring credit to the School.

Mr. F. H. Cockell, a Master at the School, in a happy and beautifully-phrased speech, proposed the Toast of the Association. He recalled Sir Edward Grigg's speech at the last Speech Day,

saying that he had been much impressed by the part of his speech that Sir Edward devoted to the subject of comradeship that School life should engender. The School, said Mr. Cockell, had not done badly in regard to examinations, but if he thought that his work as a Schoolmaster consisted entirely of passing boys through examinations he would give up the work immediately. What made the Schoolmaster's work so extremely interesting was that he had the knowledge that he was doing something to make good citizens and to help in building up that comradeship that is so much needed in these days of encouragement of class hatred. That was also a work in which the Old Boys' Association could take its part. They could see to it that they in their dealings with men were respected by those above them—if any—and those who were under them.

Mr. J. Fletcher responded, and stressed the importance of what Mr. Cockell had said about comradeship. There should be more of the spirit that shared and less of that which wanted everything for itself.

A "sing-song" followed in which Mr. Norman Booth was chief songster.

OLD BOYS' SMOKER AND DANCE.

Some fifty Old Boys of the Oldham Hulme Grammar School met on Monday evening at Whitehead's Café, Market Place, for the second Smoking Concert of the season, and enjoyed themselves as only Old Boys can in such circumstances. They had as Guests five Masters of the School—Messrs. Pickford (Head Master), Cockell, Mayers, Parsons and Buckley. The programme, contributed by members and guests, was conducted by Mr. W. Buckley as Chairman. Songs were sung by Messrs. Mayers, Parsons, E. Brierley, J. A. Bunting, Gartside and Greenhalgh. Messrs. Bunting and Scawthorn were the Pianists. Many good stories were told by Messrs. Fletcher, W. W. Brierley, W. Buckley, Ross, J. Swales, C. Horsfall and others.

The Chairman, in a short speech, introduced the question of summer activities. It was felt that the Association should do something more than has been done in recent years to keep the members together during the summer as well as during the winter. Cricket, tennis and golf matches were discussed, and

the idea of week-end picnics found great favour. The matter was left to the Council for further discussion, and details will be issued to the members later.

Another enjoyable function in connection with the Association was the Annual Dance, held last night at the rooms of Mrs. C. Hamer Cooper, Crossbank Street. A large number of Old Boys and their friends attended and a capital programme of modern dances was provided to last until well past midnight.

OLD BOYS' DINNER, JANUARY 6th, 1926.

(From "Oldham Evening Chronicle").

MUCH EXPECTED.

A LEAD FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The importance of a full realisation of the future influence of the Association, and of guiding that influence in the right direction was the general theme of the speeches at the Annual Dinner of the Oldham Hulme Grammar School Old Boys' Association held on Wednesday evening at the School. There were between 70 and 80 members present, and the Mayor (Councillor F. Pollard) was the guest of the evening.

Mr. J. Fletcher, President of the Association, presided, and after proposing the Toast of the King spoke of the great pleasure it gave them to have the Mayor with them. It was the first time they had been honoured by the presence of the first citizen of the town, and the pleasure was all the greater in that Mr. Pollard was a Governor of the School, and also the father of an Old Boy.

Mr. G. Ross, the Secretary, in proposing the Toast of "The School," told the members of the Association that they had been privileged to receive their education at a fine School—not only a School which was a fine building, but a School with fine traditions. They all owed something to the School—perhaps not material prosperity in every case, but something in every case, and often something a great deal better than mere prosperity.

Mr. F. H. Cockell, one of the Senior Masters at the School, replied. He said that the year 1925 had been one of the most important years in the School's history. During the year the School had made a big advance along the road of efficiency. The opening of the new buildings had made a great difference. The fact that they were now self-contained increased not only comfort but morale. The proof might be seen in the examination results of the last two years. Another great benefit that had helped last year was the improvement of the Playing Fields, but one of the most pressing needs of the moment was more ground, for games were a vital and essential part of training.

A third great benefit had been the rapid growth of the Old Boys' Association. The Association played an enormous part in engendering that esprit de corps without which no School could be successful. The members of the Association could help further by persuading parents not to take their boys away from School immediately after the first examination, at the age of 16. The boys got the final polish and the greatest benefit after that age, and the Staff of the School wished to have more "Advanced Classes". They might be assured that with the Association's help those at the School would never relax their efforts to turn out men who would "do their job" whatever it might be. That seemed to him to be the salient characteristic of all Oldham Hulmeians, and no higher praise could be given. There could be no clearer indication of the most successful and important part played by the School.

The Mayor proposed the Toast of "The Association." After congratulating the Association on its recent rapid growth in numbers, he said that he hoped its influence would continue to grow and that it would become more and more an influence in their life. He told of the work the After Care Committee did in connection with the Elementary Schools by creating in the minds of the boys and girls who had left School the thought that they should still take an interest in education and continue acquiring knowledge. Besides that the After Care Committee was of use in guiding the choice of sphere of work, advising and helping in every way. That, he thought, was partly what that Association should do—help by keeping in touch with the School so that Old Boys would still benefit. Intercourse between kindred spirits and the communism of ideals and ideas would further develop them and make them stronger.

And never was their strength so needed. Never in the country's history was there greater need for men who could lead well. For those of them who were growing up there was a serious duty—to conduct the affairs of their town and even of their country. An Association of that kind ought to have a great influence on the life of the town. Its influence ought to be felt in every phase of the town's life. The boys of that School had had opportunities denied to others and consequently they had greater responsibilities. The men of the class they represented must develop their greater capacity so that their influence would be capable of moulding public and national life. His hope was that their Association would grow and prosper and be of great benefit to the men who having left the School would realise that much having been given to them much was required of them.

Mr. J. Swales, Treasurer of the Association, replied. He said he could not speak of the Association without mentioning the School. He did not believe, as was said in "Tom Brown," that the relations between the masters and the boys were to be likened to a battle because they were natural enemies. Their attempts to get the better of one another might be likened to a game but not to a battle when they had such Masters as they had at the Hulme Grammar School. With such Masters there was no enmity. There was fellowship and a common bond. But a common bond was not enough for their Association. They must have a common purpose, and that common purpose must be more than the organisation of social festivities. One of the objects of the Association as set forth in an old circular was to undertake or support any movement for the good of the School or of the town. They had done something for the School, and they had sent one of their members to Parliament, but they had no Town Councillors nor even any Candidates for the Council. They had given a Governor and several Masters to the School, but had done nothing much for the town. They had given soldiers to the country in war, but nothing to the town in peace. In doing more for the town in which they lived there might be an outlet for some of their energies.

In song and story the rest of the evening passed quickly, the programme being contributed to by the Mayor and Messrs. J. Fletcher, J. Ross, J. Swales, E. Brierley, J. A. Bunting, Thorpe, H. Ashton and J. Harrison, with the help and hindrance of the full chorus of all the members present.

“ THIS ANIMAL IS DANGEROUS.”

THE ONE-ARMED APE AT BELLE VUE SPEAKS.

Oh, I am the bold and bad Mandrill
 With a threatening glare on my fiendish face,
 And terrible tusks to tear and kill
 The foes that shiver at my grimace.
 With a dust-grey coat and a carmine nose,
 And cheeks of a bright sea-blue,
 And a bristling brow I am glaring now
 From the back of my cage—at you !

For once I was king of the monkey folk
 Who gibbered and quaked at my royal rage.
 They knew my forchard's throttling stroke !
 Hence I'm here in a separate cage.
 The others now beg for sugar and nuts ;
 Their spirit is dead, it's true !
 But of me beware when my terrible stare
 Strikes a chill at the heart—of you !

For a sultry slumber I sometimes dream
 Of a memory dimmed as years go by,
 How I ruled supreme where the forests teem
 With the lust of life in a scalding sky.
 How we chased and scrambled with hearts abeat,
 Fought and frolicked and flew—
 So well you may quake, whenever I wake
 Snarling a sneer—at you !

For to you I am only a mad Mandrill,
 Safely imprisoned in this small space :
 And safe you mock and take your fill
 Of holiday sport at my ugly face.
 Yes, I am the bold and bad Mandrill
 Kept in a cage at Belle Vue,
 Who cannot abate the horrible hate
 That I scream at the world—and you.

M. H. E.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Oldham, 1926.

Sir,

May I trespass on your valuable columns to recommend to your notice—the newly-formed "Sprightly Oldham Society," an enterprising body which numbers among its aims the brightening of boyhood, the enlivenment of education, the systematic study of scholastic psychology with a view to stimulating the sensitivity of the student, and the encouragement of artistic appreciation in general.

It is in connection with the last-named that I now venture to write you. We have heard several of the musical and dramatic entertainments organised by the Hulme Grammar School, and it is in all humility that we suggest a fuller use of the undoubted talent you have at your disposal. In framing the enclosed programme, we have outlined an entertainment to be provided by members of the Staff, in the hope that—should you decide to profit by our suggestions, this may be but a stepping-stone to even greater things, and that, in the near future, the boys themselves may be inspired by such an example to arrange similar entertainments of their own, to the improvement of their own minds and the advancement of true learning in our ancient borough.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. CHIRPS,

Hon. Sec.

PROGRAMME.

1.—PIANOFORTE SOLO... "Rhapsodie Sulphurique"(Zincoven)

F. L. P...TTER.

2.—SONG... " 'Twas only a tiny garden, but the shamrock grew
in clumps"...(Patrick O'Nion)

F. H. C...CKELL.

(With Bagpipe accompaniment by H. L. GRE...N).

- 3.—DRAMATIC EXTRACT...Act IX., Scene 19, from an unpublished
Chronicle play by G. Burning Sore, entitled :—
"The Portobello Pub."

Characters (in order of disappearance) —

Robert Walpole.....L. R. HUXT...BLE.

Lord Frownsend.....F. W. C...PE.

The above scene deals with the bursting of the "South Sea Bubble."
Soap solution kindly provided by R. H. ALB...RY.

- 4.—SONG....."The Rosary".....
H. S. EDW...RDS.

(Saxophone obligato by H. L. GRE...N).

- 5.—DUETS from "Songs of a Sassenach"..... (M. R. L. Dyle)
(a) "A Ballad of Ballygoyle."
(b) "How soft the moon on Harts Head Pike."
R. A. H. M...YERS and F. H. R...GAN.

- 6.—MONOLOGUE....."Younger Gin".....(Tipling)
J. S. B...TES.

(Musical effects on 19 instruments by R. H. ALB...RY).

- 7.—DUET....."Yes, Sir, that's my baby".....
N. W...LTON and E. S. J...NES.

- 8.—SCENA from the Opera, "Il Whigatore".....(Wordi)
Visconte de Vaselino ... M. H. ELISCH...R.
Lord Lanoline R. A. H. M...YERS.

INTERVAL.

- 9....."Bearding the lion in its den".....

A thrilling spectacle presented by S. E. B...CKL...Y and his
famous troupe of one genuine tailless erse lion.

Tamer, S. E. B...CKL...Y. Lion, R. A. H. M...Y...RS.

- 10.—SONGS.....(a) "Cutie, you're a beauty"...(F. L. Apper)
 (b) "O wipe those tears" ... (S. O. B. Stuff)

F. M. P...RSONS

NOTE.—The audience is requested to join in the refrain of (b), the words of which are printed below :—

p O wipe those tears :
 pp And squash those fears :
 cresc. Life's not intended for yawning,
 f Just stop that noise :
 mf Boys will be boys.
 ff cresc. We may be corpses in t'morning.

- 11.—RECITATION from "Death o' me, you Sillies" (Huskin)

S. E. B...CKLEY.

- 12.—BIMBO and BOMBO present their famous knockabout turn
 of Comic Acrobats.

Bimbo, A. J. B...TLER.

Bombo, F. H. C...CKELL.

- 13.—ACCIDENTAL MUSIC from "A Midsummer Nightmare".....
 (Meddlesohm)

THE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA.

