



The Denstonian.

DECEMBER, 1915.

No. 237.

VOL. XXXIX. No 6.

EDITORIAL.

THE Term, with its many and varying activities, is drawing to a close. The Annual Play is not to be given, and it was expected that Football matches would be few. But the visits of various regimental teams have given us more matches than we anticipated and the Literary and Scientific Society has provided a large number of lectures. Interest centres, of course, as is inevitable and fitting, in the O.T.C.,

and zeal and keenness in matters military continue. The numbers of the College have also continued to be most satisfactory; in fact they have increased, although that seemed hardly possible.

We close this year's volume, therefore, with mingled feelings: pleasurable when we look at home on our little world of Denstone, but anxious when our gaze travels further. But we may not doubt that the spirit which animates Denstone is the same as that which fills all the people of our Empire; and therefore we have no hesitation in offering our readers the old wish for a happy Christmas and New Year.

MATER DOLOROSA VICTRIX.

*He lay, the Child of all her hopes and fears,
Broken and dead and, pillow'd on her breast,
Again the tired Head sank down to rest
Where oft it nestled in the happier years.
She bathed the bleeding Brow, with silent tears,
In deadly strife sore-smitten, vanquish'd, torn
And crown'd in mockery with a wreath of
thorn.
What hope for her thro' all the desolate years ?
Then soft within her soul came back the word
' Thou most of women blessed! ' As she heard,
The mother's love, undaunted, lit the gloom :
And thro' her anguish'd tears she seem'd to see
The hard thorn burgeon into leaf and bloom,
And round His Brows the wreath of victory.*

BEHIND THE FIGHTING LINE.

Behind the fighting line are the reserves and reinforcements. There are made the preparations for the advance and arrangements for repairing wastage; there are the depots of munitions; there are collected stores; there, too, casualties are attended to, and the fallen, often, laid at rest. On what is done behind the fighting line depends success or failure at the front. Many more are engaged there than further ahead, and their work is unceasing and it is infinite in variety.

Far behind the fighting line are we, and we have our work to do with the rest who are similarly circumstanced; and such has been the effect of the example of those who have gone to active service from us that we have seemed to suffer but little from their loss. Things go on, with younger leaders and a lighter team, to all appearances as flourishingly as ever. That is the best testimony to the merits of those of whose services we have been deprived. Their

legacy of enthusiasm and zeal has saved us, has indeed given us increased vigour.

Term by term we have sent fresh men to military service, thirty-five straight from School ; but day by day and week by week the fighting line needs to be supplied. We are too far back to be able to take our place in ammunition trains or provision convoys, but every lesson well learnt and well given helps. More obviously is O.T.C. work war work—drills and parades, officers' classes, instructions, and the rest of it. Most direct of all is the daily Intercession, and especially the weekly Eucharist, for our brothers on active service.' This is no pompous ceremony, and has no attraction for the musical ear or the artistic eye : it is just a plain and simple drawing of stores to help our brothers in their duty. The list of names which is laid upon the altar grows long, but the recital is the reverse of tedious, and none would have it abbreviated or slurred, though many of the names are unknown to most of us. What matters that ? They are Denstonians, and therefore worthy and dear. The elders of us are especially affected by *these* names ; some few are those of fellows in class-room or playing fields ; more were pupils ; and across the years comes the fragrance of long-cherished or long forgotten friendships, rivalries, confidences and hopes, joys and disappointments—all alike now doubly dear and precious. ; But many are familiar to all ; some we even knew in our little world a short sixteen months ago, and now they are playing parts in the great drama which has the real world for its stage. It is strange to think of them so occupied ; but we can see, often, how early promise is being fulfilled in a way of which we never dreamed. Often, too, there was little warning of such resolute achievements as have been won. Some, we



2nd Lt. F. C. Blunt,
Leicestershire Regiment,
Wounded of Wounds received at Loos.



Lieut. P. Gedge,
Suffolk Regt.,
Killed in Action at Loos.



Lieut. B. Hall,
S. Staffs. Regt.,
Killed in Action at Loos.



2nd Lt. E. C. Bladen,
W. Staffs. Regt.,
Killed in Action in Gallipoli.



2nd Lt. C. E. Whitworth,
Yorkshire Regt.,
Wounded and Missing " since
Aug. 22, 1915.



Lt. M. H. Spicer,
Royal Marines,
Twice wounded in Gallipoli ; now
Invalided home.



2nd Lt. T. H. Averill,
N. Staffs. Regt.,
Reported " Killed " ; wounded in
Gallipoli.



Lt. P. C. Clayton,
Manchester Regt.,
Wounded in Action in Gallipoli.



Capt. C. R. Keary,
N. Staffs. Regt.,
Wounded in Flanders.



Staff-Capt. E. Woolraer,
Lanes. Fusiliers,
Mentd. in Dispatches " (Gallipoli)
The Military Cross.



2nd Lt. J. N. Knight,
Sherwood Foresters,
Wounded in Action in Flanders.



Lt. A. Menzies,
N. Staffs. Regt.,
Wounded in Action in Gallipoli.



J. W. Manghan,
R.A.M.C.,
Wounded in Action at Hulluch.



2nd Lt. E. H. Robinson,
Royal Engineers,
Invalided from Gallipoli.



2nd Lt. F. H. Wolliscroft,
N. Staffs. Regt.,
Wounded in Flanders.



Lt. H. S. Bates,
Cambridgeshire Regt.,
Invalided from Flanders.



R. G. Bagg,
City of London Yeomanry,
Wounded in Gallipoli.



Lt. O. G. Misquith
London Regt.,
Invalided from Flanders.

strangely—as it seems now—failed to appreciate, and the names of these bring heart-searchings and contrition, and a fuller meaning of the too-familiar warning about despising "little ones." Closest of all comes the list of those who have fallen. Names, these, that tug at the heart-strings. One tells of a brilliant future closed in a moment; another, of a quiet life roused into glorious vigour; all, of reward and honour unexpected.

If our well-being is largely the result of the example of those who have left, still more may we think of it as due to these—their inspiring lead, their fragrant memories, their continued work for us; and, so thinking, gratitude brightens grief, and the only thought of self which remains is a resolve to be worthy of them.

WITH THE FLYING CORPS IN FRANCE.

By an CD. Observer.

Some are inclined to think that of all branches of the Service the Flying Corps is at the same time the safest and most exciting. To a certain extent they are correct. One is not under fire everyday and all day, but one cannot go an inch over the "lines" without meeting "Archie," and he has done very well just lately. We set off on our trips at all hours of the day—sometimes at daybreak, sometimes as late as four in the afternoon—and yet "Archie" is rarely caught napping. If it were not for the presence of "Archie," one would hardly realise that one was flying over hostile ground. In many points the English and German trenches cannot be distinguished one from the other, and everywhere they

appear like a huge network spread on the ground. I think that bleached sandbags are a great help to one in distinguishing trenches.

Since my return I find that the prevalent opinion at home is that the sole duty of the Flying Corps is that of dropping bombs. Perhaps this is because they do not hear of the daily traffic of British machines over the lines. Reconnaissance is the principal duty of any Flying Corps, and air photography and artillery ranging form a far more important part of the duty of the Flying Corps than bomb dropping. It is the air reconnaissances which enables such a movement as the recent "push" to come off with any degree of success.

One day I got orders to go on a tactical reconnaissance, which was to include Lille, Tournai, and certain other towns. Having got my maps and field-glasses, and attended to the machine-gun (which *is not* a Maxim, as newspapers so often erroneously report), I handed the pilot a map marked with our route. He then "ran" the engine on the ground, and as she gave the satisfactory number of revolutions I got in and off we went. In addition to the machine gun and ammunition, I took up a rifle and ammunition, the beauty of this machine-gun being that ordinary rifle ammunition is the proper ammunition for it.

We had arranged to cross the lines not under 9,500 feet, as "Archie" had been doing so well over the Armentieres district where we intended to climb. It took us some little time to get our height, but by way of a change we climbed towards the lines. Just as we were over Armentieres we saw that "Archie" had already begun to work, for range puffs were up. Range puffs are white smoke-shells, each at a different height, from about 4,000 to 12,000 feet.

I then got my glasses fixed on the ground to try and locate him for our artillery to strafe. I could not find him, as there was a slight haze. We were grateful for the haze, as the shells were whizzing all around us, but not bursting near, and he didn't get one hit.

Having passed over him, we went on to Lille, where among other things I had to examine was the rolling stock at the stations. Lille is indeed a disagreeable spot for an aviator who flies low. At the Citadel there are batteries and batteries of "Archies," and "Fritz" lives at the Aerodrome; "Fritz" is an ill-mannered German machine with two bodies. Bearing these facts in mind, we dived only 1,000 feet to 8,500, from which height I had an excellent view of the city. By accident we passed over a wood just S.E. of Lille, where we got thoroughly strafed before we knew what was happening. Woods are always worth avoiding. However, that "Archie" was a doomed man unless he moved, for I had him on my map. From Lille to Tournai things were uneventful in more ways than one, so I had lots of time to complete my notes. At Tournai the shooting was the worst on the trip, and everything was nice and quiet until, after visiting several other towns further east, we came to Courtrai. It seemed that the Huns had something to hide, for we saw no less than four different sets of "Archie" puffs go up on our approach. It was really good fun dodging them so that I could get a good view of the stations and the squares. To annoy the Huns, we did not hustle off, but remained just out of their reach until the arrival of a motor-"Archie" hastened our departure. Before we went home we had several more towns to visit, but we were only badly strafed at one of them. However, when we came

back—again not far from Armentieres—we got thoroughly "potted," and no matter how we dodged they got our range. As may be guessed, this was most annoying, for we had used all the dodges which hardly ever fail. It was not long before I discovered the cause of our little trouble. There was a Hun machine drifting behind us, just nicely out of our gun range, signalling all our movements. I quickly pointed this out to the pilot, and he put her "nose down." The speed caused by the dive got us out of danger in a few minutes, and we landed home with the tail and wings riddled with holes.

WAR NEWS.

Staff-Captain E. Woolmer has been mentioned in dispatches from Gallipoli, and has gained the Military Cross. He is now on the 42nd East Lancashire Divisional Staff, and we hear also that his popularity with his men (6th Batt. Lancashire Fusiliers) is very great. He left England for Egypt in September, 1914, and went to Gallipoli on May 3rd.

It is interesting and satisfactory to note that since the war began no less than thirty-five Denstonians have gone straight from school into His Majesty's Forces. Of these, fifteen gave up careers at Oxford and Cambridge, and seven surrendered scholarships and exhibitions in order to serve. In all, thirty-three Denstonians have given up University careers, of whom fifteen held scholarships or exhibitions, and one a Fellowship.

The total number known to be serving is now over 600.

Lt.-Col. G. D. L. Chatterton is reported wounded in the Persian Gulf Expedition.

We much regret to learn that 2nd Lt. C. B. Dodds has been "missing" at Loos since September 26th.

A. Menzies left for Gallipoli in June, and during the voyage out they were interested in the anti-submarine tactics of their transport. They passed the Straits of Gibraltar on June 30, and were at Malta two days. On their arrival at Gallipoli they were greeted by two shells over their boat while landing. Shells were frequent, coming over the cliff beneath which they had their first camp, and bursting a few yards out at sea. After a couple of days they moved inland, without baggage, to dug outs, where they had to live and sleep in the same clothes, and where again shells were common. From here they moved by night, and so eventually got into the trenches. Of course he mentions the ever-present plague of flies. "The whole land is a light yellow colour, and the heat is terrific. We try to get shade by rigging up waterproof sheets, but it gets so stuffy underneath and collects so many flies that we are usually soon driven out. You would smile to see us all perched on every corner of the cliff; it is very steep, and the men cut back the ground above the ledges and so form little caves. They are all extremely happy, and take everything as it comes with great good humour. It is very interesting to see the shells going over." After four days in the trenches, from forty to one hundred yards from the Turks, he says: "The worst of it is, you cannot get away from the shells and bullets; they buzz over all day." The machine-gun officer being wounded, he had to take charge of them, six in all. He describes his appearance thus: "A towel

wrapped round my knees, my head in a bag of mosquito netting, a rug tied over me, and I am dripping at every pore. . . I have to go two miles to the sea to get a wash. We had one dust-up this time with the enemy, and beat him well. One of my guns did quite good work. We got a telegram of congratulation from Sir Ian Hamilton. The heat is rather less now, and there has been quite a breeze; but it makes things worse than the heat, because of the dust it raises; this is extremely fine, and has a beastly taste. Everything gets full of it—blankets, clothes, eyes, ears, nose, and food, and it even gets into the water-bottles. One of the greatest troubles here is dysentery; nearly everybody gets a dose of it, from swallowing so much sand; and when you do manage to sleep in the trenches (which is not often, because of the continuous din of firing) you wake up with every orifice filled with sand, and little chance of a wash."

M. H. Spicer has arrived at Haslar Hospital. He speaks well of Ras-el-Tin Hospital at Alexandria, and mentions Mrs. Roberts' kindness to him there.

B. Girling has been "hung up" on the wrong side of the Panama Canal by the latest landslide there. "The latest news is that one can walk across the Culebra Cut dryshod!" They are returning *via* the Straits of Magellan.

I. F. Menzies is now machine-gun officer. They have had much bad weather in Flanders, with some severe cold, which has already produced cases of frost-bite. He has met Reed and Beatty.

F. R. Collis is quite near Canon Tyrwhitt, whom he sees several times each week as a rule.

G. B. Fyldes describes how memories of *Hamlet* were called up by hearing the band play "Ase's Tod" in Flanders. "I wish I were doing the dumbshow now. There were persistent rumours that we were to be transferred to Serbia, but I am glad to say they have proved to be without foundation."

P. E. Burrows has met C. Powel Smith, whose men had been holding trenches which Burrows went to relieve. He has also heard of Fyldes and Short being in the neighbourhood. "The last time we were in the trenches we only had five shells, and they were small ones. On October 10th we were heavily bombarded for three hours, and on October 12th the Germans suddenly opened a rapid rifle-fire for no reason whatever, and kept it up for half an hour."

J. W. Maughan is in the Wharnccliffe Hospital at Sheffield, and Mrs. Inman has been good enough to visit him. He says: "[was in the reserve trenches at Hulluch with the Guards, who were standing in reserve. Our CO. volunteered to send a section of the bearers up to search for stray wounded, as the other ambulances had been working hard. Eight of us were trying to get in half a dozen North Staffords who had been lying wounded in the old fire trench for two days, and it had been shelled so much that it was difficult to get at, and impossible to take a stretcher. Several attempts had been made to get the poor fellows in, without success, and two had been killed. It was decided to go up in twos with waterproof sheets, and I was one of the first on the list. We were just preparing for a start when the Germans began to shell us heavily, and a shell dropped right on the edge of the parapet where we were and sent us all broadcast. My com-

panion and I were blown right along the trench, and I don't remember much more till I was picked up, I have lost a bit of my ear and have a wound in the head behind the ear, and just a graze on my left arm. I hope soon to be ready for duty again under the old flag. I heard afterwards that we got two of the North Staffords away, and that they were going to try to get the others away when it was dark."

G. N. H. Wooler was in Canada when war broke out, and enlisted at Montreal in the 14th Batt. Royal Montreal Regiment and for nearly a year has been in Flanders with the First Canadian Contingent.

A. E. Barlow, at Gallipoli, has joined the ranks of the mighty at Brigade Headquarters: "At present I am running the Brigade machine-guns, and as we are short of both officers and ammunition it is no much of a job. We have just taken over the whole front of the Division, and I have twenty-two guns. The Turk has lately exploded five mines in a length of fifty yards, and caused considerable loss, so today (Sept. 3rd) he is to be well strafed. One or two mines are to go up under him and he is to be well shelled. We get occasional prisoners coming in, and they all say that if some means could be arranged for them to surrender they would do so willingly. They have all good uniforms and are well fed, but complain of the harshness of the German officers. I think the natural stubbornness of the Turk in a fortified position, with a touch of German discipline, results in a very hard nut to crack. I am laying in stores for the winter, but I don't know if there will be a brigade left by then, with thirty going off the peninsula a day. The great sport here is

bombing fish. One gets off shore a little way, and as it is quite shallow one can see the fish plainly. When a good number has collected a bomb is dropped overboard—and jolly good they are too."

L. B. Helder is also attached to headquarters as Brigade Bombing Officer. He left for France on November 13th.

G. Collier, who was our engineer, is on H.M.S. *Cauopus*. He is in good health and spirits, but thinks little progress is being made in Gallipoli: "It is very difficult to fight in these big hills, and the Turks are very cunning; one day you would think they are short of ammunition, and presently they pour shells all about us."

A. F. Croßs crossed to France on November 8th, and was at Etaples till the 21st, when they went up to the front. He mentions that in July, when he took a draft to Ireland, he met W. F. Rudd, who is musketry instructor at Kinnel Park.

When A. Menzies was wounded in Gallipoli he was actually sitting talking to T. H. Averill. They were in a rest camp and talking of Denstone, when a shell burst over their heads. A splinter from the shell killed the adjutant. Averill was in the 13th Division, which had the almost unique experience of being at Helles and also at Anzac. They reached Anzac Cove five days before the new landing was made at Suvla Bay. They took part, with the Australians, New Zealanders and Sikhs, in the advance that was made from August 6th to 10th. On the night of August 10th they had to retire, as the troops at Suvla Bay had failed to gain their objective.

Dr. C. Averill has gone to the Dardanelles on the Headquarters Staff as Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services.

Dr. W. Turner has gone to Serbia, attached to No. 29 General Hospital: "We are a complete hospital, with surgeons, physicians, anaesthetist, bacteriologist, radiographer, oculist, aurist, etc.; thirty-six of us on the staff; 1,040 beds. I was in camp at Pembroke Dock with one of the Welsh regiments during August."

C. J. Gurnhill met P. Gedge in a cafo three weeks before the latter was killed: "He was a splendid fellow, I thought, and a great friend of mine. I am so glad I saw him before he died. C. R. Keary also came through the dressing station where I was working, luckily only comparatively slightly wounded." He also makes the interesting suggestion: "Don't you think the Shakespearean plays have had a great share in fostering the splendid spirit Denstone is showing in the war?"

Capt. B. M. R. Sharp has been attached to the General Staff as Brigade Commander of Machine-guns (Flanders).

Dr. A. L. E. F. Coleman was wounded at the end of September. Four pieces of shell hit him; one went clean through his left arm, one took a small piece out of his left thigh, one went through his tunic without touching him, and the other through both tunic and gas helmet, also without touching. Of course all wounds got poisoned. He is now at 58, Queen Anne Street, W.

M. G. Parker was in the Royal Engineers, but his health broke down, and now he has had to turn his engineering skill to the making of aeroplanes.

M. C. Rogers is a midshipman in the Royal Naval Reserve, and is at present on H.M.S. *Himalaya*.

E. Brettel Vaughan has been gazetted Lieutenant on the Staff, Kitchener's Army.

R. West Symes is working in the 15th General Hospital at Alexandria. He joined the R.A.M.C. at the beginning of September, 1914, and was at Aldershot till March 5th, when he left for an unknown destination, which proved to be Egypt. They have accommodation for 1,500 beds, which have usually been filled. "We could not be in a more interesting place, though the all pervading military renders the normal charms of this ancient city somewhat difficult of realisation. I have been fortunate enough to run across B. K. Bond, who was here for a short time as chaplain in this hospital. We have also the Rev. C. R. Lockyer, who tells me he has two nephews at Denstone."

E. H. Robinson is in hospital at Ras-el-Tin, Alexandria, and of course has been discovered by Mrs. Roberts. "I am not wounded, luckily. I had been ill for some considerable time on the peninsula, but I tried to 'stick it,' but finally had to give up on Oct. 22nd—dysentery, and generally run down. There is one thing about a British hospital, at any rate—they do look after you well. I came across Hugh Bowman in Gallipoli, and we knew one another directly. I am very glad O.Ds have answered the call so well."

E.S. Collins has been making shell cases and fuse caps, and fitting up hospitals with bedsteads, and is now getting a commission.

H. Cooper is still at the R.N. Hospital, Dunkirk, and finds the life and work

interesting. It is really a kind of clearing hospital. "We have had our excitements especially on the five different days when the Germans threw hate at us, in the shape of 15-inch guns from somewhere twenty miles away. Bombs are also of course occasionally dropped, but so they are in England."

F. M. Jackson is doing chaplain's work in the Dunkirk district.

W. Hall is commanding a mining fatigue, so does not have to go near the trenches: "So I am out of harm's way for a short time." He is at Bethune.

R. H. F. Coleman is stationed at Can-nock Chase, so has been able to walk over to us several times.

F. R. Collis has had a few days' leave, and was kind enough to pay us a flying visit, which we much appreciated. He was looking very fit. He has been appointed to the command of the Ammunition Column, 2nd Brigade, 46th Division.

H. E. L. Fisher also visited us while on a short leave, A. and J. F. Menzies, H. S. Bates, P. E. Burrows and Eric Wood.

R. S. Hall, in the Persian Gulf, has been invalided to a hospital ship.

Among others of whom we have recently heard in France are:—E. J. Anderson, K. C. Beatty, N. Radford, E. A. Brock, E. M. Browne, L. F. Cass, E. L. Chadwick (wounded), R. R. Mellor, A. Comrie (wounded), L. F. Cross, D. Gilbert, L. B. Helder, G. A. Howe, R. G. Lochner, J. D. Mason, R. Morton, L. S. Mould, C. R. Norman, C. H. Pearce, P. H. Powis, G. F. W. Reed, E. Rhodes, E. J. O. Richards,

C. S. Ridge, W. H. Ridge, C.L. Roberts, H.T.M. Roberts, G.G. Shone, H. Stanger, R. A. Starbuck Williams, P. S. L. Sutcliffe, T. S. Turkington, H. T. Valentine, G.N. H. Wooler, L. B. Forrest, R. Wilson.

H. St. J. Browne is in Gallipoli, also Hugh Bowman, C. Averill, R. G. Bugg, E. C. Dunncliffe, R. V. D. Kirby, G. S. Lund, H. Makinson, J. N. Rowland, W. A. Sewell.

J. E. H. Knight, in Cairo, has been in hospital, but is better.

To Serbia have gone R. J. H. Buttanshaw, E. S. Rerrie, W. Turner, C. W. Townsend.

G.W. Haws was in the railway accident at Gretna Green on May 26th, and was instrumental in doing much useful service on that occasion. They were on their way to Gallipoli, and on July 12th he was wounded. On September 27th he was invalided to Alexandria.

C.G. Stoddard is in Egypt as Hon. Capt. and Transport Officer, R.A.M.C., 2nd E. Lanes Div.

Hugh Bowman was warned for France, but suddenly a telegram ordered him to start at once for Gallipoli. He hurried to Newcastle to take charge of a draft of the Sherwood Foresters, and so could not even say "Good-bye" to his people at home. He met three O.Ds. on the boat, but does not mention their names.

J.C. Warburton, also in Gallipoli, had had no letters for three weeks owing to one of the boats with mails aboard having gone down nine miles from where he is.

W. P. Bleakley has gone back to Gallipoli.

G. B. Fyldes, who has just been gazetted Captain, writes:—"We are now having quite an easy time in corps reserve, where we are likely to remain till after Christmas. Of course we are kept quite busy, but there is none of the strain which there is in the trenches, and it is really a rest. The only drawback is that no one is allowed on leave while we are here, and as we have most of us done our three months and are therefore entitled to leave, it is rather trying. The men are all in tents, but we officers are in a farmhouse—which isn't, however, such a blessing as it sounds, because one tumbles over small urchins at every turn, while the national dislike to fresh air is developed to its highest degree. I think things have settled down for the winter now, but it will not, I imagine, be so eventless as last year, as a policy of increasing the discomfort of the Huns as much as possible has been decided on, and frequent incursions into their lines on a small scale—like that of the Canadians about three weeks ago—may be expected."

A little news has come through from German East Africa, where C. O. Andrews is interned. The Bishop of Zanzibar has received a letter from one of the interned missionaries, dated July 3rd, and posted at Kilimantinde, saying that the writer and his companions, including C. O. Andrews, were "quite well." So far all the efforts of the Foreign Office to procure the release of the priests and ladies of the Mission have failed.

W. B. Cox who has been on active service in Flanders for ten months and in the same regiment as C. G. S. Rawlings,

mentions the latter's death—"an exceedingly popular man." He says he himself was one of the very few in the regiment who came out of the battle untouched. He has not had a day's sickness since last Christmas.

H. W. Beck went out to Flanders again at the end of October and had a couple of hours in Rouen Cathedral while passing through the city. "I thought much about our 'last' play, *King Henry VI, Part I.*"

H. Hamer has completed his course in Aviation and has obtained his Aeroplane Pilot's certificate. He was accepted by the Royal Naval Air Service, and passed the Selection Committee, but was rejected for a slight defect in one of his eyes at the Medical Examination. However the officials at the War Office were kind and advised special goggles to remedy things and the Royal Flying Corps is accepting him. "As for the actual flying" he says, "I have never had any trouble at all with it. Mapplebeck's death was very sad, as he was one of the finest pilots in the country."

We hear that A. J. Wood is now on the canal which runs from the Yser through Loos. His position is just south of Elverdinghe, on the west side of the canal. They are well under shell-fire, and the whole district is full of English, French and Belgian guns, large and small. There is abundance of aircraft also, and the Germans are evidently well aware of the state of affairs, from the way they fire on our position. "Our batteries are constantly searched for by the German guns, and as some are quite close to our wood, they are both a protection (in case of attack) and a nuisance. I am writing from the chateau in which we subs, have a mess room. A

hundred yards away is a lake very like that at Crakemarsh in both size and shape. Some men were boating on it the other day when a Hun aeroplane was up, with the result that half-a-dozen shells were put over, and all fell in the lake. This shows that they have everything round here well taped. This is specially the case with the roads; they can drop a shell on any given point on the road between Elverdinghe and Ypres whenever they like. The great mystery is why they do not shell the chateau. A few windows have been smashed, but otherwise the place is intact. Potize, where Salmon was buried, is just south-west of Ypres, but as the roads are in a dreadful condition it is difficult to get there even if I had time. I looked for his grave at Poperinghe. I had quite an enjoyable day yesterday, the best since I have been here. It was a day of hard frost, and so three of us decided to walk into Poperinghe. It was a lovely walk, and we had a really good feed and got a lift back. I am having another off day today, and to-morrow I take a working party down to the canal. This means getting up at 6 a.m. and retiring at 6 p.m. The day following I am orderly officer, and after that I go down to the canal for six days."

On the way down the truth of his observation about the ability of the Germans to shell the roads was proved, for a shell burst quite close to the party. Knowing that shells do not come singly, they all bolted, and every one of them escaped.

G. Keeling, writing on Nov. 22nd from Flanders, speaks of the general cheeriness, in spite of the bad weather: "I have been on the look-out for any Denstonians, but though I am quite close to the Staffords, where Warwick Hall is, I have not seen one. I was very sorry to hear about dear



2nd Lt. A. J. H. Widdowson,
5th Lincs. Regt.,
Killed in Action near Mons.



Corpl. C. G. S. Rawlings,
Co. of London Regt.
Killed in Action in Flanders.



2nd Lt. F. B. Burr,
Worcestershire Regt.,
Killed in Action at Neuve Chapelle.



2nd Lt. J. W. H. Grieg,
25th Indian Cavalry,
Killed in Action in India.



J. H. Goodyear,
Liverpool Regt.,
Killed in Action near Ypres.



2nd Lt. B. C. Job,
R. West Kent Regt.,
Killed in Action at Hill 60.



F. E. Clark,
Hon. Artillery Co.,
Killed in Action near Ypres.



E. O. Collinson,
Gordon Highlanders (Vancouver),
Killed in Action at Festubert.



2nd Lt. D. C. J. Copland,
Sherwood Foresters,
Killed in Action at Aubers.



Lt. A. T. Railton,
Seaforth Highlanders,
Killed in Action at Aubers.



F. C. White,
Leicestershire Yeomanry,
Killed in Action near Ypres.



Capt. R. J. Fairclough,
Liverpool Regt.,
Killed in Action in Flanders.



Lt. A. E. B. Dixon,
N. Lanes. Regt.,
Killed in Action in Flanders.



2nd Lt. N. C. Newland,
Monmouthshire Regt.,
Wounded and Captured May 5th at Ypres; Died of Wounds Gn. Hospital.



G. P. Ravvstorne,
Royal Naval Reserve,
Killed in Action in Gallipoli.



H. Broadbent,
Rifle Brigade,
Killed in Action in Flanders.



Capt. A. G. Rollason,
Worcestershire Regt.,
Died on Active Service in France.



N. G. R. Amies,
The Buffs,
Killed in Action in France.

old Bruce. There was quite a good account of what our Division (15th) did during the push on September 25th, in the *Times* last week. We were glad to read it, because after we had read all the other accounts we began to doubt whether we had really been there, though I don't think the Huns had any doubt! After all, we were really the people who took Loos and Hill 70.

"I was in one of the batteries which went up just behind the infantry, and we had a very rough time. Only two batteries of us went up, and we were firing point-blank; but I can't talk about it, as the Censor would object. We are still in action; in fact, we have not been back for the so-called 'rest' since we first went up in this part of the line."

I. Menzies, mentioning that he is now Machine-gun Officer, expresses a desire to "take on" Mrs. Hibbert with it, having heard of her shooting feat at the opening of the Rochester Range.

J. P. Ward is back home from the Dardanelles. His Division took part in the new landing at Suvla Bay, and at the beginning had some pretty fierce fighting, in which losses were heavy. After the first three days, except for constant shelling (to which everybody, whether in the first-line trenches or in the reserve trenches, was equally exposed), things toned down a bit. The country was very difficult, and the supply of water, ammunition, and rations to the firing line a very difficult matter.

R. G. Biigg was wounded at Suvla Bay on August 21st, and is being treated for paralysis in London.

T. F. Linnell is a Lieutenant R.E. in British East Africa, where he has been in charge of a section of the Uganda Railway which has been repeatedly raided and blown up by the Germans.

WAR OBITUARY.

Eustace C. Bladen was here Jan., 1911—Mar., 1913. He was a most attractive boy, and keenly musical; his skill on the 'cello is still remembered. He was in the O.T.C., and was just beginning to take the prominent part in all school activities for which his maturing faculties were fitting him, when he went on to learn agriculture at Harper Adams College, leaving behind him a memory that was bright and happy. As soon as war was declared he joined the 5th Batt. N. Staffordshire Regiment, and saw service in Flanders. On January 5th he was gazetted 2nd Lieut., 11th Batt. West Riding Regiment, and went to Gallipoli attached to the 8th Battalion. He arrived on September 29th, and on October 16th wrote to the Head as follows:—"I came out here a fortnight ago, having sailed on September 15th from Devonport. On the way out we stopped for half an hour only at Gibraltar to get our orders. Our next stop was Malta, where we coaled. We were allowed ashore for about twenty-four hours. What a queer place Malta is! You see nothing but three-storied, flat-roofed houses and goats. They have an odd way of selling the milk; they take the goats round to the houses and milk them as required, so you are always sure of getting your milk fresh. We left at night to the sounds of music from the French band on one of their battleships. It was rather nice of them to turn out for us. We did not stop again till we got to Mudros Bay, on Lemnos Island. The bay makes a wonderful natural harbour; they could get the whole of the Mediterranean Fleet into it. We sailed from there later on the same day, on one of the Khedival mail steamers, and they landed us in lighters on to the beach, which is a wonderful sight now. They are making a pier, amongst other things, and the stores that are piled

there are wonderful. I have not been up into the trenches yet, but have been under some very heavy shell fire. In the last three days we have lost about forty men from shrapnel bullets, and are supposed to be 'resting'!" On November 2nd came a post-card, "With Best Wishes," dated October 22nd. The letter was answered on the day it was received, but it is to be feared he never received it, for on November 3rd the fears which his letter had aroused were realised, and he was so severely wounded that he died the next day. His touching remembrance of his School, so far away and in such terrible surroundings, was thoroughly characteristic of him, and added to the grief with which we heard of his death. He is the fourth Denstonian to be killed before reaching his nineteenth year. R.I. P.

FOOTBALL.

At the beginning of the season prospects did not appear to be very bright. There were only six fixtures, all against schools; there were only two colourmen left, and the whole team was below the normal both in age and weight.

However, the first match, against Liverpool College, showed that there was material for a good team, and we won by no less than 84 points to nothing. Also we have been able to secure matches against various regiments who are in camp within a reasonable distance of us. The first of these was against the 10th Batt. N. Staffs Regt., October 30th, and after a most exciting and strenuous game we won by 11 points to 10.

We also won the return match on December 4th, and rather more easily (22—11). The 14th Manchesters we beat

rather easily by 31 points to 6, on November 11th.

Two games have been played with Birkenhead School. The first was won by us on their ground by 24 points to 5; but they had five of their regular team absent through injuries and sickness, so we were glad to repeat our victory against their full team in the return match we won by 21 points to 5. This was an admirable game. At first play was even, and they started the scoring, but after half-time it turned out that we had worn them down, and they were on the defence for the rest of the game. But they played hard, and we had to work hard to secure our points. Against Trent College and K.E.S., Birmingham, the team went to sleep, with disastrous results in the latter match. This we lost by 12 points to nothing, and it might easily have been worse still. The forwards refused to break, and those behind kept on passing back. The same faults were seen in the Trent match, but not quite to the same extent, and this we won by 13 points to nothing. The Second Fifteen beat Trent by 104 points to nothing.

On the whole the team is to be congratulated on one or two very fine displays. The forwards are, as usual, a hard-working pack, and their dribbling and heeling has been really good at times. The latter was especially fine in the return match with Birkenhead; they heeled out so quickly that often the opposing three-quarters had not had time to get into their places, and so could offer no resistance. In the three-quarter line there has been, for the first time for some years, no really weak spot; and the combination of the halves and three-quarters has often been brilliant. Again and again the ball has travelled right across the ground and back again without hesitation or mishap, and such passing has

naturally resulted usually in scoring. But we may be allowed to suggest that *one cut-through* in a match is sufficient.

The team consists of the following :— McCracken; Schofield, Barnes, Glaisby and Wilson; Tobias and Auton; Baness (capt.), Ewen, Beith, Collis, Williams, B. Liitter, Austin and Stott. Winkler, Weigall, Reynolds, Hall, Fergusson, I. MacDonald, Bassett, and Jeffries have also played.

O.T.C.

The following promotions have been made:

Corporal R. Bassett to be Sergeant.

Lance-Corporals J. Barnes and E. H. Glaisby to be Corporals.

Cadets C. D. L. Turner, G. Barker, Z. N. Kasbarian, C. Girling, T. S. Andrew, R. M. Williams, E. C. Keble, R. M. MacDonald, W. Ewen, H. D'A Champney, and A. Beith, to be Lance-Corporals.

O.D. NEWS.

W. E. Hayward has been appointed to an assistant mastership at Shanghai.

T. B. Allworthy has been appointed Director of Religious Education in the diocese of Ely.

G. Williams has been appointed Rural Dean of Edeyrion.

H. H. Copnall has edited a volume of *Notes and Extracts from Nottingham County Records of the xyth Century*, published by the County Records Committee of the Notts County Council.

S. P. B. Mais has published an excellent *English Course for Army Candidates* (Sidgwick and Jackson.)

Mr. John Long has published an illustrated edition of *Gerontius* with introduction by Gordon Tidy.

We have just heard that E. Woolmer gained the "George Rae Prize" in 1907-8, awarded by the Institute of Bankers to the Senior candidate who heads the list at their examination in Practical Banking.

E. Wastie Green, of the Indian Educational Service, was married in Madras Cathedral on December nth.

M. Hick was married on October 21st, at Santander, Spain.

T. J. Salmon is now at Mumias, Nyanza Province, British East Africa, "not exactly a health resort, but the work is quite interesting." He hoped to get his leave next summer, but all leave is stopped during the war.

We have just heard of the death of John Mather, who was here from February, 1881, till 1883, in Shrewsbury Dormitory. He was a strong forward at football, and after leaving was in the Horse Guards for some years. Later he joined the Detective Force in Manchester. He died about six years ago. R.I.P.

NOTES.

This term we have had a great many very interesting lectures, on most varying subjects. Mr. Butler's on Pepys stands out as especially brilliant. E. Hall, Esq., came from the Navy League and told us much about the war and the part the Navy has played in it. His collection of slides was as interesting as it was large. The Secretary of the Melanesian Mission told us of admirable work, also very largely at sea. Turner has lectured on explosives. The Headmaster showed us slides of many places affected by the war. Mr. Lawton has spoken on the Elizabethan Stage. The Rev. W. B. Smith has lectured on "A Tour in France," and the slides he showed were especially good.

An enjoyable entertainment was given by the Preparatory School on November 27th, when much pleasing talent was shown. In "The Empire's Honour," parts were taken by:—Miss Lloyd Williams, B. Lomas, R. Thomas, M. Brindley, A. Smith, A. Garman, P. Sutton, Miss Geddes Smith, W. Tatton, Rogers-Lewis, R. Garman, L. Fairclough, E. Mason, Butler-Smith, J. Shaw, M. Barker, R. Shaw, Miss Rodway, E. Haddock, R. Church, G. Venables, R. Booth, C. Collis. In Part II. there was dancing by Church, Kay, Halton, Hunter, Lynam, R. Shaw, Butler-Smith, M. Barker, J. Shaw, L. Fairclough, Arnold Smith, R. Thomas, M. Brindley and Lomas. Mrs. Edwardes is to be congratulated on the stage management, and Mrs. Brindley on the dancing.

Miss Statham, who has taken Mr. Righton's place on the musical staff, studied at the Treves Conservatoire of Music and the Guildhall School of Music, and holds the Teacher's Certificate of the London Academy of Music. The continued increase of music pupils has necessitated an increase in the musical staff. Mr. E. P. Taylor studied at the Berlin Conservatoire and at Cambridge, and was assistant organist at S. John's College, Cambridge, and pianist to the Cambridge University Musical Society.

G. R. Brook Jackson and J. A. Howe have obtained the Primary Theory Certificate for Gregg Shorthand.

Mr. Hayward having gone to enter upon his scholastic appointment in Shanghai, the Rev. B. R. Hibbert has been giving some help in filling the vacancy.

At a concert in Rochester, on November 27th, in aid of the Red Cross Funds, Miss

Statham, Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Huskinson gave their assistance.

We had a very enjoyable concert in the evening of All Saints' Day, at which the National Anthems of all the Allies were sung.

Mr. Swift has given for the Bishop's Stall a copy of "King Edward VII's Prayer Book." It is beautifully printed in black and red and has 48 full-page and many smaller illustrations, and nearly 200 different initial letters. The binding is artistic—thick oak boards, with pigskin back, silk head-bands and leather and steel clasps.

Mr. Woods has given a brass cross for use on the Credence in the Chapel of the Holy Family.

Mr. Butler has succeeded to the Presidency of the Literary and Scientific Society.

The Editor acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following:—

Giggleswick Chronicle, Hurst Johnian, Marlburian, Lancing College Magazine, Blue, S. Edward's School Chronicle, East-bournian, Reptonian, Felstedian, Cuthbertian, Ardingly Annals, Merchistonian, Ellesmerian, Brighton College Magazine, Cadet Birkenian, St. Andrew's College Magazine, Stonyhurst Magazine, Firefly.

All MS. intended for insertion must be written on one side of the paper only, and forwarded to the Editor, H. D'A. Champney Denstone College, Staffordshire.

The yearly subscription of 4s. 6d. (or 10s. for three years), should be sent to the Treasurer, Denstone College, Staffordshire.

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