



The School Magazine
OF THE
MAIDSTONE
COMMERCIAL
SCHOOL.

Vol. IX. No. 25.
January — 1939.

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MAIDSTONE COMMERCIAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

Vol. IX. No. 25.

January, 1939.

SCHOOL HISTORY.

School Calendar:—

- Jan. 17th, Tues. Term begins.
31st, Tues. Old Boys' Annual General Meeting.
Feb. 1st, Wed. Old Boys' Annual Dinner.
24th, Fri. R.S.P.C.A. Lecture.
27th, Mon. Half-term.
28th, Tues. Old Boys' Meeting.
Mar. 28th, Tues. Old Boys' Meeting.
Apr. 1st, Sat. External Scholarship Examination (Provisional).
3rd, Mon. Annual Prize Distribution and Concert.
5th, Wed. End of Term.
26th, Wed. Summer Term begins.
July 29th, Sat. Term ends.
Sept. 20th, Wed. Christmas Term begins.

SALVETE.

- No. 236. D. G. Gibbons, IIIb., St. Peter's.
No. 237. B. D. Ives, IIIa., St. Augustine's.
No. 238. C. A. Pantony, IVb., St. Augustine's.
No. 239. A. K. Martin, IIIa., School.
No. 240. A. Sheldon, IVb., St. Peter's.
No. 241. R. A. Rawlins, IVa., St. Peter's.
No. 242. D. N. M. Lumsden, Prep., School.
No. 243. B. O. Baker, Prep., School.
No. 244. R. Johnson, Prep., St. Augustine's.
No. 245. P. E. Macey, Prep., St. Augustine's.
No. 246. D. McCaul, IVb., School.
No. 247. P. Chambers, IIIb., St. Peter's.
No. 248. K. J. Jack, IIIb., St. Peter's.

VALETE.

B. W. Westover, after $7\frac{1}{2}$ years at school, has left to take a post with Messrs. Drake & Fletcher, Engineers, Maidstone. Westover did well at school and was a prominent member of the cricket team as well as a keen athletic in School House.

A. W. Seymour, 7 years in the school, has been accepted by the Southern Railway as an apprentice at their Eastleigh Works. He was a popular and useful member of School House.

J. H. Stockbridge spent 6 years with us and now has an appointment with Messrs. Hobbs & Sons, Wholesale Stationers. He was a reliable member of St. Augustine's House.

J. Hopson only joined the school at the age of 15 after receiving most of his education in France. He is now living at Sittingbourne having spent one year with us.

We hear that A. D. Fraser, who left last June has been successful in obtaining an opportunity of going to sea with the British Tanker Co. The introduction was through the school's connection with the Ship Adoption Scheme.

We are still receiving applications from many sources for boys leaving school. The demand is much greater than the supply. Employers tell us that "boys" are ten a penny, but "reliable boys" are like gold dust. It is gratifying that we get repeated applications from the same firms, evidently the school training appears to fill the bill. Now and again one of our boys does not come up to standard but we find that invariably it is because the boy has left a little too soon. That extra couple of terms make all the difference. It is false economy to start too soon for boys who are not ready cannot command more than a few shillings a week and the mental development in the last term or two at school more than compensates in their after life for the loss of a low wage for a few months.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

Our three candidates for the College of Preceptors Junior Certificate all passed at the recent examination. Each was successful in 7 subjects. They were E. K. Leeves, Distinction in Arithmetic, R. Westbrook, Distinction in Drawing and H. H. Mungham.

SCHOOL CONCERT,
MONDAY, 3rd APRIL.
Book the Date.

The next External Scholarship Examination will be held on a Saturday in April, provisionally arranged for the 1st, and it should be noted that pupils of the school who have not completed two terms are regarded as external candidates. The Internal examination is held in the Autumn. The age limit is 11½ at the date of the examination for External Candidates and 12 for Internal Candidates. Full details can be obtained at school.

The school exhibition of models and work was not so well attended as usual owing to the very severe weather but the standard of the exhibits was quite as high as usual. We are obliged to Mr. C. Clarke for his kindness in judging the various classes and his remarks were much appreciated.

The results were as follows:—

Meccano models.—A, Special award: H. Mungham; 2nd, J. Solly; 3rd, J. King. B: 1st, F. Adley; 2nd, J. Stockbridge. C: 1st, J. Stearn; 2nd, G. Pickup.

Handwork models.—1st, J. Thirkell; 2nd, P. Gibbs.

Aeroplane models.—1st, R. Westbrook.

Maps.—1st, A. Seymour; 2nd, J. Stockbridge; 3rd, E. Tomsett.

Drawing.—1st, E. Tomsett; 2nd, A. Smith.

National Savings Competition.—1st, B. Mills; 2nd, R. Croucher; 3rd, N. Swan.

Stamp Display (Prizes awarded by Capt. Stott).—1st, P. Gibbs; 2nd, A. Smith; 3rd, C. Beale.

A noteworthy display of work was shown by the Preparatory Department and Mrs. Piper is to be congratulated upon the wonderful results which she obtained from these small boys of 5 to 9 years of age. This part of the work was retained on show during the holidays and many parents and friends have inspected this part of the school work.

During this term we shall be getting ready for the school concert and we hope we shall again have a full house. We are now building up something of a tradition for these functions and there is usually a very quick sale of the tickets. Those who want the best seats are advised to apply early. We hope to be able to show selections of the school's work and activities on that occasion. The majority of our boys come to us by recommendation rather than by newspaper advertisements and we desire to thank those who have put in a good word for the school. We suggest, however, that it would be a good plan to supplement the good word by bringing along those friends in order to give them some idea of what we can do.

Some good work has been done by the boys in the Book-keeping class under Mr. Watts. This is an important subject and we strongly urge parents to allow their boys to join this class. A knowledge of the principles of Book-keeping is essential to

all boys who intend to take up anything in the nature of an office career. The same applies to Typewriting. A couple of terms' work starts you on the correct methods. So many people imagine they can teach themselves in their spare time with the result that they become two-finger manipulators with all its drawbacks. Miss Henniker gives a good report of the boys who are taking Music but says she would like to see more members in this class. In these days of "canned" music a pianoforte performer is always an asset.

The School Branch of the National Savings Movement was inaugurated in January, 1937. We now have 51 members. During last term £7 16s. 2d. was collected. Total amount since 1931, £46 18s. 3d. Mr. E. G. A. Bettle is Hon. Secretary and would welcome still more members. The three great advantages of the scheme are (1) it encourages thrift, (2) the funds are completely safe, (3) it adds to the nations assets.

Early in the term a paper chase was arranged. Boys were busy tearing up old books ready for this event weeks before.

E. Reynolds, D. Smith and J. Stockbridge were the hares and were given five minutes start and finished fifteen minutes ahead of the first hound, E. Tomsett, who won by inches from N. Hogg. The chase was in the direction of Allington.

We were glad to collect for the British Legion on Poppy Day. Collections have also been made for the West Kent General Hospital, the R.S.P.C.A., the Waifs and Strays Society and the Ophthalmic Hospital. In addition a Junior Branch of the R.S.P.C.A. has been established, and an official is giving us a talk on Friday, 24th February.

Our old friend Captain Stott visited the school early during term, and offered two splendid catalogues and two packets of air stamps for the best displays of stamps on Exhibition Day. These displays were to have some special theme or motive. We are most grateful to Captain Stott.

Captain Stott also gave a handsome collection of coins to the 3rd Form and a glass cabinet to contain them. The 3rd Form are very proud of their new acquisition.

We are also grateful to Mrs. Westover who presented a cup to the school when B. Westover left. It has been decided, in memory of Barry, to award this cup to the best all-round cricketer, and it will be given after next season's cricket.

The usual services at the beginning and end of term were held at St. Peter's. We were also present at the special service on Armistice Day.

The pupils of the 3rd Form and the Preparatory who were unable to accompany the School Party to Dagenham were present at a special performance of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." A considerable number of the 4th Form and Upper School were also present, and tea was taken after in the lounge.

SCHOOL CONCERT, MONDAY, 3rd APRIL. Book the Date.

We are greatly indebted to Messrs. Drake & Fletcher, who kindly awarded two pupils and a number of the staff a trip to the Vauxhall Works at Luton. A most enjoyable day was spent. The award was given in recognition of an article written by H. Mungham on Messrs. Drake & Fletcher's Annual Motor Exhibition. A special article will appear in our next number.

We are glad to announce that G. Wilkinson, who was operated upon for acute appendicitis has made a good recovery. Mr. Williams and Mr. Bettle were pleased to find him looking so well. R. Westbrook, Football Captain, was in King's College Hospital for a few days under observation for an internal complaint, but as a result of treatment is now quite well. Missing much school time he did well to pass his public examination.

As well as the usual letters to our ship "British Pride" and the useful answers, Christmas Greetings were exchanged between the school and our friends afloat.

UPPER SCHOOL NOTES.

The weather on Fridays in September was excellent and a number of games of tennis were played at Clare Park.

Much hard work has been put in for the examination and we are gratified at the results—all candidates presented have passed.

This year the members of the Upper School entered a special set of maps for the Exhibition. Many were of a high standard, and we were very pleased with J. Stockbridge's raised map of S. Africa in cement which secured first prize.

During the term less chess has been played owing to the exams, but already several promising players have come to light.

Next term we have House Championships and the Cup Tournament.

A splendid wall chess board has been made by W. Westbrook and the men by E. Leeves. This will be used for teaching, demonstration and special games.

FOOTBALL.

The weather this term has not been too favourable to us.

Our return game with Loose had to be cancelled owing to the state of the ground.

The attendance for practice this term has been good, and we have been able to arrange several scratch matches.

Match results are:—1st Eleven, October 15th, v. Loose, away, won 6—2. The scorers were D. Smith 3, A. Smith, Knott and Thomas. Turner and Brattle scored for Loose. November 19th, v. Ditton, home, won 8—3. Scorers were A. Smith 4, D. Smith 3 and Westbrook. Tupney 2 and Dedman for Ditton.

2nd Eleven.—A match was arranged with Bearsted. Bearsted were worthy victors by 5 goals to 3. Knott, A. Smith and Barham each scored for us.

Summary:—Played 2, won 2, drew 0, lost 0, goals for 14, goals against 5.

Among the scratch matches were:—

5th October, Men of Kent 1 v. Kentish Men 1 This was a very good game. A. Smith scored for the Men of Kent and D. Smith for the Kentish Men.

19th October, Upper School 16 v. Fourth Form 4. This was a very one-sided game.

CRITICISMS OF THE TEAM.

R. Westbrook. A very able captain and an excellent centre-half.

D. Smith. A fast centre-forward, able to shoot equally well with both feet.

A. Smith. A speedy right winger with a hard shot.

J. LeFeaver. A plucky goal-keeper, who does not mind taking risks to save hard shots.

W. Thomas. An inside left with good ball control.

A. Baker. An inside right who knows his job.

H. Parker. A right half who turns defence into attack.

E. Leeves. A left half with a hefty kick.

E. Tomsett. A heavy and good left back.

J. Thirkell. A small but efficient right back.

D. Gosling and E. Knott. Left wingers who share this position for the XI.

St. Peter's 2 v. St. Augustine's 1; School 0 v. St. Augustine's 2; St. Peter's 7 v. School 0.

We were very glad to have our trainer with us during term—Mr. Stuart Davidson, the ex-Middlesborough and Scottish International right half-back. The teams have benefited much from his useful demonstrations and cheery talk.

R. Westbrook, Captain.

D. Smith, Vice-Captain.

A TOUR OF THE WOLSELEY MOTOR WORKS.

As a foreword to this article, I must express my very great thanks and appreciation of the visit, to two people. Firstly, Mr. F. Clarke, who made the visit possible, and secondly the guide who went to great pains to explain.

On the journey to Birmingham, several points of interest were passed, such as Banbury Cross, and the Crumbling Cross at Meriden, which incidentally marks the centre of England.

Arriving at the Wolseley works, we consumed a hearty meal, and started on our tour, which began with the services department. It is from this part of the works that Wolseley cars of all types are distributed to places all over the world. The tremendous daily output of the Wolseley firm was well illustrated by the serried ranks of cars waiting for their first real journey into the



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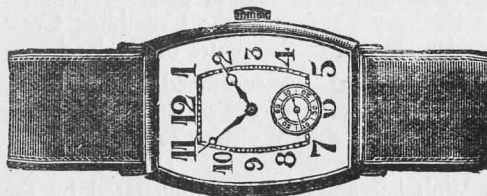
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world. Passing from the services department we came via the power house to the main machine shop, which covers seven and a half acres, and is the largest in Europe. On either side of a wide centre aisle were machines. A group of these machines on the left were cutting the spiral-bevel crown wheels, and those on the right were pressing brake drums. Further down the aisle the axle shafts, and propellor shafts were being ground, while next door to them their brother components the four-star differential bearings were being made. The Wolseley front axle has in it twelve holes, and these are all drilled at once.

All these machines are driven by belting from overhead shafts, so that on looking round, one receives the impression of being in the middle of a forest of flapping belts, from which it appears impossible to escape.

The next batch of machines were self-contained and worked by electricity. They were, in the words of the guide for making the "small stuff," such as grub screws, ball pins, king pins, etc., and also, more important blank differential pinions. These were being cut at the rate of one every 40 seconds.

After watching the crown wheel and differentials installed in the rear axle we witnessed the testing for "funny noises" of these components, which in itself is quite an art.

The actual paint plant was installed at an initial cost of £60,000, and it does its job so well, that each part of the body-work is put through 21 different processes before the cellulosing even begins. All the paint is supplied by pipeline, and is synthetic. During the various processes, each body travels up and down the length of the plant 7 times, being alternately sprayed and dried. The very first undercoat to be applied is the anti-drumming mixture.

From here we passed to the birthplace of the actual cars. This is the department that contains the chassis assembly lines. Each type of car has a separate line, which in itself is rather a notable example of the care which is exercised in the making of the Wolseley cars.

First of all, the chassis is lowered on to the endless moving belt, which forms the assembly line. Then the actual assembling begins. (1) The axles are fitted; (2) The engine (4 or 6 cylinder) is lowered into position; (3) The pipe lines for oil and petrol are applied; (4) The propellor shaft and radiator are secured to their various fittings; (5) The steering gear and brakes take their place; (6) The Luvex cylinder type shock absorbers are applied; (7) The electrical equipment is fastened

on; (8) The double bulkhead is inserted between the engine and body, and the wings and bumpers applied; (9) The wheels are bolted on; (10) The dampers, accumulators, and various other equipment of all kinds are fitted before the application of the body.

Passing on we came to various fitting departments and stores.

Last came the most historic part of the whole works. The museum. This contains the famous gyro-car that was built in 1914 for a Russian, Count Schilowsky, at a cost of £10,000. It was used once, and then lay forgotten; after which it was actually buried in the grounds of the Wolseley works. It was balanced by a gyro-wheel weighing half a ton, and had six separate controls. When dug up last year it was still in working order.

The other inmates of the museum are a 1900 Wolseley, an 1899, and an 1897 belt-drive machine. And also a V-eight aero-engine built by Wolseley. An interesting feature about Wolseley engines, is that the engine of the amazing 1,100 c.c. M.G. car in which Major Gardner made his record breaking run on the Frankfurt Autobahn, was manufactured by the Wolseley Motor Works six years ago.

This was the last phase in our tour of the works, and we left very well satisfied and pleased on our homeward journey in a brand new Wolseley 14, which was a pleasure to ride in.

H. Mungham.

H. Mungham has also written an article on his visit to the Vauxhall works. This will appear in our next issue.—Editor.

BOXING.

A fresh start has been made in boxing this term. We have a number of keen fighters and are looking forward to the House Tournament next term. Some of the matches were as follows.

1, Gosling v. Mungham; 2, Parker v. Westbrook; 3, Stockbridge v. Beale; 4, Clarke v. LeFeaver; 5, Reynolds v. Seymour; 6, Thomas v. McCaul.

Mr. A. M. Williams acted as referee and D. Smith time-keeper.

H. Parker, Secretary.

A VISIT TO MASON'S BREWERY.

On Friday, October 28th, a party comprising members of the Upper School paid a visit to the plant of Mason's Brewery.

On entering the brewery the party was confronted by a door labelled M.R.3. In this room were stored sacks of ready malted barley. After being taken out of storage the barley grains are fed to the crushing mill by an overhead hopper. This cracks the kernels which then pass to the mashing tun. While the kernels are being cracked however, vibrating screens separate all the "big stuff," and a magnet eliminates all unwanted matter, such as pieces of flint (of which there was found a sample when the party examined the mill). If this piece of flint had passed between the steel rollers, it would have created a spark, ignited the malt dust, and so caused an explosion.

In the mashing tun, the malt is mixed with liquor (just plain water) at a certain temperature and kept stirred by revolving rakes. It then stands for two hours and the extracted liquid is drawn off from the bottom. At the side of the masher were seen three dials. The first bearing two thermometers; one for the temperature of the malt, and the other for the temperature of the liquor and mash. The second dial bore yet another thermometer, this one for the running temperature of the brew. The third dial recorded the quantity of liquor in a tank at the top of the building.

At the top of a flight of wooden stairs we came upon the two great coppers. These boil "wort" which is the partly prepared beer, and are worked by steam coils. The rate of evaporation is 10 per cent.

With the lifting of a trapdoor in the floor the hop vat was revealed to us. Its object is to leave the hops behind when the wort is drained off. The vat itself resembles a huge copper vase. The residue of hops is shovelled out by a man who gets inside. This was explained by our guide, Mr. Stearn, to be an exceedingly hot job. For every 60 lb. of hops that are put into the vat, one barrel of wort is obtained.

After ascending a spiral staircase we were conducted to the cooling room. This contained several large copper vessels into which the wort is pumped from the hop vat. It is one of the most important stages of making beer. A large funnel was observed to be supplying pure air from an air plant which incorporates glycerine as its purifying medium. This pure air was not unlike steam in appearance. The wort is left in the coolers until it decreases to a temperature of 150 degrees F., and it is then drawn off from the top.

The refrigerator, which was next shown was enclosed in a hermetically sealed glass panelled compartment. It was built up of a series of tubes through which the wort is passed between cold, running water. It cools the liquid down to 60 degrees F., and the air with which it is supplied is 99 per cent. pure.

A series of huge working bins provided a fresh source of interest to the party. Yeast was seen to be working most of them. In the course of "working" it reproduces itself and also throws out all the dirt. So that for every 60 lb. of yeast put into a bin, 300 lb. is taken out, and as it can be used over and over again there is no need to import any more. In one vat containing eighty barrels, the beer was 5ft. 6in. deep.

A barrel-washing machine next attracted the attention of the party. Passing on, we came to yet another barrel department. The barrel making and repairing expert explained that it took roughly five hours to make a barrel. As the hoops are made of steel, the rivets are not at all heated but just hammered in cold.

On visiting the cellars we were met with the sight of rows and rows of barrels, many of them spiled to let out the surplus gas. Arriving back at the brewery we were literally filled up with lemonade and ginger pop, which tasted all the better for being free of charge. And I am sure that as we passed out of the gates, the uppermost thought in every mind was, "What a visit!"

H. Mungham.

THE ORDEAL.

As he stepped out into the open the bright early morning sunlight dazzled him, so much that he had to lift up his arm and wipe his eyes dry with his ragged sleeve. When his sight cleared he saw it all again. The old town square, the people; some jocund and some sad, while above the harsh murmur of voices the hawkers' cries arose as they tried to sell their wares.

The man at his side nudged him and brought him to his senses. Of course, how silly it was of him to forget. His eyes lost their faraway look and his handsome, well shaped mouth curled up at the corners as though he despised or even pitied those around him. He walked with a firm step through the masses of people by which a narrow gangway had been formed.

Silence suddenly reigned, but only to be broken by the crowing of a cock whose discordant notes upset the immense quietude of the crowd. Some booed and foul oaths fell on the crisp morning air. Some cheered and shouted comforting words; but neither of them had any effect on the man except that of the compression of his lips and the squaring of his jaw beneath the matted, unkept growth of beard.

Many necks were craned in order to see him mount the platform in the centre of the square.

He climbed up and stood silent on the platform, first looking at the old fashioned houses and shops that surrounded the square, then his gaze rose to the chimney and gables of a large house that peeped over the brow of the hill, his home. Tears filled his eyes and rolled down his weather-beaten face as he thought of his dead mother.

He glanced slowly over the sea of uplifted faces, the eyes of which held him in their grip, and again that queer smile formed on his lips.

He turned to where the rope was hanging limp and still, outlined against the deep blue sky.

All he said was, "I am ready."

R. Westbrook.

SCHOOL CONCERT,
MONDAY, 3rd APRIL.
Book the Date.

OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION.

Now that the Football Section has been successfully launched we are trying to form a Chess Section. Many of our members learned to play at school, and would, no doubt, like to continue. A special meeting will be held during the coming term. The 7th Annual Dinner will take place at the Star Hotel and a full account will be given in our next issue. Members will be interested to learn that D. Potts, 1930-34, is now married. We have no further details as yet, except that he is living at Notting-ham. We were pleased to receive a visit from R. Young while on leave from his ship the British Viscount. He is enjoying his calling very much and is making good progress with his nautical studies.

The business of the Association has been transacted at the monthly meetings held on the last Tuesday of the month. These have been very well attended during the past term, but we should like to see more Old Boys coming to them. It is likely that Mr. J. W. Solman, who has presided so well over our meetings for a number of years, may have to resign the chairmanship owing to increase in duties. The Officers would like to place on record their appreciation of his unfailing courtesy and his ungrudging service.

We have pleasure in printing the report of the Football Section.

A. M. W., A. W.

OLD McCABIANS FOOTBALL CLUB.

I have been again asked to send some "copy" to the printers of the "Magazine," and to give a report on the activities of our football team.

Our team is still going forward, and although our losses exceed our gains in goals, we will "never report failure" because we have gained such a lot in experience, form and support.

Furthermore we have gained the interest of certain members of the Press who periodically include us in their "sports Bulletin" and also certain members of the general public who from time to time send me cartoons and verses (some which rhyme and others . . .) yet they all finish up by wishing the club the best of luck and most of them appear to be signed Anon.

I copy the latest:

"There was a School McCabians'
Who played a team Len Sports.
Who scored nine goals against them
Oh! What a horrid thought,
We only hope that one day
They will find a man,
Who in the place of Paddy
Will transform this ragtime band,
We know he tries to do his best
But this is not enough
Why not get a team like Barming
With a Secretary like 'Duff.'"

With best wishes for 1939.

"Spectator."

Just before Christmas the Club held its First Annual Dance at the New Inn, and although everyone present had an enjoyable evening it would have been more successful had it received more support, perhaps this was due to there being other dances on in the town on the same date.

On the Tuesday prior to Xmas the Members held their Annual Draw at "The Elms" and 23 prizes were distributed. The prizes included hampers, cigars, wines, cigarettes, cakes, games, etc., etc., the tickets for this sold like hot cakes at 3d. each.

Our next function is the Annual Dinner, and this is being held in conjunction with the parent association, the O.B.A., at Star House, on February 1st. Tickets are priced at 3/- each, and after the enormous success of last year, it is expected that the team will be there this year in full force.

As a Foundation Member of the present O.B.A. I can say safely that this past year has been the most successful the Association has ever had, and I for one would like to thank all those who have in any way helped to make it so.

We are particularly grateful to Mr. K. Froud for his transport services, and to Mr. E. Hughes for his work in raising funds.

In my last article I appealed for non-playing members to come forward and join our Supporters Club at 1/- p.a. Some have done so, but there are many more who are still keeping the team too near their hearts and at the same time too far from their pockets. If, dear reader, you happen to be one of these please do not take offence, but, read on and then think again.

If our Association means anything to you, and I'm sure it does, are you going to let a ¼d. per week stand between you and the success of your OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION F.C.

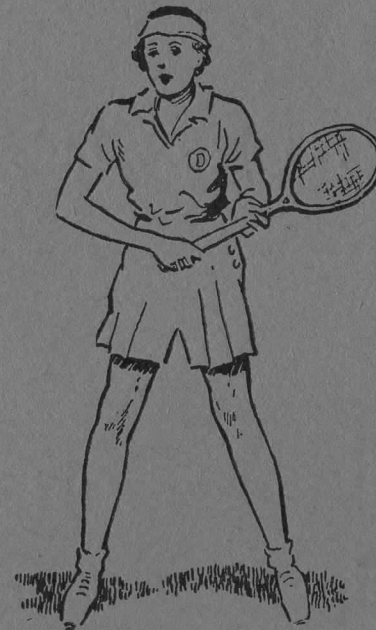
Please send your 1/- donations (more if you wish) to Mr. Harry Hooker, 11 Grace Avenue, Maidstone, and he will acknowledge it with thanks.

I will close this item by wishing all readers of this magazine a happy and prosperous New Year and please Mr. Cartoonist. . .

P. Bowler, Hon. Sec. Old McCabians F.C.

This Magazine is the Official Organ of the Commercial School, Present and Past and all O.B.'s and friends of the School are urged to keep in touch by subscribing to it. Joint subscription to Magazine and the O.B. Association, 3/6 per annum.

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