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THE COLLECTORS' DIGEST

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 131.

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NOVEMBER, 1957

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Vol. 11111 EVERY 10

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POSTAGE EXTRA

NOVEMBER, 1957

Editor: HERBERT LECKENBY,
12 Herbert Street,
Hull Road, York.

or

c/o YORK DUPLICATING SERVICES,
12A The Shambles, York.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

DRAWING EVER NEARER: As I write there's about fifty shopping days to Christmas! Ten days or so previous to that a mail van will draw up in York's ancient Shambles to load up the stacks of C.D. Annuals en route for all parts of the world. Yes, it's as near as that.

Since I last wrote things have been moving towards the climax. One night Len Packman sat back from his typewriter and said, no doubt with a sigh of relief, "Well, that's that." He had just completed the tapping out of nigh on thirty pages of the "Sexton Blake Circle" feature. You will find that it well maintains the high standard set by its predecessors I assure you.

Then I've also received Frank Lay's interesting story of "The Dreadnought" a paper neglected till now. Nelson Lee fans are in for a treat with Charles Churchill's Jim the Penman article, and Jack Wood will add to the St. Frank's saga.

I have been busy lately checking the proofs of the articles already in type. Every now and again I have paused and sat back in my chair to marvel at the vast amount of work our contributors (all busy men in other spheres) must have put in in preparing their articles for our benefit. There's Eric Fayne's "Turn Back the Clock" for instance. It deals, of course, with the Gem reprints, something Eric played a great part in bringing about. I mention Eric specially because it would require even more research than usual. Talk about

vital statistics! Well these for Gemites in particular, are far more vital than the 40-19-38 kind we hear so much about these days.

Well soon I must tell our publishers how many copies to run off. As usual it's difficult to say for quite a number of you are leaving it late, and if I am over optimistic and find later I have a number left on my hands, I shall be in the soup. So those of you who have so far neglected to do so, please rush your order and questionnaire forms along as soon as you read this. Christmas Day, I assure you, won't be the same without the C.D. Annual.

* * * * *

A RECENT VISITOR RETURNS THANKS: Bernard Thorne wishes, through the C.D. to thank all those who made him so welcome and gave him such a good time on his recent visit. He also asks correspondents to note that his address is now - 220 GALLOWAY ROAD, WEST HILL, ONTARIO, CANADA.

* * * * *

BOYS WILL BE BOYS: Mr. L. S. Turner kindly supplied me with an advance copy and Jack Wood has reviewed it on another page. It is true as Jack says, that the bulk of it is as before, but there are several thousand words of new matter including some delightful quips about the new set up in the Sexton Blake chapter. Particularly to those who did not get the original edition I cannot do better than quote Pamela Hansford Johnson's opinion at the time - "A delicious book, beautifully sensible and exquisitely funny. Despite the title it is not a book for one sex only."

There's 271 pages. Published 18th November.

Yours sincerely,

HERBERT LECKENBY

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Blakiana.....

conducted by JOSEPHINE PACKMAN

27 Archdale Road, East Dulwich, London, S.E.22

I am pleased to say that the Sexton Blake Circle feature for this month's C.D. Annual is now in the hands of the Agency.

There is something to suit every Blake enthusiast, including a fine article by our newest "Circle" member, Bette Pate, of Australia. Bette, of course, needs no introduction, for she is already known to you for her excellent article in the June issue of the C.D. (Blakiana). Walter Webb has, I think, excelled himself, whilst other contributing members have produced some first class work.

I don't think I need say anything about "Blakiana" for this month except - I hope you enjoy it!

JOSIE PACKMAN

* * * * *

MY TWELVE FAVOURITE UNION JACK (BLAKE) STORIES

As selected by Charlie Wright

No. 529	The Sacred Sphere.....	G. H. Teed
" 794	Waldo the Wonderman.....	E. S. Brooks
" 949	The Flower of the Etbaia.....	C. Hayter
" 969	In League Against Him.....	A. Skene
" 984	The Voodoo Curse.....	G. H. Teed
" 1149	Tinker's Secret.....	G. H. Teed
" 1224	The Adventure of the Yellow Beetle.....	G. H. Teed
" 1225	The Temple of Many Visions.....	G. H. Teed
" 1226	Doomed to the Dragon.....	G. H. Teed
" 1227	The House of the Wooden Lanterns.....	G. H. Teed
" 1365	The Mistletoe Milk Mystery.....	G. Evans
" 1366	The Masque of Time.....	G. Evans

* * * * *

Next month will be the twelve favourite stories as selected by Olive Wright, who, like her husband, is a member of the Sexton Blake Circle.

ON TOUR WITH SEXTON BLAKEBy Walter Webb

The majority of Blake's cases pale into insignificance when compared to this particular assignment, which took the criminologist, working on behalf of the British Government, to Egypt, in a bid to smash a political plot calculated to gravely impair Britain's power and prestige in the Middle East. Arrayed against him was a regular army of the most notorious criminals he had ever been called upon to face, each one of whom, singly, would have extracted every ounce of his detective skill to combat successfully, but combined presented a hurdle of superhuman skill to negotiate. Away now to Egypt in the second tour of the series.

No. 2. THE GREAT CANAL PLOTAuthor G. H. Teed.

For some time the British Government had been greatly disturbed by the atrocious murders of British subjects in Egypt. The brutal assassination of that accomplished administrator and splendid soldier Sir Lee Stack, British Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian army (killed 20th November, 1924) had fanned smouldering resentment into blazing wrath at home, and in its determination to stamp out these acts of anarchy, the Government sent for Sexton Blake, and placed at his disposal the whole network of the secret service police in the Middle East.

Arrived in Cairo, Blake lost no time in commencing his investigations, for the purpose of which he adopted the identity of an old desert rat and the filthy rags of his kind, before taking up his stand by the Pyramids. Into one of the two smaller Funerary Temples, situated between the two smaller pyramids and the Great Pyramid, Blake soon discovered that it was the practise of a number of youthful Egyptians of the student class to congregata there, no doubt to plot against British subjects in Egypt, and his fixed determination was to find out exactly what plans they were conceiving. Having rigged up a microphone near the entrance to the temple, Blake attached this to a crimped receiver, brought a wire from that for a length of a hundred and fifty yards or so, under the sand to a spot near the base of one of the smaller pyramids where he had taken his stand. He then overheard the young plotters, members of the Egyptian Secret Society, known as the White Flag Society, plan to kill another Britisher. It was this Society which had dedicated itself to the task of smashing

the power of Britain in Egypt and India, and was the reason for the presence in Cairo of Madame Goupolis, a trusted and well-paid agent of the Society, well-known to Blake as a notorious Greek spy and agitator. The Goupolis had thought out a shrewd plan by which, if successfully carried out, would cripple Britain's power in the Middle East, and, to this end, she sought an interview with Prince Menes, supreme head of the Ancient Order of Ra, the most powerful and greatly feared personage in Egypt, and the guiding spirit behind the White Flag Society.

The Greek women's plan was to gather together a number of men, each wielding great power and influence in their own particular spheres, blend them together into one enormously powerful combination and strike right into the core of Britain's might. For that purpose she had brought into Cairo the criminal known as the Black Eagle, otherwise John Hasford, well-known on the Riviera as David Stone, an artist. Sentenced to 20 years on Devil's Island for a crime he did not commit, the Black Eagle was naturally a very bitter man who contended that he owed little recompense to the country of his birth.

Another who had acquiesced was Mathew Cardolak, an aged American multi-millionaire, owner of a magnificent yacht, Sultan, at present lying off Alexandria, whose financial resources would be of inestimable value; the Three Musketeers, renegade Englishmen, named Archie Pherison, Algy Somerton and Reggie Fetherston, dandified looking fellows whose naive looks utterly belied the criminal workings of their unscrupulous minds; killers all, who would snuff out the life of a fellow human without the slightest compunction. Another who exercised enormous power in the land of his birth was the powerful Prince Wu Ling, Supreme Head of the Brotherhood of the Yellow Beetle, and he also, had the Greek woman been in contact with, and was at the moment lying low in Cairo. Last, but not least, was George Marsden Plummer, one-time trusted official at Scotland Yard, now known as Sakr-el-Droog, the Hawk of the Peak, and right-hand man to Abdel Krim, so called Lion of the Riff, in Morocco. The result of that fateful meeting between Prince Menes and the beautiful Madame Goupolis was that a council of war was arranged to take place on board the yacht, Sultan, when details of Britain's downfall in Sues would be discussed.

Ever since his arrival in Cairo, Blake had been lying low in the ruins along the Meni House Road, known as the "Thieves' House", a notorious hut which had been raided so often and effectively by the troops from "down under" during the war that rogues and vagabonds had

given it a wide berth ever since. There Blake and Tinker held their own council of war, and were joined by a tough, resolute Irishman, named Lawrence Malone, a famous explorer and trusted member of the British Secret Service. It was as a result of Blake's talk with Malone that the plot to assassinate the British Official on his way from the Lands Department to the British Residency was frustrated by members of the Secret Service Police and the four fanatics arrested.

The detective and his assistant then made their way to Alexandria, and in one of the dirtiest hovels at no great distance from the harbour again went to earth, Blake to await the probable arrival of Prince Menes, Tinker to keep a sharp look out along the roads for the coming of the Egyptian. Whilst Tinker scouted around, Blake, still in his disguise as an old desert rat, made a tour of the water-front, where ships of all nations were dotted about here and there. Lying at anchor about a quarter of a mile off shore, he saw the yacht, Sultan, with a small motor-boat bobbing about alongside. As Blake watched, figures descended a ladder hanging down the side of the yacht and clamber into the motorboat, which shot away and made for the landing jetty close to where he was watching. Into the motorboat stepped Prince Menes, followed by Prince Wu Ling, Madame Goupolis and Archie Fherison; it then made off back to the yacht. As darkness fell and a mist, which had descended over the waterfront, thickened, Blake left his post, and climbing the rising streets from the harbour, made his way to the hut to plan his next move with Tinker's active assistance.

When Blake and Tinker left the hut for the waterfront, they had as guide and companion a young native lad who was entrusted to a basket containing Blake's "listening-in" outfit. In the dense mist the detective and his assistant would have been completely lost, but the native lad knew the waterfront like the palm of his hand and led them to the jetty from which the crooks had boarded the motor-boat. Selecting an empty boat, they glided with muffled oars towards the Sultan. Locating it, it was then Tinker's task to swarm up the side, attach the microphone to the rim of the porthole frame and rejoin Blake in the boat, whilst the latter followed the procedure he had carried out by the pyramids and listened in to the crooks' conference.

What Blake heard was of immense significance. There were a number of plots under discussion, yet each one dovetailed into one gigantic whole, resulting in nothing less than the blowing up of the Suez Canal and much of the shipping between Port Said and Suez. George Marsden Plummer, acting as emissary between Abdel Krim and Prince Menes, had had interviews in Algeria, Tunis and Tripoli, with

a view to the linking up of all the native races stretching along the Nile to the Atlantic, right across the top of Africa, with, as the ultimate aim, a north African black Empire and the northern European races hurled back across the Mediterranean en bloc. Wu Ling's desire was for a general rising in China against the whites coinciding with the push in the Middle East, and then with Britain reeling under the power of those paralysing blows for another upheaval to be engineered in India. The price of his assistance to Menes was that it should all form part of the general scheme. Cardolak had granted financial assistance on the understanding that Menes guaranteed him certain very valuable excavation rights among the old tombs of Egypt. The Three Musketeers, as his agents, and under his protection, would do what Cardolak told them.

As Tinker made his second ascent, this time to unhook the microphone, he was discovered, but under cover of the mist managed to fling himself overboard, microphone and all. As he struggled in the water with a huge negro, Blake swam to his assistance, followed by the little Arab. The black, having been overpowered, the little native led Blake and Tinker through the mist-enshrouded waters of the harbour to the shore, whereupon they lost no time in returning to Cairo. There, in the "Thieves' Hat", Blake held a hurried conference with Malone. The Sultan was already bound for the Riff to pick up a cargo of mines for the blowing up of the Suez Canal, and to thwart the plotters the secret service police had to move fast, for there was no time for official intervention. Blake detailed his plan of campaign. He himself would go after Plummer, whom he had good reasons to believe would be lying low at the little and almost unknown oasis of El Adid until such time as he would collect his reward in cash from Menes; Malone's task would be to keep constant surveillance of Menes and Wu Ling in Cairo; whilst Tinker watched Madame Goupolis.

The Black Eagle, armed with an automatic pistol, forcibly entering Tinker's rooms, ordered the young detective, under threat of being shot down, to divulge Blake's whereabouts in Egypt. At the expense of a bullet in the side, Mossop, the manservant, saved Tinker's life; then between them they overpowered the master-criminal. Having then got in touch with Malone, they kidnapped Madame Goupolis and smuggled both her and the Black Eagle out of the hotel with the assistance of the secret service police, and left them prisoners in Malone's house. Blake having contacted Plummer at the oasis and come out top after a bitter struggle, the ex-Scotland Yard man was also taken a prisoner to Malone's living quarters. Malone then

mobilised every secret service man available to Alexandria and that part of the coast, while two aeroplanes carrying bombs were despatched to the task of blowing the yacht and its cargo of mines out of the water. The bombing raid proved a marked success, for the Sultan was completely torn asunder as the bombs struck her and the cargo she was carrying blew her to atoms.

So was Suez saved; but to Blake's mortification and anger those responsible for its attempted destruction could not be held. Menes was too great a power in Egypt for his Government to risk any action against him, whilst no charge could be held against Wu Ling. In the case of the Black Eagle, Plummer and Madame Goupolis, Menes' influence was enough to save their skins. Did Mathew Cardolak and the Three Musketeers perish on board the Sultan when she blew up? Blake did not know but was soon to do so, for they turned up again later to engage him in another battle of wits.

The story on which this summary is based was published 1st October, 1925 in No. 19 S.B.L. (second series).

* * * * *

Note: Solution to Teaser No. 8 will appear next month. J.P.

I have about 75 Magnets between Nos. 800 and 950 and 2 dozen S.O.Ls. which I would exchange for any of the following Nos.- although I would prefer to buy:

MAGNETS: 950, 951, 958, 960, 962, 964-71, 973, 985, 986, 988, 989, 990, 992, 993, 994, 997, 1005, 1008, 1009, 1011, 1012, 1015, 1020, 1022, 1035, 1062, 1065, 1076, 1083, 1087-92, 1094, 1096, 1100, 1101, 1110-21, 1126-29, 1131, 1132, 1135, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1142-44, 1146, 1147, 1149, 1158, 1175, 1179, 1180, 1188, 1191-94, 1203, 1204, 1235, 1239, 1244, 1245, 1247, 1255, 1275-78, 1300, 1683.

GENS: 1000-04, 1006, 1009, 1011-18, 1021, 1022, 1024-26, 1037, 1044, 1050, 1051, 1056, 1070, 1089, 1108, 1116, 1125, 1143, 1145-47, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1156, 1159, 1162, 1190, 1193-97, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1203-09, 1211, 1213, 1215-20, 1246, 1249, 1252-54, 1261-70, 1273, 1275-92, 1294, 1296, 1297, 1300, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1324, 1325, 1327, 1340, 1347, 1348, 1367, 1380, 1400, 1401, 1450-52, 1538, 1565, 1579

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HAMILTONIANA

compiled by Herbert Leckenby

A letter appeared in the "Sunday Express" with a heading in a bigger type than any of the other letters - "Was he always a Billy Bunter?" It referred to Lord Hailsham's bathe at Brighton. As we don't dabble in politics I won't quote the letter just say that once again it proves what a Godsend the Owl is to sub-editors.

This is interesting too. Mr. W. J. Rayner of Clare, Suffolk, has sent me a ticket issued by the Alexander Car Park, Dovercourt the proprietors of which are VERNON SMITH HOTELS LTD.

* * * * *

GREAT NEWS FROM FRANK RICHARDS AND A REQUEST

14th October, 1957

Dear Herbert Leckenby,

Many thanks for the October C.D. and to Jack Wood for a pleasant review of "Billy Bunter Afloat": though I wouldn't agree that a boating party who wanted a real holiday on the Thames would choose a motor-boat. At least there is one venerable party who wouldn't.

Just a spot of news: I hear that three new "Tom Merry" books are coming out before Christmas, from Spring Books Ltd. I shall be glad to see them after this long while. Better late than never!

Now here is an S.O.S. I keep on getting inquiries for Frank Richards' Autobiography, which has of course long been out of print, so I am unable to do anything about it. Recently an inquiry came from one of our friends in Australia, and he is so very keen to get the Auto that I would be extremely glad to let him have his wish if possible. It occurred to me that some readers of C.D. might have a copy he doesn't want. If so, will he or she, drop a line to:-

Franklin Dixon,
4, Higham Road,
Auburn,
Melbourne,
Australia.

and let him know? Mr. Dixon sent over the cash, which had to be returned as no copy was available: in fact it has only just occurred to me that something might be done through the C.D.

With kindest regards,
Always yours sincerely,
FRANK RICHARDS.

* * * * *

THE GREYFRIARS GOLDEN JUBILEE: As will be seen from the Northern Section Club report, plans are in hand for an exhibition at the Leeds Public Library and here's an interesting extract from a letter from Bob Mortimer describing what he hopes to do at Kingston. Good luck Bob!

"As you may know I work in the display department of Bentalls of Kingston-on-Thames. This is the largest departmental store outside greater London. We have a large book department which sells the Bunter Books and Annuals.

My idea was this:- to suggest to the publicity department that they have a special window display devoted to Greyfriars, to mark the great occasion next February.

I would suggest a cut-out of Greyfriars School, and cut-out figures of all the principal characters. A large portrait of Charles Hamilton, who I think is now recognized as the greatest living writer of school stories. A large map of Greyfriars and the surrounding district and lots of copies of the "Magnet" displayed. This I think would make a rather novel window display, and bring Bentalls a lot of valuable publicity. Another idea is to have Gerald Campion make a personal appearance in the Book Department dressed in his Bunter outfit. He could autograph copies of the Bunter Annual.

What do you think of the idea? Of course I should do most of the work myself, but it would be a labour of love."

* * * * *

CONTROVERSIAL ECHOES NO. 6

"WERE THERE TOO MANY CHARACTERS IN THE GEM AND THE MAGNET"

BILL LOFTS writes:- "I cannot give my views on the Gem, as I am not well versed in it. Regarding the Magnet, it is true that there were over 50 characters in the Remove at one time, and the form was certainly unbalanced when compared to other forms at Greyfriars. But it

must be remembered that the majority of the stories were centred around the Remove, and the introduction of many new characters was necessary to Frank Richards in the early days to give fresh ideas to the stories. Remember the stories of how the different characters came to Greyfriars."

DEREK ADLEY writes:- "I must say that I think "Let's be Controversial" is a great idea and certainly stirs up interest in all fields of the 'Hamilton Saga'. Regarding article No.6, my opinion is that this variety was a good thing for after a run of yarns dealing with say, Grundy, it left the reader wanting to hear more of say, Skimpole. A matter of absence making the heart grow fonder so to speak. There were of course, characters that could have been done without, but I think this is just a question of personal taste."

ROGER JENKINS writes: "I do not think there were too many characters at Greyfriars, where interest was centred on a single form, and not such a big form as some people would have us believe. I am quite certain that the editorial staff responsible for compiling the lists in Holiday Annual and Magnets usually acted in good faith, but in point of fact they were nearly always mistaken, and on one or two occasions they invented what they did not know. The only reliable source of information is Charles Hamilton himself, who told us in Magnet No. 1257 that the Remove consisted of 31 boys. This must mean that all those characters who were never mentioned in the last 15 years of the Magnet's run - Delarey, Hilary, Penfold, Rake, Smith minor, Treluce, Trevor, Vivian, etc., - had been dropped to reduce the form to manageable proportions, though still large by Public School standards, as was often admitted in the text.

The wider spread of interest at St. Jim's, which was caused by the fact that to the Fourth at St. Jim's was later added the Shell from Clevering, was in my opinion a defect in the stories (though no one else agreed with me when I propounded this view in No. 44 of the SFC). Nevertheless there was a sense of intimacy in that each Co. had a study to itself, unlike the Famous Five who were rather oddly scattered up and down the Remove. Rookwood was much better organised as you say, but it may not be a fair comparison because the length of each weekly episode was never intended to exceed 4 or 5 chapters, and so the number of characters would have to be limited by consideration of space. I do not altogether regret the abandonment of some of the old characters; I always felt that Hammond, for instance, was as irritating as Vivian in the way he dropped his aitches, and I would

much rather have Cardew than Lumley-Lumley as the St. Jim's edition of Vernon-Smith."

ERIC FAYNE sums up:- Mine is clearly a lone voice crying in the wilderness when I state a preference for stories of the main characters rather than those of the minor players. Probably my original article on the subject was not too happily worded, for I really intended my criticism to apply to stories of the White Cover years when so many new boys arrived, and the limelight was continually flashed around from one to another of them.

In comparing the Magnet with the Gem, Roger certainly hits the nail on the head when he points out that the Greyfriars tales concerned one form chiefly while the Gem featured two, plus an extra House. So far as I am concerned, I do not regret the joining of the Shell of Clavering to the Fourth Form at St. Jim's, for after all, that occurred right at the beginning of the Gem, while the super-abundance of characters does not make itself obvious until 1914 onwards when so many new characters were added to a stage which was already well filled.

There is probably some reason in the argument that the shortness of the Rookwood stories made for more limitation of characters, but even so, it must be remembered that for a long time the Gem tales were pathetically short - very little longer than many of the Rookwood stories - and, after all, a short story can star a minor character as easily as a long one.

But, when all is said and done, the Magnet and Gem cater for all tastes and, while I revel in stories featuring in the lead Tom Merry, Gussy or Cutts with a holiday story introducing a small and intimate party, I willingly leave to those who like them the tales of Grundy, Trimble, Wildrake, and the stories of the giant parties at Eastwood House.

* * * * *

LET'S BE CONTROVERSIAL. NO. 7

(In this series, Eric Fayne discusses certain topics of interest to students of the Hamilton Papers. He gives his own opinion superficially, and invites you to write to him with your views on the subjects he discusses. He will summarise readers' letters in a future C.D.)

No. 7. SHOULD TOM MERRY, HARRY WHARTON and the rest have grown up? Should Figgins have married Cousin Ethel, and Bob Cherry been joined in holy matrimony with Marjorie Hazeldene? Should Billy Bunter, now

approaching seventy, be sending tuck parcels to his grandson Fred Bunter, captain of the School at Greyfriars? Should Peter Todd now be Justice Todd, presiding at famous murder trials?

These questions are not intended to be taken seriously. They are absurd. We should have had no interest at all in following our favourite characters through the way of all flesh. To be entirely practical, it is unlikely that Figgins would have wed Ethel or that Bob would have wed Marjorie. School "crushes" seldom last. Peter Todd would probably never have followed the law, for few youngsters have really decided their careers at fifteen. Bunter would probably have died of apoplexy at thirty.

More seriously we can take the question as to whether the boys should have passed through the school and then dropped out of the tales. Should Tom Merry have gone to the Fifth, and thence become Captain of the School when he reached the Sixth, finally to have a lump in his throat and tears in his eyes on the day when he looked his last as a schoolboy, on those ivy-clad walls?

And if Harry Wharton also passed on in this way through the school, should the stories have centred still on the Remove, or should we have followed Harry until the dear old place knew him no more? Which, as my most hated mathematician used to say, is absurd.

Of course the boys should not have grown up, the very thought is preposterous. The charm of the stories lay in the fact that the boys did not grow old as we who read about them grow old. Contradict me if you like, but I say that the Gem and the Magnet would not have lasted all those years if the boys we love had passed on. Their perpetual youth was and is their perennial charm.

There may have been successful series where the characters grew older and the schools changed their desk-occupants with the passing of time, but if such series exist, I don't know them. It is a joy to me that Harry Wharton, and Tom Merry are now as they were in the beginning, that age had not wearied them nor the years condemned, and that their creator, in giving them perpetual youth, has made his readers, from what I have seen of them, ever young in heart.

It's just my point of view. What's yours?

* * * * *

DO YOU REMEMBER?

By Roger M. Jenkins

No. 26 - Magnets 196 & 274 - The Expulsion of Skinner

Greyfriars changed considerably more than St. Jim's with the

passing of the years, and consequently a red Magnet story today seems much more incongruous than a tale in a blue Gem. Certainly Magnet No. 196 entitled "For the Honour of His Chum" which was published towards the end of 1911 now reads rather like a period piece, though, like many antiques, its outward strangeness does not entirely belie the intrinsic merit in its construction.

The plot was not complicated. Harry Wharton had left the dormitory with the intention of setting about Loder with a whip. Neither of them guessed that a third party was lurking in the darkness, ready to carry on where Wharton left off. Loder was later discovered in the quadrangle insensible, and Wharton was adjudged the guilty party.

Frank Nugent was the only member of the Co. who really believed Wharton was innocent. Even Bob Cherry, who had cause enough to be grateful for Wharton's friendship earlier in the year, was doubtful whether Wharton's temper had not carried him too far on this occasion. Nevertheless, all the Co. backed up Frank in his efforts, and there was a grand scene in Skinner's study in which Nugent eventually managed to beat Skinner in a battle of wits. Nugent did not often have a star part of this magnitude, and his contribution to the climax of the story was both pleasing and memorable.

Skinner was expelled, and nothing more of him was heard for some time, when in Magnet No. 274 entitled "Standing by Skinner" dated May, 1913, it transpired that he had been sent to work in his father's office. Bulstrode had learnt that he would be a member of a visiting cricket team, and had set to work to make things easy for his old chum, with the result that Skinner was given something of an ovation. Skinner utilised his visit as an opportunity to ingratiate himself with Mr. Quelch and Dr. Locke, but Mr. Quelch had no use for soft sawder, and Skinner left the Remove master's study feeling quite discomfited. He found Dr. Locke was easier game, but even the kind old Head jibbed when Skinner laid it on too thick and referred to his dismay at leaving the dear old place and going out in the cold world, and the Head was quite firm in his refusal to allow Skinner to return. Eventually Skinner faked an accident and he was brought back to Greyfriars supposedly injured. Mr. Skinner said that his son was worried about not being allowed to take his place at the old school again, and at last the Head agreed to take him back, in order to speed his recovery.

No. 274 was an interesting story, but one cannot help wondering why Charles Hamilton decided to re-instate Skinner after such a long time, when it looked as though he had intended to dispense with him for good. Moreover, Skinner was not half so good a character then as

he later became. His morals never improved, but he later developed a wry sense of humour which endowed his unpleasant sardonic remarks with a seasoning of sophistication which the Removites no doubt found infuriating but which older readers enjoy immensely. So perhaps it was just as well that Greyfriars never said farewell for ever to Harold Skinner, the schemer of the Remove.

FOR SALE: Adventure Nos. 218-9, 222-5, 227-73. Rover Nos. 214-3, 220-37, 239-50. Fine. Any offers?

WANTED: Boys Own Magazine 1890. Boys Own Annual 1896-1901. Illust. Annual for Boys 1893. Chums 1892-4. 2 vols. Golden Story Book. Nister 1913. In the Chimney Corner, Nister 1899. In Story Land Nister 1900. Nister's Holiday Annuals - any. Union Jack 1880-85. Venture and Valour. Chambers 1900. Young England 1892-99. The Fifty-two Series for Boys 1890-1905. Seaside Maidens, 1880. Summer No. of Tinsleys Mag. In nice clean state in publishers orig. bindings. Good price paid. Also any 'Old Bloods' pre 1870. Esp. published by Lloyd, Caffyn, etc. Orig. editions not late cheap reprints. Also any runs periodicals pub. by Lloyd, will pay very fair price for this material in good complete state.

P. A. BRIMMELL, THE GARDEN HOUSE, 'SAXONBURY', ST. MARY'S ROAD,
LONG DITTON, SURREY.

EXCHANGE the following for equivalent number of copies of corresponding publications. **MAGNETS** - 1397, 1398, 1465, 1583, 1540, 1543 to 1545, 1548 to 1562, 1564 to 1571, 1574 to 1576, 1578 to 1585, 1587 to 1607.

GENS - 1462, 1536, 1537, 1539, 1542 to 1544, 1546 to 1560, 1562 to 1570, 1572, 1574, 1576, 1577, 1579 to 1589, 1591 to 1595, 1598 to 1600, 1602 to 1606. **SCHOOLBOYS OWN LIBRARY (1937 onwards)** 310 to 318, 320 to 327, 329 to 334, 336 to 340, 342 to 346, 348 to 352, 354 to 356, 409. **HOLIDAY ANNUALS** - 1935, 1936, 1938, 1940.

Please state numbers and titles of publications offered in exchange for the above and if in series whether series complete. Apply by letter to:- F. COCKROFT, HAWBER HOUSE, SILSDEN, KEIGHLEY, YORKS.

WANTED: Sexton Blake Libs. 1st and 2nd Series; any numbers. Reasonable price paid. Also Union Jacks 1917 to 1933. Boys' Friend Libs., 1st series, No. 669. 2nd Series No. 79.

JOSIE PACKMAN, 27 ARCHDALE ROAD, EAST DULWICH, LONDON S.E.22

FROM INFORMATION RECEIVED - No. 6By W. O. G. Lofts

Foreword: This will unfortunately be the last of the present series of "From Information Received", but I hope to start a new series in the new year. I shall be very busy the next few months compiling a list of all comic papers - and pen-names of Authors. I would like to thank all those who have written to me about this column, such letters are appreciated very much.

Readers who read my article on Donald Bobin (Blakania last month), will be interested to know that Donald was very fortunate in winning over £9,500 on the football pools. I am sure that all readers will wish him luck for the future.

W. O. G. LOFTS

* * * *

DUNCAN STORM

One of the most popular series of stories in the "Boys Friend" from 1915 onwards was "The Boys of the Bombay Castle" written by an author under the name of 'Duncan Storm'. These stories featured Dick Dorrington and Co. on the good ship Bombay Castle - a school afloat.

For years many enthusiasts of these stories have been seeking the real identity of this author without success - many names have been suggested including that of Michael Storm and William Murray Graydon, but no concrete evidence has been forthcoming.

Recently it was my very good fortune to contact a former Sub-Editor of the "Boys Friend" at the period the 'Duncan Storm' tales were running. He remembered the name but could not recollect off hand who this author really was - but promised to find out for me. A few days later he wrote to me and gave me the information that 'Duncan Storm' was a pen name used by GILBERT FLOYD who was a very well known writer and personality in Fleet Street during the early days of the present century. As Josie Packman so rightly suggested in Blakania in C.D. No. 120 the stories written in the girls papers under the name of Julia Storm were also written by the same author.

Who exactly was Gilbert Floyd? I am indebted to that grand sportsman Harry Dowler for pointing out to me that Floyd was at one time the Editor of the "Boys Realm". Confirmation of this can be obtained from the book "From Florida to Fleet Street" by T. C. Bridges, who by the way, was a great friend of Floyd's.

There are many stories I could tell about Floyd - who indeed was a very kindly man - and I do hope to write about some of these at a

later date.

THE NEW S.B.L.

I have been informed that starting in the new year - or perhaps in December - a magazine supplement will be issued with the S.B.Ls each month giving details in story form of famous crimes of long ago. Thumb nail sketches will be portrayed at the commencement of each chapter drawn mostly by Jack Dunkley of "Daily Mirror" fame. For the artistically minded fans the covers these days are drawn mostly by two Italian artists namely "De Seta" and "Carcupino", the former does the heavy type of illustrations whilst "Carcupino" does the lighter ones. The lettering is done by a Mr. Lionel Morgan - a very important chap - and the work is very tricky indeed some times.

I should think that for the first time in the history of the S.B.L. a story has been specially written for the benefit of one of our own circle - Eric Copeman. This is entitled "The Last Days of Berlin" written by Peter Saxon (W. Howard Baker); for confirmation of this statement read last year's C.D. Annual (Sexton Blake Circle Sexton). This will appear in December I believe, and it gives a remarkable true picture of postwar-torn Germany.

MARJORIE STANTON

One of the most popular schools ever to appear in Girls Fiction is Betty Barton and Co. of Morcove School - on a par I should say, with Barbara Redfern of Cliff House fame. The writer of all the Morcove yarns was 'Marjorie Stanton' which hid the identity of a male writer like all authors of girls stories. In this case 'Marjorie Stanton' was HORACE PHILLIPS - also well known as a writer of boys stories under his own name. Phillips was Editor of "Cheer Boys Cheer" and later on "Boys Journal." When the "Journal" finished he was for a time Editor of "Pluck" but confined himself mostly to girls paper writing. Horace Phillips in his Editorial Chat in No. 2 "Boys Journal" spoke of "the wonderful nostalgia he received when finding some of his old boys papers he read in childhood."

There will be a very interesting article about Morcove School in this year's C.D. Annual by Len Packman - I advise all readers not to miss it.

JOHN NIX PENTELOW - "THE GALLANT GENTLEMAN"

Of all the Editors who ever graced an Editorial chair at Fleetway House - surely John Nix Pentelow was the nicest, friendliest and helpful of them all. Born on March 26th, 1872, he wrote his first stories for the many Victorian papers which were in circulation at

that period. A very keen and good cricketer, he became a recognised expert on all matters pertaining to that sport - and wrote several official books on that subject. Later he became Editor of "Cricket" besides having the very rare distinction of being a member of three County Cricket Clubs.

Despite being handicapped by being nearly stone deaf, he joined the Amalgamated Press at the turn of the century, and started to write many stories for the A.P. papers under many different names. During the war years he became Editor of the "Magnet" and "Gem" and when Mr. H. A. Hinton returned he became Editor of the "Boys Realm" and the "Boys Realm Football and Sports Library." Many readers are well aware of his expert tales of cricket, and the two famous schools "Wycliffe and Haygerth". Many authors and Editors whom I have met have all spoken in warm terms about "Pen" as he was affectionately called. Many of the well known authors of today owe to Pentelow their first chance of writing for he was always ready to take a young writer under his wing, and give him not only his expert advice - but every encouragement for a successful career. Gilbert Chester the very well known Blake writer, and John Hunter are amongst many who owe a lot to "Pen". It is very sad to read at times such a lot of criticism about Pentelow. I do hope only as a writer as Pentelow was indeed a "very gallant gentleman."

SALE - Nelson Lees (in series), Gems, Chums, Many others also pre-war fiction. S.A.E. List.

L. M. ALLEN, 13 VIKING CLOSE, BOURNEMOUTH.

FOR SALE - Complete set H.As. 1932, No covers, £11; 39 Gems, 778 - 956, £5 10s. Od; 104 Gems, 972 - 1121, £13 5s. Od; 104 Gems, 1122 - 1300, £12; 125 Gems, 1301 - 1470, £12 15s. Od; 130 Magnets, 1351 - 1470, £14 17s. 6d; 2 Bound Volumes Modern Boy, No. 1-58, £4 10s. Od. 1 Gem, 23, 3/6; 5 U. Jacks, 1279 - 1418, 5/6. Includes Postage.

LITVAK, 70 CRANFORD AVENUE, ASHFORD, MIDDLESEX.

A TIP AND ITS SEQUEL: Last month we warned you to be careful regarding offers of books from an address at Heap Lane, Bradford. Well, on 23rd October, George Knight and his wife Hilda of that address, were charged with obtaining money under false pretences. They had been writing to advertisers in Exchange and Mart, asking for cash in advance then sending no books, the Pearson trick of ten years ago. Knight was fined £20 and £8 19s. costs and his wife had to pay £11 14s. 4d. costs.

MORAL - Always read the Collectors' Digest.

S.B.L. REVIEWSNovember, 1957The Violent Hours (No. 393)Peter Saxon

Craille, that apparently aged and somewhat vague individual of Belgrave Square, who shapes the destinies of man and not infrequently the country of his adoption, is becoming quite a familiar figure in the library these days. An assignment from Craille often spelt danger. Having worked for Craille on several occasions, Sexton Blake knew this to his cost. But, as a representative of Her Majesty's Government, Craille knew that Blake would never refuse to carry out any assignment given him whatever the dangers ahead.

The trouble in North Africa is the theme of this novel. Soviet penetration and the growth of Arab Nationalism spell danger to both Britain and France. In their campaign against Arab Nationalism the French have prepared a list of under-cover Red agents, agitators, spies and their kin, and a copy of this list has been sent to every French Security Post in North Africa. But the one sent to Tangier, run by a man named Savvas, has been stolen. Blake's job is to get back the list, and supply Savvas with much valued and experienced assistance in the fight against the increasing peril of Communist infiltration.

The slaying of Savvas is a bursting vein of mystery, its tributaries crimson trails of murder, chaos and destruction snaking to a climax of compelling interest. Peter Saxon never pulls his punches, there's no exception here. It's tough and thrilling.

Rating.....Very good

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The Blonde and the Boodle (No. 394)Jack Trevor Story

When Richard Tarbut enters the bank at the little country town of St. Harping and stands on his head in order to impress the lovely Daphne, a clerk therein, he starts a chain of events destined to have far-reaching, and, in four instances, fatal results. For Tarbut, an author, not only wrote stories of crimes, he committed them as well. The outcome of Tarbut's extraordinary conduct is a most unfortunate marriage, because under her husband's corrupting influence Daphne, normally a decent law abiding young woman, becomes afflicted with the same crooked tendencies. Prompted by Tarbut, she robs the bank of

fifty thousand pounds.

It is when the banknotes, wrapped as an ordinary brown paper parcel and addressed to a destination in Paris, to be picked up later by the astute Dicky, go astray, that complications set in. These are still further extended when Daphne meets and falls for Jack Yates, the handsome assistant headmaster of St. Harping Secondary Modern School, who turns out to be an even bigger crook than her husband.

Feminine interest is strongly represented, not the least interesting character being Lucy Locket, a long-haired, blue-eyed creature. She is the means of bringing Daphne to justice by reason of her tendency for scratching at newly dug earth, thereby presenting the police with a most valuable clue. Yes, Lucy was a cat, but in so being differed little from the rest of the feminine characters introduced, with possibly two exceptions.

Rating Very good

* * *

FOOTNOTE:

The stories aside, mention must be made of the present format of the Library. Never in its long history has the S.B.L. been so attractively presented as now. The latest innovations - the small illustrations beside the chapter headings, the bold, clear type, photographs of the authors, the glossy covers, artistically designed by De Seta, Carcupino, etc., provide variety never before experienced and reflects most creditably on those responsible for the greatly improved appearance of the justly famous little Journal.

WALTER WEBB

IN DEFERCE OF JOHN NIX PENTELOW

by Harry Broster

Almost every time the substitute writers are mentioned, the name of Pentelow crops up, generally to a storm of abuse by some who worship at the shrine of Charles Hamilton. At least so often that it is now becoming irritating to the faithful admirers of a great author. I say admirers, I do not mean worshippers. Pentelow had his faults, we know them and we will admit them. We all give credit to the greatness of Charles Hamilton. To hold the interest of the public for fifty years with school stories which no one can say shows a particular wide range of variation of theme or type of characters is unique in itself

but hardly worth the idolatry with which so many regard him. Such idolising is wrong, so let's view the situation in a sensible way. The sub-writers had a job set them. They had to "stand in" for a writer who had a style all his own. They did the best they could to keep to that style. In each case they were established authors themselves and they had their own styles, but they were set to imitate Charles Hamilton. Reverse the position, could Charles Hamilton imitate them? One of our fraternity calls them stop-gaps, they did it for extra money. Well, what author can do it for "Love". They filled a gap. Did it matter to us then who wrote the stories. Now years after, we are "wise after the event" and so the howl goes up, "sub-writers" - "inferior stuff" and the like. Perhaps it is only to be expected that the Editor of that period gets most abuse and not so surprising as he wrote most of the stories. Even his critics could not deny that J. N. P. was the best of the subs. His style was different but he had a complete knowledge of all Hamiltons work. He is accused of killing off Courtney and Valance. Well, there were enough characters left. What is two amongst so many? If Pentelow put paid to these two and I hardly think they were such marvellous types, he replaced them with some more interesting people such as Piet Delarey, Flip and Flap Derwent and Phyllis Howell. Were these as interesting as the two in question? To whom goes the credit for the Greyfriars and St. Jim's Galleries? Were they of no use? J. N. Pentelow has been criticised for so many sporting series in the Gem and Magnet. These writers wrote about schoolboys and the average schoolboys life is mainly concerned with "play", remember. Games mean most to them, not lessons and that applies to the "boys" who read the Gem and Magnet. It is what they wanted and J. N. P. gave it them and who better than he? He was admitted the foremost cricket writer of his day, his knowledge of the game was unsurpassed. He was admitted to be very kind and considerate to his staff and his integrity was unquestioned. As our wise leader from York says "but for him there may have been no Bunter today" and that would be a tragedy!! We have to bracket Pentelow with Edwy Searles Brooks, the other great sub-writer. These two were great writers and to repeat they had their own styles. So has Charles Hamilton. One cannot imitate the others and be 100% perfect. Give credit where it is due and remember as Herbert says "the show had to go on." J. N. Pentelow did most to see that it went on. He is gone now, mores the pity, so let us think of him with gratitude at least. Charles Hamilton and the heroes of our youth are still with us and Brooks still brings joy if in other

spheres. So as a fitting return for those blessings at least, let us say a kind word for another great writer - the late John Nix Pentelow.

NELSON LEE COLUMN

by JACK WOOD

Nostaw, 328 Stockton Lane, York.

Phone: 25795

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When the Russian satellite began bleeping its way round the world a few weeks ago, it opened up a new era in many directions. One author is reputed to have commented that his profession is now denied a wide field of fictional activity.

When one thinks of the literature we read as youngsters, one can only reply that the modern author must then be singularly unenterprising by comparison with his confreres of 30 years ago. Even in those days, I believe, space fiction was not entirely unknown, and we thrilled to many yarns of high adventure way up among the planets. I wonder if we ever really thought that in less than half-a-century the plots would have a strong basic reality verging on the commonplace. High speed travel, when all is said and done, has only come to the fore in our own lifetime, and how true it is that the luxuries of today are the necessities of tomorrow.

Lectures have been aware for years, of course, of the topicality of our favourite author, and, indeed, I have drawn attention to that feature of his work on more than one occasion. Often, too, he was well ahead of his time, and with interplanetary travel now in the foreseeable future, I want here to recall two of Edwy Searles Brooks' most popular yarns, neither, oddly enough, about the boys of St. Frank's, but both written under his earlier pseudonym of Robert W. Comrade.

The first is his story, "In Trackless Space", which appeared as a serial in the Nelson Lee Library in August, 1919, and for some weeks afterwards. It formed a companion to the St. Frank's in London, the return to St. Frank's, and the Dorrie's Xmas Party series. Reprinted in the Boys Friend Library, In Trackless Space was described as "a thrilling account of a wonderful voyage to the Moon, Venus and Mars, and of a flying machine known as "The Solar Monarch", the most

marvellous invention of the ago."

It all began when explorers Frank Hillsworth and MacDonald Guthrie, their old college friend, Professor Montague Polgrave a renowned scientist, and their servant, Abbie, a burly negro, rescued inventor Robert Gresham from African cannibals. As a reward Gresham introduces them to the Solar Monarch.

Gresham has discovered the substance which will cut off from the machine all the earth's attraction, and before long the party is aboard the Solar Monarch, rising from its home in the Essex marshes. Clearing the earth's gravity pull in two minutes, the vessel is soon hurtling through space while the explorers play billiards in a comfortably furnished saloon with drinks and soda on the sideboard apparently unaffected. No austerity scientific gadgets and safety belts, nor "gold-fish" bowl masks! The Moon, Venus and Mars are visited in turn and yield amazing adventures and discoveries of strange monsters and extraordinary beings in the best Lost World tradition. Eventually they get back to earth to end a powerful serial.

The idea also came in a serial which "Comrade" wrote for the Old Boys Magazine with a title something like the School on Venus. I haven't seen that story, but I have the "reprint" by Reginald Browne a year or two ago in the Swan libraries.

Then entitled, "The School in Space", it put the boys of Whitelands School on Venus. It was described as "a breathtaking, spine-chilling story of the Whitelands' Boys, who arrive by space-airship on the planet Venus."

A party of boys including Dick Sylvester, Tim Charters, Will Osborne, Stanley Horatio Goodman, Kenneth Pyne, and others, are invited aboard the Asterion, a space-annihilating airship, by Professor Bill Sylvester.

While aboard, the vessel takes off thanks to the machinations of one Paul Valescu, who later maroons them on Venus. The giant Bat Men, an extraordinary city of diamond quartz, weird monsters, all play their part in the subsequent thrills. To readers of a later generation the symptoms of some of Brooks' best-loved Lost World yarns will be more than evident. But does that really matter? The stories were told with conviction, though as a non-scientist I would not be prepared to argue about the author's grasp of scientific facts. At the time the stories had a fascination all their own; today, in the light of developing knowledge, they do not seem as archaic, as one might think. Take them off your library shelves and see!

And while we are on the subject of Brooks' topicality, have you

been reading the interesting current Sunday newspaper series about airship tragedies? When I first started as a reporter, one of my early jobs was to write my own impression of the memorial service broadcast from France to Lord Thomson and the victims of the R101 crash.

Round about that time too, the editor of the Nelson Lee Library had apparently decided to try a run of all-detective yarns in which Lee would have the chance - hinted at more than once in earlier yarns - to run a sort of Detective Academy. Preliminary to this was the destruction of St. Frank's - by a crashing, burning airship. A topical yarn, even if, on reflection, it had strong affinity with Bull-dog Drummond's Last Round.

Next month will be the Xmas number again! Doesn't time fly.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

Michael Joseph 18/-

Reviewed by Jack Wood

Our worthy Editor has asked me to review the second edition of Mr. E. S. Turner's book which a few years ago on its first appearance stimulated a great deal of lasting interest in our hobby, and in the old boys' papers. Well, Mr. Turner has certainly taken the opportunity to revise what he wrote, and to bring it up to date with references to the post - Dick Barton era. He has also brought the Sexton Blake saga up to date, and introduced some chapters on the Aldines and the American publications.

I cannot see, however, that he has done such a lot with the Hamiltonian line of country, and I can find little or no evidence that the Nelson Lee and St. Frank's sections have been touched at all. The old sense of writing with his tongue in his cheek is still there, and far from representative portions of the St. Frank's story have been retained. True, there may today be some topicality in Communism, and to that extent Mr. Turner's choice is justified. To the hardened and expert Leeite, however, the author leaves the impression he considers this, and the more sensational series, the be all and end all of St. Frank's and Nelson Lee. It is a pity that Mr. Turner did not obviously have the same standard of guidance in revising these chapters as he did elsewhere, though, as before, one is left with nothing but admiration for the author's monumental powers of research and compression. There are some new illustrations, too, in a book which provides more reading matter than before and which should provide a good "buy" for Xmas.

OLD BOYS BOOK CLUB

LONDON SECTION

From the St. Frank's and St. Jim's countryside at Woodingdean, Brighton, Sussex to the Harry Wharton countryside at Caterham, Surrey is quite a distance. However Bill and Gladys Jardine, our old hosts of the Sussex venue, now made us welcome at their new Caterham home. Here the October meeting took place and it was only fitting that Bill should devise a Wharton Lodge Quiz. Brother Bob won this but our Eric Lawrence was a good second with young David Brooks, who had cycled over from Beckenham, a close third. Now resident in London, our esteemed acquisition from the Merséyside Club, their chairman, Don Webster, full of sparkle, conducted his Lucky Dip Quiz. A jolly affair this and our host Bill won it. Brother Bob in second place and Frank Lay and myself third. My I.T.A. Advertising quiz was won by Bob, Eric Lawrence second and Don Webster third. The latter won the One Minute Please after a tie. Second was Bob and third Frank. Frank Lay's Shambles Card Game resulted in Bill Jardine getting out first, myself second and Christopher Lay third. After votes of thanks to the host and hostess it was mentioned that the November venue of the Club Meeting would be at Roger Jenkins and David Harrison's Flat at Kensington on Sunday, 17th. And so after a very happy and jolly meeting the time came to depart.

UNCLE BENJAMIN

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NORTHERN SECTION MEETING - OCTOBER 12th, 1957

My word, it was a right busy evening, in which a welcome visitor Harry Broster, Secretary of Midland O.B.B.C. took part. First Gerry Allison told of plans, already well advanced for an exhibition to celebrate the Greyfriars Jubilee at the Leeds Public Library next Feb.

Then we got down to discussing the coming fight for the Greyfriars Silver Cup. There was a ready response to an appeal from Chairman Stanley Smith for appropriate articles. Next the ladies came into the picture once again. Margaret Cooke of Manchester had submitted what proved to be a delightful talk "Sexton Blake and I". Unable to be present herself, our other Margaret, Margaret Jackson was called upon to read it. This she did in excellent fashion. At the end there was a hearty round of applause for the two Margarets. Refreshments hurriedly disposed of we had time for half-an-hour or so with Stanley

Smith's new brain-wave based on TV's Criss Cross Quiz. How much mid-night oil Stan spent on this brilliant idea only he knows. It's just as well it's put on after business, otherwise there might be no business dealt with at all. Next meeting, November 9th, when we are to have J. Breeze Bentley's annual talk. This time, subject "The Fourth Form at Rookwood."

HERBERT LECKENBY

North Section Correspondent.

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MERSEYSIDE SECTION - SUNDAY, 13th OCTOBER

There was a good attendance at the October Meeting which got off to an early start at 6.30 p.m. Our special guests of the month were Sir F. Bowman and Herbert Leckenby. Frank Case also made a welcome appearance, and it is hoped that it will be possible for him to be with us more often in the future. Business, financial and otherwise was soon disposed of, and the Chairman then gave us full details of the "Greyfriars Herald" competition. A full discussion then took place and decisions taken as to how we should tackle this matter. After tea Frank Unwin presented a special edition of "Down You Go" in honour of Herbert Leckenby. This was well received and Don Webster's team had the pleasure of beating the writer's by five points to four. A change of address was announced and we shall be glad if all members would note Frank Unwin's present address - 5 Thornedale Road, Waterloo, Liverpool. 22. Next Meeting - Sunday 10th November at 6.30 p.m.

NORMAN PRAGNELL - Secretary.

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MIDLAND SECTION MEETING - 30th SEPTEMBER.

The Greyfriars Jubilee Challenge Cup and our part in the competition was naturally the main topic of the evening. The absence of four or five of the stalwarts was due to "flu" and in some cases, business demands. Jack (Corbett) was in the Chair. After a lengthy talk on the "Cup" and the usual Clubs business we got down to the long awaited controversial talk by our Treasurer who fairly let himself go. He gave definite instances of what he described as Charles Hamilton's lack of knowledge of what constitutes actual public school life. A debate followed, and then a twenty question quiz set by myself and the "clue within a clue" made this a very amusing (if easy) item. No complaints this night anyway. Next Meeting - Monday, 28th October.

HARRY BROSTER Secretary.