

OLD BOYS' COLUMN.

Hon. Secretary: MR. ROY C. WARD, A.B.C. Bank, Ipswich.

The Old Boys' Association has not been holding its usual social functions for some time past. But this is not to be taken as a sign of want of interest amongst its members. There have been several meetings of the Council; these have been well attended, and much enthusiasm still exists.

The Honour Roll was unveiled at the Speech Day function, and contains 150 names, to which a large number have to be added. It will be necessary, very soon, to erect another Board.

The Association has also undertaken another very admirable piece of work on behalf of the school. It will be remembered that more than £100 was subscribed some few years ago for the improvement of the Sports Ground. A portion of this money is now being spent in laying down a pair of practice turf wickets in the South West corner of the Cricket Ground. These will be ready for next Cricket season and should prove of great help in the training of good players.

The Annual Dinner is to take place at the usual time, the last Wednesday of July. It is hoped that there will be a good muster of those who still have feelings of loyalty and love to the old school. This is no mere "jollification," which would be unseemly at this time when wounds and death have made so much sorrow and anxiety. Rather would we do honour to our brave men who are fighting for us, and to our glorious dead. Let us all make a point of being present.

W. E. LANE (BILL), writes from "Somewhere at Sea."—

"10th February, 1917. I promised to drop you a line as soon as I could. This is the fulfilment of the promise.

"We are all having a good time so far, but we have not struck any rough weather as yet. Some of the men have been sea-sick, but only in a mild form; I have not had the slightest symptoms. Our vaccination makes us feel a bit sick, but we shall soon get over that.

There are a good many Ipswich boys amongst us, including R. Fittock. I am not sorry we came so soon, as we are in with such a fine lot of fellows. Remember me to the boys, and the Masters, and tell them that I was very sorry not to say good-bye to them all."

We were all very surprised when Bill came to say good-bye; that was the first we heard of his enlistment. Our best wishes go with him.

CECIL GERMAIN (entered school 1910), writes from "In the Field," 26/1/17":—In perusing a copy of the "Queensland Times" to-day, I was much interested in reading the account of "Speech Day" at the old school. I have met quite a number of Old Boys over here after the evacuation of Gallipoli, when all the Australian troops were re-organising in Egypt. Some of them, alas, have answered the last call.

The dear old school has won a few distinctions too, of which we may be proud—such men as Major Butler, D.S.O.; Major P. J. Savage, and Lieutenant Trevor Francis. At present we Light Horsemen are in the Sinai Peninsula. My regiment, unfortunately, has not been taking part in the El Arish operations, being engaged in patrol work elsewhere. However, the regiment did good work at Romani. It was during that scrap that Lieutenant Hunter did such good work. He was always the first to get his remember me to all my former masters. I wish the school and yourself the best of success.

IVOR WILSON.

Many Old Grammarians of about 1910, will remember Ivor Wilson. It will be remembered that he was disabled in a railway accident in Egypt and lost both his legs. This was to all his friends a source of keen regret and deep sympathy; but we are also proud that Ivor's pluck and grit have carried him through his suffering and left him as full of spirit as ever. Here is the way he writes:—

No. 3 London General Hospital,
4th February, 1917.

My dear Mr. Kerr,—

I was very pleased to receive your letter, and appreciate your kind expressions. It was certainly very galling to me at first to think I had left the Regiment after eighteen months' service, with only one break of four weeks in September 15. And then to leave from the cause of an unfortunate accident.

We had had much active work for a few months preceding, and my luck was always of the best. However, it's over now, and I was fortunate in getting off so well. The authorities here say I can easily be fixed up, the results are beyond their best hopes and in my case they expect to turn out a first-class "walker." You perhaps remember I won the walk at the sports one year. I don't propose though to take on any of your walking experts.

I was very interested in the school news. You certainly have a large family, and the day boys seem to be on the increase. Of course the chief improvement is on the other point, that of the

Junior Examination. With regard to the one other side of the school I am very glad to hear that the total enlistments among the Old Boys have been so good.

Frank Phillips, Wilkinson, and Archie Wilson were with our Field Ambulance. I often saw them. "Sprit" Morgan was also in that unit, but was invalided to England from Gallipoli. There are many others I have heard of, but had no idea the number was so large.

I must ask you not to expect any accounts of our doings from me. While on Gallipoli we read in the papers many letters, which, unfortunately, were not quite true, and among them some from our own regiment. There has been a general feeling since that those who know of it put all in the same "boat," and we, therefore, decided not to join the "war correspondents." They have often told me from home that I don't tell much of the doings. However, I hope to visit you at the school before very long.—With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,
IVOR M. WILSON.

Eric Francis was wounded, as reported in last issue. We have received several interesting letters from him since, from which the following are extracts:—

Goodrich Court, Ross, Herefordshire, 15/10/'16.—"You know that Trevor and I have been wounded, and that Trevor won the Military Cross—another honour for the school. I suppose you know that Percy J. Savage was awarded the D.S.O.

"I got wounded very early in my fighting career. I joined the 15th Battalion on the 14th August. After marching around France a bit we went into action at Mouquet Farm, near Thiepval, on the night of August 6th. I had just reached to within 50 yards of the front line, when a shell came over, a high explosive, and killed five outright and wounded 12, including myself. My shoulder wound was worst. It is perfectly healed now, although a piece of metal is still in. Trevor's arm is O.K. He got a letter from Bert Mellor the other day. Bert is still in France on engineering work, well back from the line just now.

It is a terrible place—the firing line. The sight is beautiful, with the shells bursting and the star shells and lights making almost daylight. The sight of the dead from "my" shell will never leave me. One was a boy whom I knew, named Patterson, who enlisted as a present boy from B.G.S.

"Codford," England, 1/4/17.—You cannot imagine how pleased I was to receive your letter. I had just returned from four days leave in Ilfracombe, perhaps the prettiest place on the Devonshire

coast. It was magnificent. I took several photos which I shall show you on my return. I had a very sad ending to the holiday, for on my final day, I opened the paper quite casually, and saw poor old Trevor's name amongst the killed.

I hope you were satisfied with the senior results. I am glad to see that McCulloch scored, for he must have done good work for the school during his final year. I hope to hear of good results from the Junior.

I had heard some time ago from several sources, of the late Matron's engagement. Very best of luck to them both.

I wish I were the resident master and back in Ipswich again—Kindest regards and best wishes for the school's success."

"London, 5/13/'17.—I am at present attending a school of instruction at Chelsea Barracks, the home of the Grenadier Guards. It is a fine sight to see the Guards march out every day, led by a band of 65 instruments. I have still a week to go at the school, after which I go back to Salisbury Plain." † †

"W. H. Bryan, France, 15/10/'16.—I was delighted to receive a copy of the school magazine a few days ago. The Roll of Honour at the end will help me greatly in finding old friends. Roy Caston, who is my corporal, and I spent a very happy evening going through the list, talking over old days, and exchanging reminiscences.

I have played against "Shirty" Foote in several "Rugger" matches here. Very best luck to the old school."

We wish to congratulate Bryan on his receiving a commission, and subsequently the second star.

ROY C. CASTON.—The news has reached us that Roy Caston has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the field. Congratulations.

THIS IS THE LAST LETTER WE RECEIVED FROM TREVOR FRANCIS.

"Somewhere in France,"
9/12/1916.

Dear Mr. Kerr,—

I received your letter of 20th August yesterday. I cannot tell you how pleased I am to hear that you and Mrs. Kerr are still well (which I hope will always be the case), and that the old school is doing so well in its numbers. An increasing roll is surely the best sign that its records are equal to any of its rivals.

It is a very strange thing that I have never received a magazine either from the school or University, although I have had