

New Entry Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieut. Commander D. D. O'Sullivan, M.B.E., R.N.

2nd Divisional Officer: Commissioned Gunner E. W. Scovell, R.N.

3rd Divisional Officer: Chief Petty Officer Seabrook.



The New Entry Staff.

The earliest kind of writing was done by carving ideographs or pictures, each representing an idea, on stone, bone or other hard material. This may have been in existence as early as 4000 or 5000 B.C. and developed forward through the hieroglyphic writings as used by the Assyrians and Egyptians. The invention of papyrus made writing easier and in course of time, the cursive form became general. The European alphabets were derived from the Phoenician', small as well as capital letters were used, and cursive script spread over most of Europe.

Letter writing is a most popular medium for exchanging ideas and information and plays a vitally important part in the lives of Service men, who spend the greater part of their time away from their families. We are the Navy, and when called upon to "Occupy our business in great waters" are restricted in our use of that part of civilisation, which is taken so much for granted, the "Penny Post." The first person ashore upon arrival, and the last to come on board before sailing from a port, is the Ship's Postman. Every effort is made by the Naval and Postal authorities to ensure the speedy and safe delivery of "The Sailors' Mail."

Now, what has all this got to do with "Ganges," and in particular the Annexe, where mail is collected and delivered twice daily and once on Sundays? It is realised how concerned parents are when their sons leave home for the first time, to conquer the world. For that reason we ensure that within twenty-four hours of his arrival, the Nozzer writes a letter home — thereafter a weekly letter writing period is included in the routine. Boys sometimes say that they haven't the time for this or that, be it a hobby, playreading, French class or some other form of useful voluntary activity. So it happens in some cases with letter writing. The boy disregards his opportunities, rather than makes them. In addition, some boys are painfully unaware of their responsibilities to their parents in this direction. On the other hand, they soon complain when "Mum," with all the multifarious distractions and difficulties of keeping home for them, fails to send her regular letter

of love and encouragement. On the threshold of this life of great interest and adventure in this Service, where separation will, amongst others, be an almost constant companion, a boy of fifteen to sixteen years of age should be capable of holding fast to his resolve, as so many of them promise, to write home regularly.

Mothers, too, should appreciate the morale building and security factors connected with regular, lively and cheery correspondence with their sons. I have seen fully grown family men reduced to a state of apathy and mental degeneration, antagonism and frustration, caused by the carelessness of those at home in failing to keep the letters flowing. In most cases, such anguish could have been avoided. To my mind, there is nothing more soul destroying than to be "Forgotten."

It is a far cry from 5000 B.C. to the present day; we are not confronted with the difficulties our forefathers had. Letter writing is so easy and materials are reasonably cheap and plentiful. Our moral duty in this direction is at fault, so let us all, Nozzers past and present, at the end of the year, a seasonal time of goodwill and resolutions, resolve to correspond regularly. By so doing, we will bind our family ties still closer together, thus preserving and strengthening the basis of our Christian, British Way of Life.

This term, three hundred and seventy-four boys have joined "Ganges" and have been introduced to the British Naval Way of Life. Number Forty-Seven Recruitment, which joined on September 5th, had a goodly number of outstanding boys. On the other hand it contained eighteen sub-standard entries, rather more than is usual. Included in the total number of one hundred and sixty-one entered, were ten "Arethusa" boys and five from "Mercury." Tyrwhitt 2 Mess, with a decisive win of six goals to one over Beatty I Mess, won the Soccer Knock-out Competition. They were also winners of the Annexe Efficiency Trophy, which is awarded each Recruitment, to the Mess with the highest score for Marching, Mess Rounds, Kits and Parade Training. The Boxing Finals were an acute disappointment. The Preliminary and Semi-finals showed much promise but, during the latter, one boy fell rather heavily and sprained his jaw, whilst another fractured a bone in his wrist. These incidents unsettled the finalists, who boxed with such extreme caution that the general standard was well below that to which we have become accustomed.

A birthday present, in the shape of Forty Eight Recruitment, arrived for me on 10th October. Of the 105 boys entered, eleven were substandard entries, five were "Indefatigable" boys, and there were proportionally fewer outstanding boys, as compared with their predecessors. On the other hand, in their sporting activities, they showed greater promise. The keenly contested Knock-out Competition was won by Beatty One Mess, with a score of seven goals to five against Beatty Two, who, by a narrow margin, were awarded the Efficiency trophy. The behaviour of this Recruitment was good; their window and crockery breakages were small, but they found training difficult. Only one boy was selected for the "Special List," which contains the names of boys who show early promise.

Our present entry has settled in quickly and I have every hope that they will be the brightest and best of the Term. They have the added impetus of long leave in the near future to spur them on, and already they are shaping well.

The greatest Staff change took place at the beginning of the Term when P.O. Wren Dalton and her team of cooks were replaced by Male ratings. Instructor Boys Rankin, Fitz-Costa, and Forsey were presented before a C.W. Board; "White Papers" have been started for them and they are now at sea. Petty Officer Hickmott has been relieved by Petty Officer Sid ders and Chief Yeoman Wallbank has been relieved by Chief Yeoman Jowitt.

To all those Worthy souls who served so loyally, our thanks and best wishes for the future. We welcome the newcomers and know they will aspire to maintain the high standards set by their predecessors.

A happy leave and "A Merry Christmas" to you all.

DAVID D. O'SULLIVAN,
Lieutenant Commander.

Anson Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant R. T. Smith, R.N.

2nd Divisional Officer: Mr. A. C. Arnold, Senr. Cd. Bosun, R.N.

This term has not been so good for the 'appy Ansons, in contrast to its predecessors. We have had our wins, but our failures have been dismal ones—a thing which has not happened before. Our effort has been patchy and we have lacked all-round concentration. Next term this must not be so.

ACTIVITIES.

SOCCER. Our 1st XI. were good, or so it seemed during pre-competition friendly matches, but they went completely off form when the league started and were eclipsed by our unbeaten 2nd XI., whose morale was high enough to beat its betters in a Sunday afternoon challenge match. A case of guts and dash beating superior skill.



ANSON RUGBY XV,
Runners-up in the Inter-Divisional Competition,

RUGGER. The stop press will give the results of what should be a very good championship match between our unbeaten XV. and Benbow. Our star, Penfold, will still be unfit, but we have managed to win three league games without him, and providing our forwards fight as hard as hitherto, we should replace the lost soccer shield with the rugger trophy.

HOCKEY. Our strength is still untried, but if growth of popularity is any yardstick, we are doing quite well. From a half dozen starters, we now have more than enough to fill the ground allocation.

BASKETBALL. We lost the trophy to a well deserving Benbow team and finished fourth. Well done, Clawley and Sibbald for representing "Ganges" in both "St. Vincent" matches.

BOXING. We started the finals with only one boxer and two points down, and still managed to be within winning distance at the finish. But for an unfortunate

disqualification in the final of the feather-weight, we would have shared the trophy with several other Divisions. We can comfort ourselves with the knowledge that all our boxers fought hard and with good spirit. Boy Andrews won his weight, boxing well and without affectation or swank. Well done, Andrews.

WATER POLO. We have one more match to play, and again Benbow stands between us and the trophy. If we win it will mean the hat-trick and only one defeat in twenty-seven matches played this year. Well done !

SWIMMING. The swimmers tried hard, but the requirement was for quantity. We never had it and finished sixth, although the breast stroke team won their race by a comfortable margin.

THE RIVER. Our coxswains won the practice sailing race series, but we finished seventh in the whaler pulling and never looked any better.



ANSON RIFLE TEAMS,
Winners of the .22 Cup.

FIELD GUN AND SHOOTING. Having been soundly beaten in the Field Gun, our gunnery team "went to town" in the Shooting Competition, winning the .22 Cup and sixth place in the .303.

HEAVING LINE AND PIPING. Petty Officer Firmin's canaries and cowboys managed quite well in both competitions, finishing second and fourth respectively. Boy Andrews won the individual Heaving Line medal.

The following boys represented "Ganges" this term:—

Soccer — Bywaters (captain).

Rugger — Penfold (captain), Walsh, Mead, Benjafield, Whiton.

Water Polo and Swimming — Webster.

Basketball — Clawley; Sibbald.

We are due to lose 149, 70 and the G.C. section of 211/212 Classes before the competition period next term. Their reliefs are due to join the Division before leave. We will need to work and play harder than ever next term in order to avoid a lean time while they are growing up. Whatever happens we have a fortnight's leave to renew and refresh us. So have a good leave Ansons, you have earned it.

Benbow Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant Commander D. L. Davenport, R.N.
2nd Divisional Officer: Commissioned Gunner W. T. McNeill, R.N.

Seventy-nine Class, who, with P.O. Garnham, joined the Division in the last week of the Summer term, have been our only newcomers this term.

Sixty-three Class left in mid-October to continue their training in H.M.S. "Indefatigable." Throughout their course, they held the reputation of being a reliable G.C. Class, and had the unique record of representing "Ganges" at every known sport. We congratulate Evans on being rated Instructor Boy.

The G.C. section for 281 and 282 Classes remained with us for an extra month while working up for the Hornpipe display at the Royal Albert Hall. After their visit to London, they left in mid-November to join ships of the fleet. Before Christmas the A.C. section will also have left for sea. 281 and 282 have provided a



BENBOW DIVISION FOOTBALL TEAM.
(Winners — Inter-Divisional Football Shield.)

Back Row, Left to Right:— Mitchell, P.O. Boy Whitlock (Captain), Thomson, P.O. Boy Ricketts, Hindmarsh, Margetts.
Front Row, Left to Right— Ldg. Boy Fisher, Calaz, Roberts, Ldg. Boy Tilley, Ldg. Boy Fraser.

Petty Officer Boy for each Mess and more than their fair share of outstanding sportsmen. Petty Officer Boy Whitlock deserves special mention as the captain of the "Ganges" Cricket XI. and vice-captain of the Soccer XI. C.Y.S. Neilson and C.P.O. Tel. Burton have become the old stagers amongst the Instructors and we are sorry to see them disappear to the obscurity of the Signal School staff.

Another departure has been that of Senior Commissioned Gunner T. R. Murray, who left in November after a year as 2nd Divisional Officer. His echoing cry: "Keep silence in Benbow Lane" will be sadly missed, and we wish him every good fortune at his selection board for promotion to Lieutenant. In his place we welcome Commissioned Gunner W. T. McNeill who, having spent a commission in the Boys' Training Flotilla, knows more about boys than many of them suspect

FIELD GUN. In the first competition of the term we failed to retain the Field Gun trophy on top of the Benbow trophy case. Our crew were keen and well trained, but just lacked the speed to bring them home first.

WHALER PULLING REGATTA. The Whaler Pulling regatta developed into a Benbow benefit. Trained by Petty Officers Garnham and Salmon, three of our four crews reached the final ten. In the final race, we narrowly missed the hat trick and the result: 1st, Basilisk Mess; 2nd, Boadicea Mess; 4th, Brilliant Mess, showed the value of hard and conscientious training. Our congratulations go to all crews and their coaches. We won the cup by the comfortable margin of 26½ points.

SWIMMING. With only one or two "star" swimmers, we finished 5th in the Inter-Divisional Swimming Gala, due to the efforts of the "average" swimmers, who formed the backbone of the team. Boys. Long, Barker and Crossland all finished second in their individual events.



BENBOW DIVISION BASKETBALL TEAM.

(Winners Inter-Divisional Basketball League).

Back Row, Left to Right — Noone, Cunnington, Ldg. Boy Marks,
Centre Row, Left to Right — Ldg. Boy Tilley, P.O. Farmer (P.T.I.),
Lt.-Cdr. Davenport, P.O. Boy Brown.
Front Row, Left to Right — Ldg. Boy Fryer (Captain).

WATER POLO. The Water Polo leagues are as yet unfinished. The first team has yet to be beaten, but has twice been forced to a draw. The second team have had several successes and should finish somewhere in the middle of their league table.

FOOTBALL. The Inter-Divisional league was divided into two sections. Benbow headed section "A" with maximum points and a record of played 4, won 4. In the final game against Drake, leaders of section "B," we won by the only goal, scored in a high wind.

The 2nd XI. finished second in their league table.

P.O. Boy Whitlock and Boys Calaz and Roberts now hold the double distinction of "Ganges" Colours at both cricket and soccer. P.O. Boys Ricketts and

Brown both played for "Ganges" 1st XI., and Leading Boys Fraser and Fisher for the 2nd XI.

Four boys have qualified as R.M. & R.N. Probationary Referees, 3rd Class. This will be of great value to them when they get to sea.

BASKETBALL. Led by Leading Boy Fryer, the Divisional Basketball team won the Inter-Divisional Basketball cup, having won all their nine matches. The team played well together throughout the competition, and won by team-work rather than any individual efforts.

RUGBY. In Section "A" of the Rugby League, Benbow also came out on top, with three wins and one draw. The final game against Anson showed a lot of spirit on both sides, but not a lot of Rugby, with Benbow just winning by 3 points to nil. We feel that our team has won the Rugby shield by a lot of guts, and congratulate them for always playing hard. Leading Boy Tilley, Boys Standing and Wellman all represented "Ganges" until they went on draft.

HOCKEY. Boy Moore has represented "Ganges" throughout the term. The knock-out competition is about to start, and we have great hopes of seeing Benbow in yet another final.

HEAVING LINE. The heaving line competition was another Benbow victory by a substantial margin. P.O. Boy Sleight gained second place in the individual throws.

BOXING. Our Boxing team just failed to retain the championship belt. Boy Roberts, who stood a good chance of winning his weight, unfortunately became unfit in the middle of the competition. Boy Calaz won the light heavy-weight by a narrow margin in the last fight of the evening. The Division finished 2 points behind the leaders. Our congratulations to the whole team and to Petty Officer Farmer, their trainer.

SHOOTING. Our shooting was not up to its usual standard this term, and we sincerely hope to put up a better showing after Christmas.

PARADE EFFICIENCY. With one more Sunday to go, Benbow and Rodney head the Parade Efficiency Competition. Both Divisions will no doubt put in super-human efforts next week, and we await the result with interest. The Benbow guard, early in the term, gave us a strong start with their excellent marching.

MESSES. The Inter-Mess cleanliness competition has again been a close fight for the monthly cake, and all Messes have maintained a high standard.

To conclude, we have had a satisfactory term in all respects. In competition spheres we have invariably been well to the fore; the trophy case is well filled; defaulters have not been too numerous, and the health of the Division has been particularly good. Only 18 boys have been admitted to the Sick Quarters throughout the term, for an average duration of 8 days, and of these, the larger number of complaints have been surgical casualties.

For the successful term, we thank the team of Officers, Instructors, Badge Boys and the boys themselves for their loyal co-operation, and we wish all Benbows a very happy Christmas and an equally successful New Year.

D.L.D.

A gentleman living in Rome
Was trying to build a square dome.
The whole thing, 'twas absurd;
They just gave him the "bird,"
And despatched him forthwith to a Home.

Blake Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant-Commander M. S. Forte, R.N.

2nd Divisional Officer: Mr. T. K. Allcard, Commissioned Gunner, R.N.



BLAKE DIVISIONAL STAFF.

We would like to apologise for the somewhat distorted photograph of the Staff, but owing to a "hang-fire" with the flash bulb we were caught somewhat "agog." Had we known at the time that our Boxing team was going to be so successful, we would have gladly substituted their smiling faces in lieu.

On the whole, this term has been an enjoyable one, crammed full of activities, in which we have more than held our own. We are very satisfied with our reinforcements in the shape of Classes 251, 160 and 85, all of which have settled down well. Quite a number of embryo sporting giants have swiftly materialised from their ranks, and we are looking forward to the future with high hopes.

66 Class and the G.C. section of 293 Class are on the point of departure. We wish them the best of luck in their careers in the Royal Navy and in particular, Petty Officer Boy Farrell, who has so successfully carried out the duties of Senior Badge Boy for the last two terms. We wish him every success in H.M.S. "Cadiz."

ACTIVITIES.

BASKETBALL. Credit is due to Corporal Sewell and Boy Adams for getting us into 6th place with a team that had to start from scratch.

SWIMMING. The Inter-Divisional Swimming Gala was held on Tuesday, 24th October. There were no less than 55 boys in each Divisional team and by the time we had tackled the prodigious task of sorting over 50 per cent. of our effective strength into seven teams, we came to the conclusion that, in comparison, "The Times" Crossword was "a piece of cake."

Amid a welter of foam, in which the spectators got as wet as the contestants, we finished in 5th place.

FIELD GUN COMPETITION. Our team finished in 6th place with a total aggregate time of 13 minutes and 55 4/5th seconds.

WHALER PULLING. Though we had no boats in the final, we had piled up so many points in the preliminary heats and semi-finals that it was impossible to dislodge us from 3rd place. Our crews were well trained by Petty Officer Bowles and Petty Officer Curtis, but certain members seemed to lack the art of pulling an oar without breaking it.

PIPING COMPETITION. Our "Canaries" warbled their way into 3rd place with 150 points.

HEAVING LINE COMPETITION. The Divisional team was placed 3rd with 20.3 points.



BLAKE 2nd WATER POLO TEAM.
Winners of the 2nd League,

SOCCER. Both our teams were good in defence, but sadly lacked goal scoring potential in the forward line. Results were as follows:-

1st Team: v. Benbow ... Lost	2nd Team: v. Benbow ... Draw
v. Hawke ... Draw	v. Hawke ... Lost
v. Rodney ... Draw	v. Rodney ... Draw
v. Duncan ... Draw	v. Duncan ... Won

RUGBY. With the assistance of the ping-pong table in Atlantic Mess, a set of "Halma" men and a great deal of practice, we managed to manufacture a keen and promising team. In our first match against Duncan we sadly missed Boy Turnham's 15-stone and his steam-roller tactics. Benbow just managed to beat us by a try and a goal to a goal, but we had our revenge on Rodney and Hawke, scoring 40 points to the loss of 3 against these two Divisions.

Congratulations to Boys Watkinson and Turnham for securing places for themselves in the "Ganges" 1st XV. and to Boy Turnham for receiving his "Ganges" Rugby Colours.

SHOOTING. Our .22 team is to be congratulated on securing second place in the competition with a total of 957 points. The .303 team was not quite so successful, but did not disgrace itself by coming 5th with 759 points.

BOXING. Our team shared the Trophy with Drake and Duncan. Had one of our more accomplished pugilists been a little more religiously minded on the Sunday before the semi-finals, we would have won the Trophy outright.

The whole team is to be congratulated on a fine combination of skill and guts, and, in particular, Boys Lee and Hopper for winning their weights, and Boy Keeley for being a runner-up. The fight between Boy Lee and Boy Morgan, of Drake, was the highlight of the competition and Lee is to be especially congratulated. Our thanks to Corporal Sewell for his excellent work in training the team.

WATER-POLO. Our 1st team has only lost one match and seems a certainty for second place, with two matches still to be played.

The 2nd team is so far unbeaten and is a probable winner of the Cup.

	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
1st Team	7	6	0	1	14	2
2nd Team ...	7	6	1	0	18	1

Congratulations to Leading Boy Brewerton for playing goal for the Nore Command and receiving his Nore Command Water-Polo Colours.

COMMANDER'S CUP. This term has seen a vast improvement in the standard of the Messes for Saturday Rounds. At present the Division is 3rd with 96 points, only two points behind the leaders.

PARADE EFFICIENCY. Points to date, 117½ ; placing us fifth.

DIVISIONAL INTER-MESS CUP. The Matapan "Bogey" has at last collapsed and Dunkirk Mess would appear to be the certain winners of the coveted Carrington Cup this term. Points to date:—

1st Dunkirk	... 186 Points	2nd Plate	... 139 Points
3rd Matapan	... 112 Points	4th Narvik	... 109 Points

In conclusion, I would like to wish all Blakes a very Merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year. I would also take this opportunity to entreat our cross country runners to go easy on the Christmas pudding!

A padre was taking a service and was in the middle of his sermon. For added effect he would, at intervals, step to the front of the pulpit, throw his arms aloft, and forcefully declaim his text, "I will come down and dwell among my people." Eventually he lost his balance and toppled into the congregation, knocking over a small, timid man who was sitting in the front row.

"I'm terribly sorry," apologised the padre, "I was quite carried away by my text."

"That's quite alright," replied the little man. "After all, you did give me plenty of warning that you were coming."

Boy Southen, 154 Class.

Collingwood Divisional Notes

Divisional Officer: Lieutenant Commander D. R. Forster, D.S.C., R.N.

2nd Divisional Officer: Commissioned Gunner H. F. Duncan, R.N.

This term has been rather disappointing, after an encouraging start. Apart from the Field Gun, Swimming and Whaler Regatta, our results have been mediocre and even in the Commander's Cup, for which we are still very much in the running, the standard of the Messes does not compare with that of last term. However, it is wrong to judge only by competition results, and, in general, the Division has pulled its weight and we have had a good deal of fun.

At the beginning of term, we were very small, only 58 boys for the first two weeks, and so we welcomed with pleasure 261 and 262 Classes to build up our numbers. Much is expected of these Classes and, having made a good start, they should, in time, become the back-bone of the Division.

I have never known a term in which Instructors have changed so frequently. We said goodbye, with great reluctance, to Petty Officer Waspe, who has been a Collingwood stanchion for nearly two years and taken a real interest in his boys. We wish him luck in "Glory." In addition, P.O. Robinson, Yeoman Farr and Petty Officer Spriggs joined during the term and Chief Petty Officer Charlton spent a very vigorous fortnight with us to take 146 Class through Draft Routine, after Petty Officer Modd injured his leg.

146 Class joined the "Wrangler" on 1st December and a horrible day it was too. They found out straight away what a gale in the North Sea was like. From the Class, we congratulate Clarke and Gough on being rated Instructor Boy and wish them luck in the Annexe. They had better make sure that future Collingwoods know how to look after themselves.

FIELD GUN COMPETITION. In this, our very light crew, picked from 58 boys, did well to finish second. The Crew was: Rollins, Hunter, Miller, Parker, Bates, Elliott, Fowler, Brodie, Howcroft, Gilbert, Dunkerley, Smith, Powers, Wood, Piper, Forrester, 'Ferry, Roberts, Fairbairn, Parmenter, Ashmore.

W/T EFFICIENCY. 203 Class were second in this and put up quite a good show.

SHOOTING. We were bottom in both Competitions, partly because of Work Ship disruption. In fact, on the day, we had to drag half the teams out of the Coal Bunkers to shoot.

SWIMMING RELAYS. We finished second to Rodney and, but for some disqualifications, would have run them close. In particular, Elliott and Etheridge swam well.

WHALER REGATTA. Second again, this time well behind the winners. We started practising very early and it paid dividends, as all the crews were fit. 261 and 262 crews are to be congratulated on getting through to the final, although only 5 weeks on course. It promises well for next winter, when they should still be here.

BOXING. Although we were nearly Boots in this, our representatives showed plenty of spirit if not much skill, and Mott did very well indeed to win his weight, mostly by knock-outs. His performance in the final, against a much stronger boy, was particularly good.

WATER POLO. At the time of going to press, the results are:-

1st Team:— Won 5, Lost 2, Drawn 1, and one match to play.

2nd Team:— Won 1, Lost 2, Drawn 5, and one match to play.

Both teams have played quite well throughout the term, with the old story of all second teams, that nobody has the strength to score a goal.

FIELD GAMES. Only average results in the Football and Rugby Leagues, but plenty of spirit and determination. In each case we were third in our league. Colours were awarded to the following boys:—

Football:— Miller, Stanton, Ashmore, Smith, Forrester, Skelton.

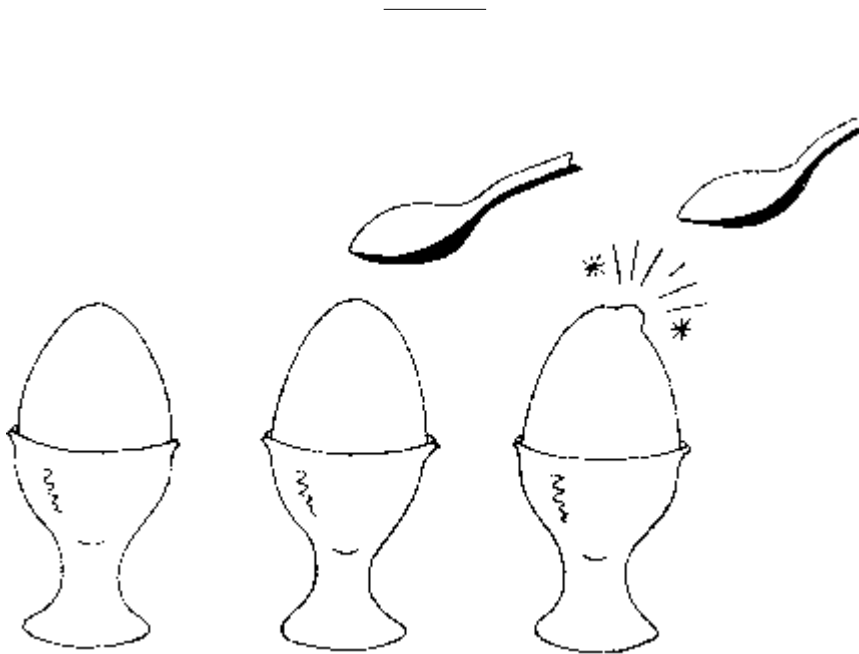
Rugger:— Parker, Brodie, Howcroft, Stanford.

MISCELLANEOUS COMPETITIONS. In the Piping Competition we were 8th, and there is no doubt that the only way to get "music, music, music" from a Boatswain's Call is to practice, practice, practice. Every Seaman Boy should be a Call Boy, even if not a V.G.I. Powers and Wright represented the division in the Silver Call Competition.

We finished 8th also in the Heaving Line and, once again, more practice is needed to do well in this competition. Our throws were quite long, but crooked.

As usual, Bennett has shown much enthusiasm with the Basketball team, although the results have not been very good. He is to be congratulated on playing for "Ganges" against "St. Vincent."

It only remains to wish the Division a happy Christmas and a good leave. Come back in good heart, for there is much work to be done in the New Year.



"The Egg and I"

Drawn by Boy Marrant, 75 Class.