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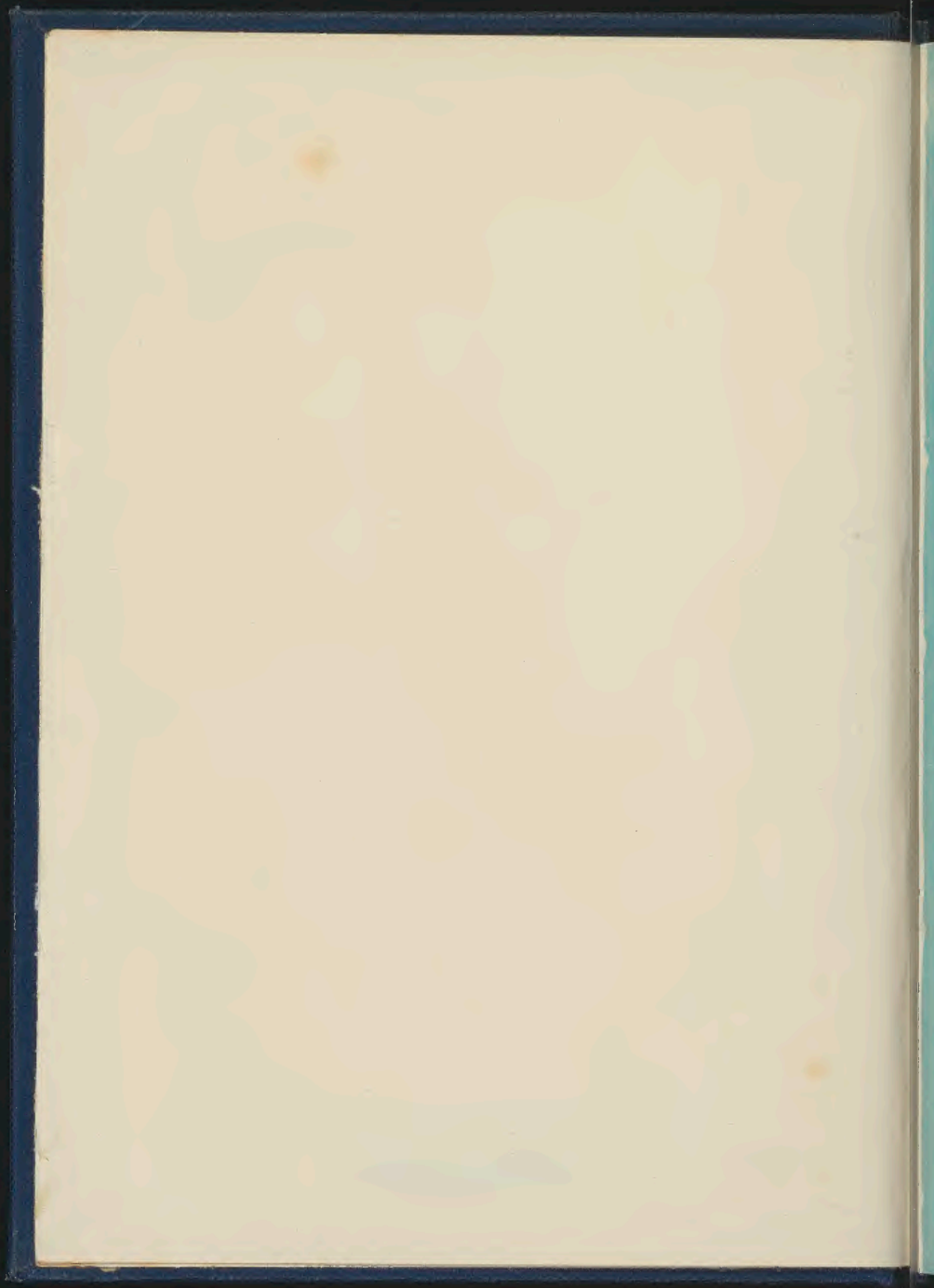
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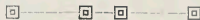
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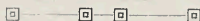
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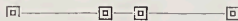
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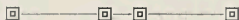
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Dunfermline Cricket Club



THE game of cricket had, early in the nineteenth century, thoroughly caught on in England, and news of its popularity spread, with the result that cricket clubs sprung up in many towns in Scotland. A Cricket Club was called into existence in 1856 in Dunfermline, but it was only when the Dunfermline Club was formed in 1857 that the game was taken up with such earnestness as to give it a hold in the district.

Among those who were responsible for the formation of the Club were Messrs T. H. Tuckett, C. Taylor, R. Wilson, R. Reid, J. Beveridge, J. Pye, W. Goodsman, R. Bonnar, C. Drysdale, and J. McFarlane. A field was obtained to the east of the town, where the engine sheds belonging to the Railway Company are now erected, and there, for nearly twenty years, many enjoyable games were played. The first match, played on 20th August, 1857, was against Kirkcaldy at Dunnikier, and resulted in a win for the Kirkcaldy Club, this being chiefly due to the superiority of their bowling. The minutes of the first years of the Club's existence are particularly interesting, and shew with what enthusiasm the game was taken up, every encouragement being given to young lads, and that with regular practice in batting, bowling and fielding, the players began gradually to assert themselves as a power in the country.

In the 'sixties the Club could boast of some really good cricketers, prominent among whom were Mr W. Dempster, a splendid bowler; Mr R. S. Drysdale, a very fast bowler; Mr G. Dempster and Mr J. Law, both good change bowlers, while in Mr D. Spedding and Mr W. S. Spedding the Club had two good bats, and who also did a splendid amount of work on the Club's behalf. Mr G. Macpherson, the oldest member of a well-known local cricketing family, joined about this time, and for a great number of years contributed largely to the building up of the Club. As a player he was a splendid all-round man; could bat, bowl, and keep wickets, and was second to none as a Captain and Secretary. There were also Messrs W. Murphy, G. Grieve, A. Frame, J. Whitelaw, Jas. Brown, and G. White, who each did yeoman service both on and off the field.

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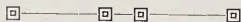
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 D. BENNETT, T. SPOWART, D. BROWN.

In these days there were no fixture cards, and matches were arranged by simply issuing a challenge to other Clubs. 1875 saw the end of this, and the dawn of the fixture card.

In 1870 the Committee, in order to augment the playing membership of the Club, reduced the membership fee for apprentices, with happy results. Messrs D. Brown, J. Brown, A. R. Shearer, J. Macpherson, W. Walls, and J. Stewart, among others, joined at this time, and helped to put the Club in a sound position.

The year 1875 was a memorable one in the Club's history, in so far that the team went through the entire list of engagements without losing a single match, playing ten matches and winning them all. Office-bearers at this time were as follows:—President, The Right Hon. The Earl of Elgin; Captain, W. Lamond; Vice-Captain, G. Macpherson; Treasurer, W. Walls; Secretaries, D. Spedding and G. R. Anderson; Committee, D. Brown, J. Walls, and J. Marshall.

After the performance of 1875, the Club naturally came into greater prominence, and, in the hope of keeping in touch with good Clubs, it was decided to look out for a new ground. The Committee were successful in securing a lease of Lady's Mill Park Park from the late Mr James Hunt of Pittencrieff. The new ground and pavilion were opened in 1879, with a match against the Grange, and which resulted in a win for the premier Club. This event, naturally, was the means of a large influx of new members, and those included Messrs J. Hay, A. Macpherson, G. Reid, J. F. Horn, and the Bruces.

Between the years 1885 and 1890 the Club came through the most trying experience of an almost overwhelming exodus of players from the town, such prominent members as Messrs J. Macpherson, J. F. Horn, W. Reid, J. Neilson, A. Macpherson, Geo. Macpherson, G. Erskine, and several others all leaving for the New World to seek their fortunes. As a matter of fact, this exodus of the young men of the town to distant lands, and especially to America, has been the greatest drawback the Club has had to contend with. In later years such well-known players as L. Anderson, P. Robb, D. B. Taylor, G. and R. Macpherson, A. Liddell, J. Simpson, W. Bonnar, and others left just when they were reaching their best, and when the Club might expect to benefit by their experience. At various periods in its history a team from New York and district alone could have been selected of Dunfermline-trained cricketers who could have given a good account of themselves in the best of company. It is only right to say that these same members have always retained a warm side to the old Club, and even to-day many of them forward annually their subscriptions.

Ever anxious to keep the field in thorough order and as up-to-date as possible, the Committee felt it was necessary in the interests of the growing membership to extend the original Pavilion and generally

improve the ground. With this object in view a Bazaar was held in 1900, at which a sum of practically £1,000 was drawn. This enabled the Committee to carry out additions and alterations to the Pavilion, etc., and the present Pavilion was formally declared open on 11th May, 1901, by the Right Hon. The Earl of Elgin, the father of the present Earl, and who had, in his younger days, played for the XI., and who had always retained a very keen interest in the doings of the Club.

In 1911 a clock was added to the front of the Pavilion, and this long felt want was presented to the Club through the generosity of Messrs David and John Brown on 12th August of that year. These two gentlemen, still happily with us, have since their youngest days always taken the keenest possible interest in the affairs of the Club, both on and off the field, and both were members of the first eleven for many years. In 1884 David played for Scotland against the Australians in Edinburgh, and was always in great demand in representative and other special games in his younger days. They both celebrated 50 years' unbroken membership of the Club in 1921, and this must surely constitute a record for Club membership in Scotland.

In 1906 the field was purchased by the late Mr John M'Kane, of Nevada, a native of the town, and presented to the Club. In recognition of this munificent gift, the name of the ground was changed to that of the M'Kane Park, and will for all time be known as such.

On the invitation of the other Clubs who are now members of what is known as the Scottish Counties Union, the Dunfermline Club, in 1906, were asked to take part as Fifeshire in a Counties' Championship Competition, and after full consideration agreed to do so, and have carried on ever since.

Although the Club has never won the Championship it has on several occasions come very near doing so, and with a little more luck might have done so. It has always been a force to be reckoned with, and has put up many splendid performances, both on its own and its opponents' ground. In these matches players resident in the County or with a birth qualification are eligible to take part, and the Club is very grateful to quite a number of players from other Clubs who have given loyal and enthusiastic support from the very beginning.

The professional cricketer has for many years been recognised as an absolute necessity to the existence of club cricket in Scotland, and for many years scarcely a club of any standing has not had its professional coach. Dunfermline in that respect was no exception, and in 1864 they engaged their first professional, in the person of E. Pearce, and since that time, with the exception of the war years, they have always had the assistance of a professional or coach. Mitchell, Tolson, Ashworth, Hynd, Bancroft, Houldsworth, Morris, Hanson, Blakelock, Plowright, Priestly, Armstrong, and Vernon succeeded Pearce, with varying success, each helping in their own way and by their own

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methods to turn out cricketers fit to take their place in the field along with the best, and also helping materially in the matches. When the Club went into the Counties' Championship it was soon realised that only a professional with experience of first-class English county cricket could be of any real service, and Henson, Bailey, Cox, and Morfee were secured. These players put additional interest into the matches, and many will still remember many stirring games they took part in. Since the war no professionals have been allowed to take part in the Counties' Championship, but for the coming season it has again been decided to revert to the old arrangement and allow each side to play one professional.

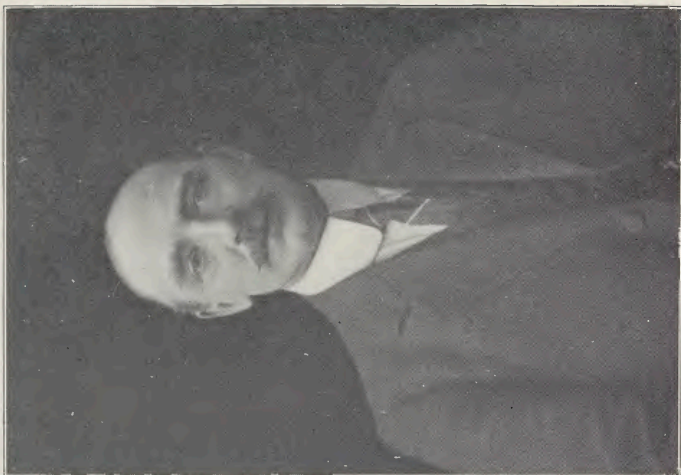
The Club have therefore secured the services of Ellis, who has played on various occasions for Lancashire, and it is sincerely hoped he will come up to expectations and help the side to win the Championship.

While it cannot be contended that the Dunfermline Club have had many players who could be placed in the highest class so far as Scottish cricket is concerned, it is safe to say that throughout its long and honourable connection with the game it has always had at its command players well over the average. To name only a few since the present century commenced:—Macgregor, Connel, Smith, a beautiful bat, good bowler, and brilliant field, and who, to most people, gave up the game at a much too early age; Dick, Forbes, Young, a splendid wicket-keeper, and Paton, who had the honour to play for Scotland against Ireland in 1914, readily recall themselves. It is, however, no disparagement to any of these to say that two stand out pre-eminently, namely, Dr. A. J. Macgregor and Mr D. Connel. Dr. Macgregor joined the Club in 1892, and until two seasons ago, when he finally gave up the game, was one of the most prominent cricketers in Scotland. In 1913 he was the guest of the members at a dinner to mark the completion of 21 years' continuous service as a playing member, and was made the recipient of a silver rose bowl and side ornaments. In presenting the gifts, it was stated that up to that time he had scored nearly 7,000 runs for the Club, and that at an average of nearly 20. He had had 28 scores of 50 and over, his highest being 112 against the Grange in 1911. Mr Connel joined the Club in 1905, and for many seasons was invariably at the head of the batting averages. For many years he captained the side, and not a few of the matches were won by his generalship, as he was thoroughly versed in all points of the game. He played many big innings for his side, and it is sincerely to be hoped that, although not now playing, his interest in the Club's welfare will always be sustained. Since the war two players stand out from the others: Mr W. Anderson, the present captain of the side, and Mr A. R. Simpson, and both have had the honour of playing for their country on several occasions. Mr Anderson's rise has been phenomenally rapid, and all hope that his services will be at the disposal of the Club for many years.

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DR. A. J. MACGREGOR

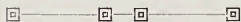
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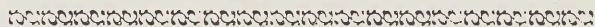


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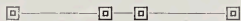


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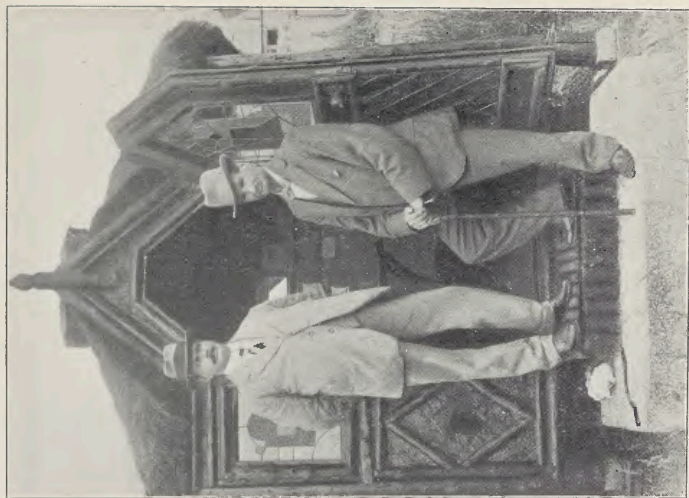


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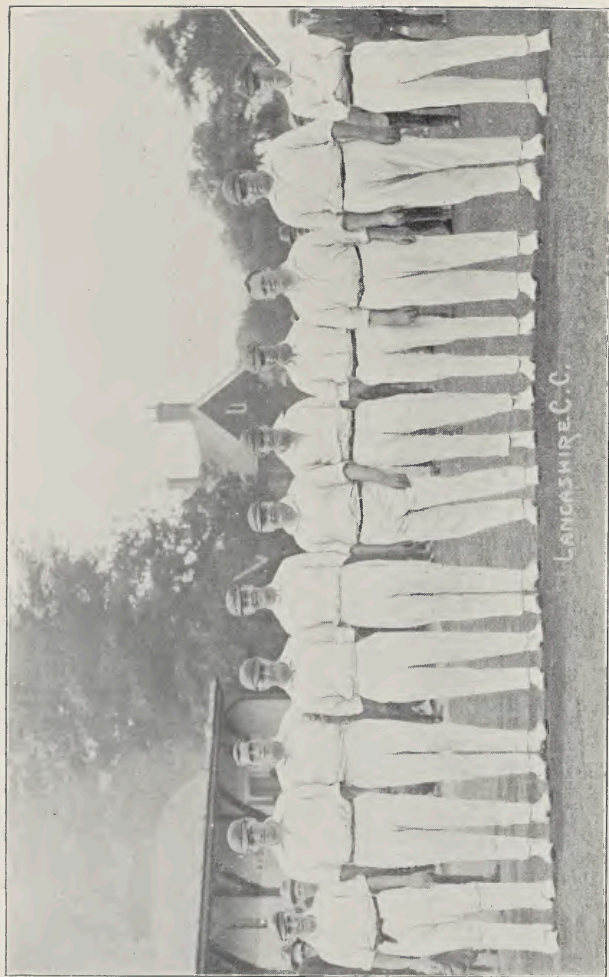
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"	15	Golfhill	Away
"	19	Edinburgh University	Away
"	22	Burntisland	Home
"	29	Perthshire	Home
June	5	Stewartonians	..	..	..	..	Away
"	12	Clackmannan County	..	..	..	..	Home
"	16	Merchiston	..	..	..	..	Home
"	19	Stirling County	..	..	..	..	Away
"	24	Tynemouth	..	..	..	..	Home
"	26	Forfarshire	..	..	..	..	Home
July	3	Aberdeenshire	..	..	..	..	Home
"	7	Burntisland	..	..	..	..	Away
"	10	Stirling County	..	..	..	..	Home
"	17	Forfarshire	..	..	..	..	Away
"	19	Freuchie	..	..	..	..	Away
"	23	Arbroath	..	..	..	..	Away
"	24	Aberdeenshire	..	..	..	..	Away
"	28	Grange	..	..	..	..	Home
"	31	Carlton	..	..	..	..	Home
Aug.	7	Clackmannan County	..	..	..	..	Away
"	14	Kirkcaldy	..	..	..	..	Away
"	17	Aberdeen Grammar School F.P.'s	..	..	..	..	Home
"	21	Perthshire	..	..	..	..	Away
"	28	Heriotonians	..	..	..	..	Home

SECOND ELEVEN FIXTURES.

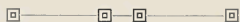
April	24	Burntisland Shipyard C.C.	..	..	..	Away
May	8	Kirkcaldy "A"	..	..	..	Away
"	15	Leith Albion	..	..	..	Away
"	22	Burntisland "A"	..	..	..	Away
"	29	Perthshire "A"	..	..	..	Away
June	5	Burntisland Shipyard C.C.	..	..	..	Home
"	12	Clackmannan County "A"	..	..	..	Away
"	19	Stirling County "A"	..	..	..	Home
"	26	West Indian Students	..	..	..	Away
July	3	Leith Academicals	..	..	..	Away
"	10	Stirling County "A"	..	..	..	Home
"	17	Brunswick "A"	..	..	..	Home
"	24	Leith Albion	Home
"	31	Carlton "A"	Away
Aug.	7	Clackmannan County "A"	Home
"	14	Kirkcaldy "A"	Home
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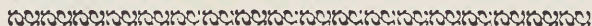
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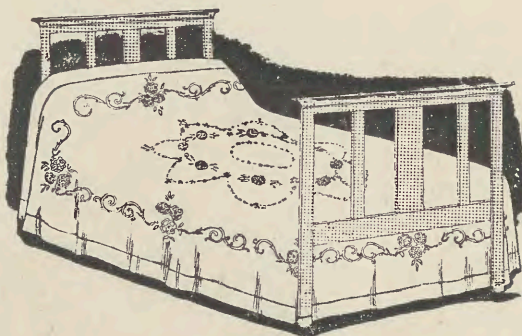
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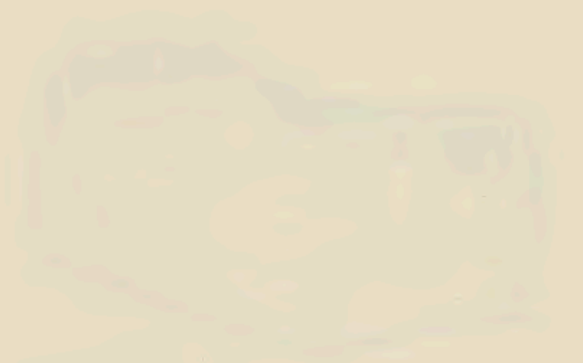
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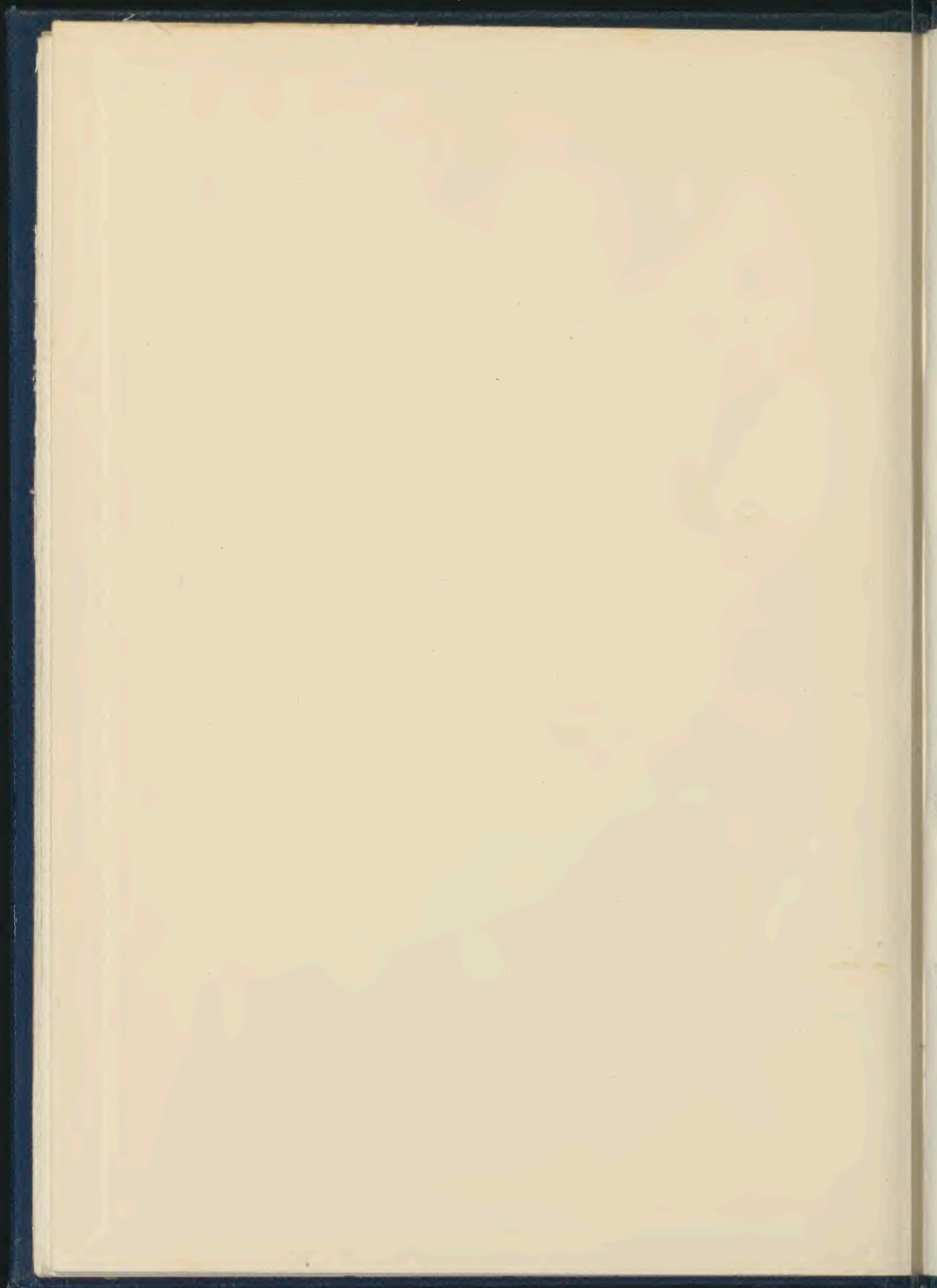
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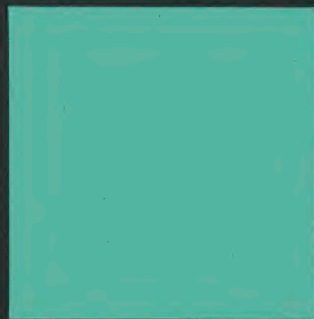
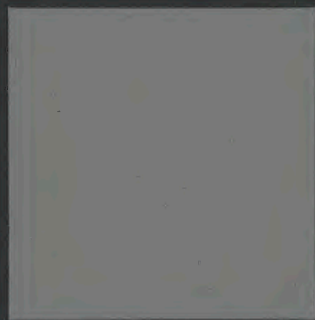
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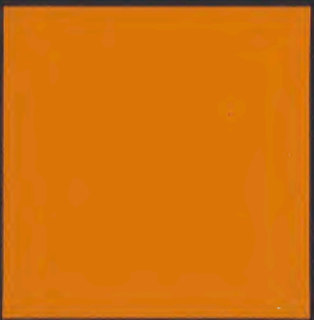
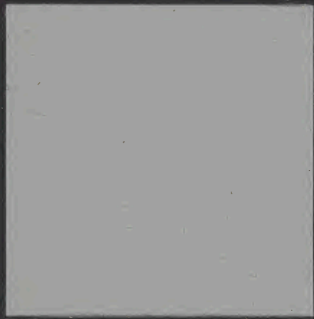
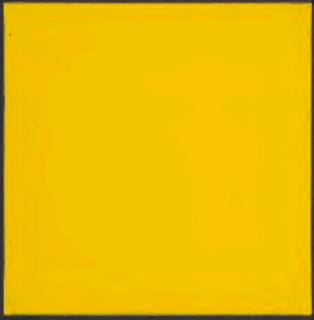
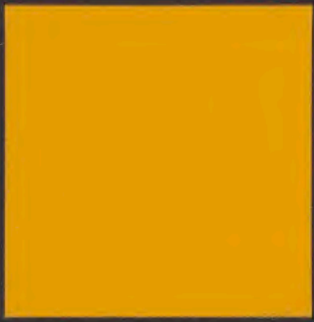


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