THE STORY OF SCOTTISH RUGBY

BY R. J. PHILLIPS

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SCOTLAND *v.* ENGLAND, 1892

At Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

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WITH TWELVE ILLUSTRATIONS
FROM PHOTOGRAPHS

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PREFACE

THE purpose of this outline of the establishment and development of Rugby Football in Scotland is to place on available record information which may be generally lacking, and the imparting of which, it is felt, ought not to be deferred until the generation which founded and built up the game has passed away and the subject has entered the region of myth and tradition.

Much of the fabric of present-day Rugby Football was built on foundations laid in Scotland. Many of the greatest exponents of the game were Scottish players, and the influence of the judicial bent of the Scottish mind, as well as the exertion of the spirit of independence, are monumentally recognised in the International Board established on the demands of Scotland for orderliness and equality. The present-day Scottish Rugby faculty has therefore succeeded to a goodly heritage, no part or parcel of which they should allow to be filched from them.

I have to express my thanks for permission to utilise a series of articles on the subject which appeared in the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch* last

winter, and at the same time I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the kindly assistance rendered by a number of old-time international players in verifying and adding to the information in my own possession.

R. J. P.

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CHAPTER I

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EARLY PROGRESS OF THE GAME IN SCOTLAND

Cynics tell us Rugby football grew and prospered in Scotland independently of its government and its lawmakers. They say, in fact, that it grew in spite of itself. Possibly, but it is still growing. No statistics are required to illustrate the spread of the game within the last thirty years. Its increased popularity has compelled the Scottish Rugby Union to vacate a field that at the time of its acquisition was calculated to meet spectacular requirements 'for all time.'

Fifty years' progress in popularity needs no clearer illustration than bare mention of the circumstance that for the use of Raeburn Place for one of the early representative matches, the Edinburgh Academical Club was paid the sum of £5. The contrast with the assemblage and financial receipts for the English game at Murrayfield in 1925 tells the story of the sowing of the seed and the reaping of the harvest.

The story opens some twenty years earlier than the date of that Raeburn Place match in the early 'seventies. Whatever type of football existed in

Scotland prior to 1850, there is no evidence of any attempt to establish, or even to introduce, the form known as the Rugby game until 1851, when it was adopted at Edinburgh Academy as a game for the boys. It should be emphasised that Rugby came to Scotland as a game for schoolboys. The former-pupil movement and the formation of 'F.P.' clubs are the branches and upper growth, not the root and stem, of the tree. During the 'sixties there were not more than eight recognised clubs outside the schools playing Rugby.

In the 'seventies a great awakening occurred, and the game took a sudden leap into popularity. There is no doubt the 1871 victory of Scotland over England in the first International match between the two countries imparted the necessary impetus. The Scottish team on that occasion was chosen from the Edinburgh and Glasgow Academicals, Merchistonians, Royal High School (F.P.), West of Scotland, Edinburgh University, and St. Andrews University. These clubs, along with Glasgow University and the schools, represented the entire resources of Scotland. It is important to note that all or nearly all of them became members of the English Rugby Union on its formation in 1872.

The motive, or one of the motives, for their affiliation with that body, it is reasonable to assume was in the interests of uniformity in methods of play and observance of a unified code of rules. One of the difficulties of the pioneer days arose through

differences of opinion as to what was allowable and what was not, and even in after days there was a period during which 'disputes,' frequently leading to premature abandonment of play, were not unusual.

As in some degree explanatory of the English Rugby Union's claim to acknowledgment as the maker and interpreter of rules during the years of the 'Dispute,' it is important to bear in mind the earlier affiliation of the Scottish clubs with the ruling body in England. A relic of the tacit acknowledgment of its original powers is retained in the English title and superscription, 'The Rugby Union.'

In the later 'seventies and early 'eighties a great change and a marked advance along the line towards the modern style of play set in. During these years the boys at the Scottish schools, particularly at Loretto and Fettes, began to develop combined movement among the backs, and ere long they had established what became known as the 'passing game.' That Scottish innovation was the genesis of all that followed in the way of development of combined play behind the scrummage. From the Scottish schools the 'passing game' was carried to the English Universities, and became general among the English clubs before it was finally adopted in Scottish club football.

Long after the schools were playing a line of three half-backs (old style), the clubs adhered to the earlier formation of two. Even representative

teams continued to be constructed on these lines till the inevitable national disaster overtook Scotland in 1883, when England's advantage at half-back by reason of the extra man in the line was so apparent that there and then the question was finally decided, and the two-half-back formation, in current terms, was ' scrapped as obsolete.'

It is an historic fact which cannot be refuted that the ' passing game ' originated with the Scottish schools, and that its introduction into English football was due to the presence of so many of these old schoolboys at the English Universities, where they so quickly imposed their style of play that before long all England was talking of the new methods in terms of the ' Oxford game.'

The process was not an example of a little leaven leavening the whole lump. In the Oxford fifteen of 1884-85 there were seven Lorettonians during A. G. G. Asher's captaincy. When Oxford were beaten by Edinburgh University in 1881 it was the first defeat they had experienced in three years.

Lest it should be thought that the complement in the team of 1884-85 was exceptional, it may be mentioned that H. Vassall, who left Oxford in 1883, had eight Scottish schoolboy ' Blues ' available for his team, and it was under Vassall that the ' Oxford game ' created in England the impression referred to. Originating in Scotland, the ' passing game ' was carried into England, and with the general acceptance and establishment of the new

methods a distinct and well-defined stage in the progress of the game was reached.

Vassall's contribution to football amounted to an ardent desire to impress upon his players generally the importance and advantages of combination. He had no share in the development of back play.

It is claimed for A. Rotherham that he was the originator of the systematic feeding of the three-quarters at Oxford, and in consequence his name has become historic. There is no need to attempt to detract from Rotherham's reputation, but does he not owe it largely to circumstances over which he had no control, and which he certainly had no hand in making? Behind Rotherham was a line of three-quarters, reared in the school of combination and passing. What, therefore, was Rotherham to do if the striking force and scoring power of the team was not to be rendered impotent? It might be nearer the mark to describe Rotherham as the progenitor of the modern 'stand-off' half-back than as the 'father of the passing game'—a contention which is very wide indeed.

During the later 'eighties and early 'nineties attention was closely concentrated upon back play, to the detriment, or even neglect, of the work of the forwards. The ideal centre was the player who could get most out of his wings, and the correct method was by very wide passing. The two best types of the class were perhaps Rawson Robertshaw in England and Gregor MacGregor in Scotland.

Both could sling the ball widely and accurately, and not much more was required or expected of them. It was not a very high standard, nor even a very generally accepted one, and it did not survive long.

In the process of straining after back play, two contributory movements were introduced into the game. Instead of endeavouring to force the ball through the scrummages or carry it away at the sides, the forwards began to scrape for possession of the ball in order to heel out and supply the backs. Scraping for possession was a North of England introduction. According to the strict letter of the law the process is illegal, but as contributory to the current mania for back play the abuse was overlooked, and when it was too late to turn back, the Unions passed the half-hearted regulation 'feet up,' on the principle that 'what can't be cured must be endured.'

Through time the scraping process in forward play evolved its own specialist, the 'hooker.' Almost simultaneously with the scraping, the 'scrum half' made his appearance. Some time elapsed before he acquired all the qualifications entitling him to the particular designation defining the degree of specialisation, but as scraping was the first stage in getting the ball out to the backs, the next link in the chain was naturally at quarter or half-back.

At that time the professional question had become acute in England. The English fifteen of 1892 contained thirteen North of England men, eight of

whom were Yorkshiremen. Three seasons later Yorkshire and Lancashire had gone over to professionalism under a new body, the Northern Union. The schism rent English Rugby football to its foundation, and the germs left behind were the progenitors of the 'hooker' and the 'scrum half.'

The next step on the way was taken when the three-half-back — now three-quarters — formation had to be abandoned in favour of a line of four. The change, curiously enough, was forced upon Scotland in the same drastic manner as characterised the alteration from two to three. Before the final conversion, the Rugby world was agitated by a discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of the 'Welsh system,' as the innovation was commonly termed. Many of the leading Scottish players of the period contributed views which will be reproduced when the appropriate event is reached in chronological sequence.

For the present it is sufficient to record that in 1893 Wales, playing four three-quarters against the Scottish three, won so decisively that if Scotland were slow and reluctant to become converted, she was peremptorily compelled to 'tak thochts,' and ultimately to mend or bend. In a measure it was retributive justice for disparagement of her own national heritage, the forward game. Up to the time of that change, Scotland was a country of forwards. The Scottish forwards were the embodiment and the model of the highest class of

football in that department of the game and were dreaded by all adversaries.

Except that the play of the half-backs has become more specialised, no decided changes have taken place in methods and procedure since the middle 'nineties.

Having dealt with developments, a few remarks on the stabilised permanencies, which have been in the game since its foundation, may be interesting. The old maul survives in the scrummage, but it may be accepted that the former term became obsolete with the establishment of the fifteen-a-side formation in 1877, though until 'hooking' or 'scraping' and 'heeling-out' became permanencies there was little difference in practice between the forward work of the twenty-a-side times and the earlier days of the 'fifteens.' The reduced numbers induced a more open and faster style of forward play. All the old chroniclers agree that the game received its distinctive character when a boy at Rugby School caught or picked up the ball and ran with it, but none trace the origin of the 'bully' or the 'maul,' though this is just as characteristic and peculiar to the game as the handling portion. The origin of the drop-kick is equally obscure.

'Touch' is obviously derived from the circumstances that in the earlier days the right to throw in belonged to the side whose player first touched the ball after it had passed over the side lines and out of play. It was permissible at that time for the player who was throwing the ball out of

touch, to ' stot ' it in play and make off with it if he were not marked by an opponent. All that the practice amounted to was a tricky march on the opposition, revived in recent times by the player throwing the ball out and catching it himself. Both are well expunged from the game, but the revival suggests that in spite of assumed progress events often move in circles.

The dead-ball line is a comparatively modern introduction. Previous to the limitations the ball might even be kicked against the boundary wall and scrambled for on the rebound. As it had to be touched ' dead ' before a try could be allowed, it can be realised that pushing, driving, and a general mêlée often followed a kick over the line. These scrambles frequently occasioned the maul-in-goal, as when two or more players touched the ball dead simultaneously. The ensuing worry on the ground certainly was not an elevating phase of the game.

Still earlier abolitions were made in the case of hacking and hacking over, which practically amounted to tripping, and which may be accepted as passing out of practice when they were prohibited in the first International match in 1871. Much later than that I saw a very fast English back being brought down by the extended boot of a Scottish forward who could not get his hands on him. The old Adam had asserted himself too strongly to be repressed.

The International match of 1877 was the first that was played between teams of fifteen a side. The

change was adopted after repeated representations by the Scottish Rugby Union. Many club matches and some representative games had been played in Scotland with the reduced numbers to the advantage of the play. During all the years of twenty a side and for some time later, club games were divided into four periods of twenty minutes each. Frequently the two later periods were reduced to fifteen minutes each. The earlier International matches consisted of two ' fifties.'

Contemporarily with the establishment of organised matches the umpire made his advent. One of these auxiliaries was attached to each team. His first and last duty was to see fair play—to his own side. That attribute had often to be accepted with a resigned spirit of sporting tolerance.

The umpire performed an arduous afternoon's work. He kept pace, or was expected to keep pace, with the play, which is no more than the modern touch-judge is supposed to do. But the touch-judge is a pale shadow of his forerunner, who could institute claims, advise or admonish the players, and whose voice always led the general clamour in support of the right or denunciation of the wrong.

According to the laws of the game, the decision in the case of a point on which the umpires disagreed rested with the captains, who on these occasions stood a little apart and endeavoured by the exercise of the arts of peaceful persuasion to arrive at a solution of their difficulty.

The debate might extend for some time, during the while the spectators fidgeted impatiently, and the other players threw encouraging remarks at the captains to strengthen and support them in their ordeal. If the captains could not come to an agreement, usually he of the twain who had most to lose if he gave way, called, more or less dramatically, upon his men to follow him off the field, and the newspaper report on the match concluded with the conventional item of information 'ended in a dispute.'

The advent of the referee took the onus off the captains, but even when the whistle was introduced in 1885 it was not until some five years later that the touch-judge made his appearance. Gradual alterations abolished appeals, and vested in the referee his present powers. The appeal, probably derived from cricket, appeared to become ingrained in the game, and was one of the most fruitful sources of trouble and annoyance. It even asserted its obnoxious presence in the International dispute of 1884.

It might not be quite accurate to describe the scoring rules as a 'bone of contention,' yet there are few subjects connected with the game on which opinion has from time to time been so sharply divided. One section has strenuously contended that as the direct object of the Rugby game is the getting of tries, the try should be the dominating score. Others are all against any reduction in the relative value of the goal, and declare that,

if it were only in preservation of the sporting spirit and the maintenance of glorious uncertainty, it must not on any account be degraded.

Still another body of opinion, which finds strongest expression in the older school, will never rest content until the dropped goal has been restored to its pristine glory, when there were no points, and when a dropped goal was of equal value to a goal kicked from a try. Apart from its inherent qualities as a point of play, the dropped goal, as an incentive to the restoration of a declining art, peculiar and essential to Rugby, should never be relegated to the background.

When the goal, as was the case up to 1876, stood as the only score by which a match could be won, it may not originally have been realised that goals were supremely difficult things to get. Possibly, the recognition of the try as a winning score, in the absence of the goal, was due to a desire to minimise the number of constantly recurring drawn games.

Artificial numeric values were long pondered over in England before they received the official stamp of approval south of the Tweed in 1886. The English Union, even then, were beginning to find the burden of government a load exceedingly heavy to bear. Professionalism had already become a disturbing element, and irregularities on the field had increased.

The penalty goal was an English repressive, and was intended as a corrective of prevalent abuses.

In the earlier introduction, intrinsic worth appears

to have been lost sight of, and nothing but ulterior motives could justify the 1889 reduction of the value of the try to the basic figure one. Although in 1891 the try was conceded another point, the relative three points value of the penalty goal was a striking example of artificial inflation, conclusively demonstrating the absence of due regard to the inherent value of the scores.

In 1893 the scoring rule assumed practically its present form, except that in 1895 the 'field goal' was abolished, and the clause, 'any other form of goal, 4 points,' was expunged in favour of a more explicit definition. A 'field goal' meant a goal kicked directly from a rolling or bounding ball. I cannot recollect ever having seen a field goal kicked.

One of the terms reminiscent of the drop-kicking days, a 'poster,' meant a lofty kick so high that it was impossible to definitely decide whether the ball passed within the area of the extended lines of the two posts. In the 1873 International in Glasgow the Englishman, H. Freeman, kicked a 'poster.' Up to 1883 it was permissible for the scorer's side to obtain a second try by following up the kick at goal. That is while the defending side charged outward, the attacking side charged inward. Occasionally the attacking party were successful.

The original terms applied in Scotland and also in Ireland to the positions of the backs were: 'Back, half-back, and quarter-back.' The present

designation of three-quarter was not in use in this country till, for the sake of uniformity, the English denomination was adopted and the Scottish 'quarters' became 'halves,' and the 'halves' 'three-quarters.' Before the line of three halves was introduced, the normal formation was one full-back, two halves, and two quarters. In the earlier International matches Scotland played two full-backs till 1878, when W. E. Maclagan occupied the position alone.

In a passing reference to uniform, I may remark that I have never known a whole team to play in 'longs,' but have seen several players on a side thus clothed. The original football jersey was woollen, knitted or woven, very much after the style of the cricket sweater. It was a serviceable article, and not so liable to rents and tears as the modern garment. Indeed, it was rather too serviceable, for, taken by the collar, a player was liable to be swung off his feet and literally thrown aside as a fitting termination to his aspirations. A man could be made to describe a circle when held by the sleeve. Many a try has been saved through a player crossing the line being pulled back by the jersey.

Belts were worn of various widths, and were generally made of webbing, and woollen cowls completed the outfit, with, of course, boots and stockings.

During the 'eighties and well into the 'nineties most of the backs played in shoes. A. R. Don

Wauchope wore shoes, as did M. F. Reid, whose goal-dropping feats were the talk of his time.

One very important matter in connection with early-day football must not be overlooked. When it is considered that for many years spectators were so few that gate money was practically negligible and that all expenses had to be met by the members, the marvel is that so many of the clubs were able to survive. Chronic poverty was the normal condition of the great majority of clubs, until, I should say, well on in the 'nineties. Even at Raeburn Place, the most popular ground in Scotland, the gate drawings from ordinary club matches in the 'seventies and early 'eighties were far more frequently totalled in shillings than in pounds. Items such as 'drew 2s.,' 'drew 10s.,' represent extracts from an Academical balance sheet, and that, as I say, at the principal football field of the time. In all clubs the playing members paid a weekly subscription of about two shillings or half a crown, and all travelling and personal expenses had to come out of their own pockets. These old-time players, who laid the foundations of Scottish Rugby football, were enthusiasts, patriots, and Spartans.

CHAPTER II

CLUB FOOTBALL

HAVING outlined the various stages, practical and legislative, through which the Rugby game has passed, I shall now endeavour to place events and players in chronological setting. As a preliminary, some reference to the conditions under which the game was played is due. The Edinburgh of the 'sixties and 'seventies was not the Edinburgh of to-day. Imagine, if you can, a Saturday afternoon in winter without a football match of any description in the city!

What the people did with themselves is a social question outwith the scope of these articles. A few of them occasionally played football, as I am endeavouring to show, and for the rest the population of the city only numbered somewhere about 190,000. Merchiston Castle was in the country, and Craigmount lay on the southern outskirts of the city. Pinkie was far afield, and not only so, but the citizens of the time would more readily associate the scene with an historic battlefield than with a football ground.

When the Academy came into possession of the

field at Raeburn Place, the builders were beginning to erect Fettes College. Holyrood ground, gifted by King Edward when Prince of Wales, was within reasonable walking distance—a term which then implied rather more than it does now. Lord Kingsburgh, who was an Academical of Academicals and who attended the matches at Raeburn Place almost up to the last, records the great glee there was amongst the Academy boys when the field was acquired in 1853. 'We had not much luxury,' he says: 'a small loft over an outhouse, approached by a wooden ladder, was our only pavilion. We had no basins and no lockers, and we used to sit and chat till it was dark enough to go home without observation.' The location of Myreside was described as 'near Edinburgh' when the Watsonians entered into possession.

The period almost up to 1870 is enshrouded in mist, records are meagre, and altogether the impression conveyed is that the players must often have struggled against circumstances that were not encouraging. Indeed, it is wonderful that the game survived at all. Ground equipment and conveniences for players were most primitive. Few of the fields were good, and some of the clubs had no fields at all. It was no uncommon experience for a team to appear on the ground minus several players.

When the Edinburgh Academicals visited St. Andrews in February 1871, they arrived five men short, and the Academicals were at that time the leading club of the day. Teams had constantly to

be completed by a section of 'given men.' That old term has long since become obsolete, but at one time it was in common use in the phraseology of the game. School teams frequently contained a complement of old boys. Thus in the Academy-Loretto match of 1871, Loretto played four Lorettonians—'given men.'

In an announcement of the opening of the season of 1870, it is said of the Glasgow Academicals: 'This rising young club have not only arranged two matches with the Merchistonians and two with the West of Scotland, but intend to play the Liverpool and Manchester clubs in England, and will meet St. Andrews University on the Edinburgh Academy ground at Raeburn Place during the season.' They did go to England, and won one and drew the other of their matches.

At that time, and for a number of years later, there was a close connection between the Glasgow Academicals and the Merchistonians. The early Academicals included a strong Merchiston contingent — A. Thew, J. E. Junor, J. W. Arthur, A. G. Colville, and the brothers Cross—in their more important matches. By and by the two were merged, and as a regular playing team the Merchistonians disappeared. In the Merchiston connection the brothers Roland, who were Merchistonians, raised a team about 1870, and under the designation of 'Rolands' Rooms' played a number of matches.

Walter Roland was a good football player, but

gained a higher reputation as wicket-keeper in the Dalkeith cricket team of the Craig brothers. Ernest Roland, the youngest of the brothers, played against England in 1884, the year of the 'Dispute.' Presumably the 'Rooms' were Rolands' Fencing and Gymnastic Academy, off Queen Street, Edinburgh, and the team were composed of the men who gathered there.

The descriptions of the matches of that period were neither long nor lucid. Of a Merchistonian match we read: 'W. Roland made some fine winding runs.' 'There was no hacking, but a number of heavy spills were taken good-humouredly.' 'The Wanderers were three or four short'—an indefinite description of a not unusual occurrence at the time. Playing for the Wanderers against the Royal High School, we are told that 'R. W. Irvine was conspicuous for his dash and there was much fine dribbling,' and that in an Academy-Loretto match, 'Mr. Balfour, with his usual precision, kicked two goals.' That was characteristic of 'L. M.' as we knew him in later years.

In the Craigmount-Wanderers (fifteen a side) match of 1870, C. W. Cathcart (Loretto) and R. W. Irvine (Edinburgh Academicals) played for the Wanderers. Both no doubt played well, but the only player singled out for special mention was Mr. Webster, who 'wriggled in most praiseworthy manner' for the Wanderers. The Institution, under J. H. L. M'Farlane, played the Royal

High School under Angus Buchanan. Both teams included present and past pupils.

The Edinburgh Academicals - Merchistonian match of that season is interesting by reason of the number of prominent players engaged. The Academicals included the Hon. F. J. Moncreiff, the first Scottish International captain, R. W. Irvine, T. R. Marshall, J. F. Finlay, E. M. Bannerman, W. Marshall, J. A. W. Mein, and L. M. Balfour, all subsequent International men; and among the Merchistonians were the International players, T. Ritchie, M. Cross, with the Roland brothers, and Hall Blyth, one of the promoters of the first match with England, and who would have played in that game but for a physical ailment which incapacitated him for the time being. L. M. Balfour was still at school, but T. R. Marshall had left. M. Cross was captain of Merchiston school team in the same year.

Angus Buchanan, although shown in most records as an Edinburgh University player, had only the same casual connection with University football as those outside players who in recent years have augmented the playing strength of Edinburgh in the English and Irish inter-University engagements. In 1871, when J. H. L. M'Farlane, who helped to found the Institution (F.P.) Club, was captain, the Edinburgh University team for their match with Glasgow University included Angus Buchanan (Royal High School), the brothers Cathcart (Loretto), along with three leading Academical

players, R. W. Irvine, J. F. Finlay, and J. A. W. Mein. History therefore repeats itself in the modern composite Edinburgh University teams.

Although the number of clubs was small, and matches were not numerous, many of the players, especially those of reputation, obtained a good deal of football. When a team arrived short, and from the limited membership it was not always easy to muster a full complement, especially when playing twenty a side, the 'given men' were in demand. On many occasions it was agreed to play fifteen a side, and that long before the reduced number became officially recognised as the standard.

Season 1871-72 was a bad one for the Edinburgh Academicals, who, having avoided defeat for seven years, were beaten at Raeburn Place by the West of Scotland by a goal and a try to three tries, and later lost at St. Andrews in a very unsatisfactory match in which, owing to the irregularities of their opponents, the Academicals left the field. The match was fifteen a side, and is the game referred to when the Academicals arrived five men short.

J. W. Arthur and T. Chalmers, Scotland's first great full-back, were in the Glasgow Academical team which met St. Andrews University at Raeburn Place that year. The St. Andrews side included P. Anton, who became a prominent personality in early Scottish Rugby, and whose opinions on the 1873 International, in which he played, are reproduced in their appropriate connection.

Finally, as an indication of the general conditions in the year of the first International, the following extract from a newspaper résumé of the season's work will help to make the position more clear:

'The leading club, the Edinburgh Academicals, played five matches, lost two, and won three.'

'Edinburgh Academy beat Loretto and drew with Merchiston. Both opponents of the Academy included some former pupils.'

'Edinburgh University, who depended upon members of other clubs, beat the Royal High School, Loretto (with eight "given men"), Craigmount, and Merchistonians, and lost to Glasgow University. J. H. L. M'Farlane scored 8 of the University's 17 tries.'

'The Royal High School, one of the youngest clubs in the district, played six matches, lost three, won two, and drew one.'

'The West of Scotland played five matches, lost two, drew two, and won one.'

'The Glasgow Academicals, who promise to become one of the strongest as well as most enterprising clubs, played seven matches, beat the West of Scotland twice, drew with St. Andrews University, lost and drew with the Merchistonians, drew with Liverpool and beat Manchester. It is hoped the Edinburgh and Glasgow Academicals will arrange a match for next season.'

This then was the state of the game in the country when the challenge to England was issued.

I think we may all raise our hats in recognition of the courage of these early Scots.

In January 1872, the Edinburgh and Glasgow Academicals met in the first of the series, which still continues, and which, almost from its inception, was regarded as the great club match of the season. From that day till the present, it is tolerably safe to say that a greater number of International players have participated in inter-Academical matches than in any other club combination that could be named.

That first match between the clubs was played at Burnbank, and resulted in a scoreless draw. It is recorded that 'the play was really fine.' L. M. Balfour and J. Dunlop narrowly missed scoring from drops at goal.

The teams were :

Edinburgh Academicals — T. R. Marshall (captain), L. M. Balfour, J. F. Finlay, R. W. Irvine, J. A. W. Mein, D. R. Irvine, J. A. Ross, W. Blackwood, D. Robertson, R. G. Dunlop, T. A. Bell, A. B. Finlay, T. W. Lang, R. E. Wood, and C. K. S. Moncreiff.

Glasgow Academicals—J. W. Arthur (captain), T. Chalmers, W. D. Brown, W. Cross, T. A. Drew, C. T. Sloan, D. Drew, J. K. Tod, H. W. Allan, G. R. Fleming, J. K. Brown, C. C. Bruce, W. Harvey, J. Paterson, and W. Brown.

The match was fifteen a side, and it will be observed that quite that number of International players took part. The Merchistonian-Glasgow

Academical connection, previously referred to, is also noticeable.

In the spring of 1872, J. M. Cotterill, of cricket renown, was playing in a Wanderers team which beat the Merchistonians, and in an important match in Glasgow the Royal High School drew with the Glasgow Academicals. The 'School' team included A. Buchanan, G. Rayner, A. G. Petrie, and A. Wood, and we find J. S. Carrick making one of his early appearances for the Academicals. Carrick ultimately succeeded T. Chalmers as a pillar of the Scottish team at full-back. A very active player, Carrick had a huge and lofty punt and was a defender of whom it was said that the only player who ever got past him in a fair field was Ninian Finlay.

We have the Collegiate playing in 1872, and also Blairlodge under the captaincy of Le Messurier.

In club football up to the end of 1871, the Edinburgh Academical ascendancy had hardly been challenged. For a few seasons they showed signs of falling back, and, coincident with their decline, began the rise of the Glasgow Academical-Merchistonian combination. None of the others so stoutly assailed the positions of the two Academical clubs as did the Royal High School. In 1871 the 'School' were recognised as a rising young team. The following year, when the Glasgow Academical side contained W. Cross, J. W. Arthur, A. Drew, J. S. Carrick, T. Chalmers, and J. K. Tod—all International men—Angus Buchanan's team accomplished a notable achievement by drawing with the

Academicals at Burnbank. Three of Buchanan's principal supporters on that occasion were A. Gordon Petrie, A. Wood, and G. Rayner, two of whom were International forwards in the following year.

In January of season 1873-74 Edinburgh University beat the Royal High School at Bonnington in a match which is memorable as the last appearance in football of J. H. L. M'Farlane, whose tragic death a month later created a deep impression in Scottish Rugby circles. M'Farlane, in the course of a run, stopped suddenly and dislocated a knee. While under treatment he developed rheumatic fever, aggravated by heart and chest complications, and did not recover. Having some time previously obtained his degree, Dr. M'Farlane had been acting as one of the resident assistants in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. His funeral was attended by a large number of the leading Rugby men of the day, and by five hundred Edinburgh University students.

The defeat in question was the first the ' School ' had sustained in local football for two years. Their team included A. Buchanan, A. G. Petrie, A. Wood, Rayner, Robertson, Knott, Brewis, and Nat Watt. That selection shows that the 'School' were a strong side. Besides J. H. L. M'Farlane, the University included J. M. Cotterill, A. K. Stewart, and also J. Reid, who played most of his football with the Wanderers.

J. Reid was an elder brother of the Edinburgh

Academy boys, A. P. and Charles Reid, and in physique bore a strong resemblance to C. Reid.

J. H. L. M'Farlane was succeeded in the captaincy of Edinburgh University by A. K. Stewart, a fine 'quarter,' who filled M'Farlane's place with distinction in the International at Kennington Oval that season.

Angus Buchanan was the first Royal High School International player. He was the leader of the early-day High School football, an 'indefatigable leader' indeed, in the phraseology of the time. In one of the matches of that period it is particularly recorded that the High School team were weakened by the absence of Mark Sanderson. Mr. Sanderson, now over fourscore years of age, still maintains his connection with Royal High School football and is occasionally present at the matches. If not the sole survivor of the introduction of the game, he must be one of the few patriarchs of Rugby who are alive. The Sanderson family have played a notable part in High School sport. George and Fred Sanderson will be remembered by the older generation as first-class cricketers in the Royal High School eleven. G. A. Sanderson, of a third branch, played in all the Internationals as a forward in 1907.

To the Royal High School belongs the record of the first score against England, and when Angus Buchanan obtained his try at Raeburn Place he was the first player to score in International football. J. H. L. M'Farlane was the first Edinburgh Institution International player.

The 'School,' whose ground was then at Bonnington, whence a little later they removed to a field to the south of the Meadows in the Warrender district, played another great game with the Glasgow Academicals. The Edinburgh Academicals, who were fast recovering their old position, beat the Royal High School in the later weeks of season 1873-74 at Bonnington.

The club event of the season, the Edinburgh and Glasgow Academical match in February, resulted in a draw. T. R. Marshall, R. W. and D. R. Irvine, R. Duncan, G. Q. Paterson, R. Macnair, A. Finlay, J. A. W. Mein, and the two schoolboys, J. H. S. Graham and Ninian Finlay, were in the Edinburgh side, and T. Chalmers, W. D. Brown, D. H. Watson, J. W. Arthur, J. K. and J. S. Tod, G. Heron, and G. R. Fleming played for the Glasgow team. That joint representation explained in a measure the popular opinion that the two clubs embodied the Scottish International team. The conclusion may have been a trifle overdrawn, but there is no question that the Academicals of Edinburgh and Glasgow constituted the main pillars of Scottish football of that time.

That season the Edinburgh Academicals renewed their fixture with the Merchistonians after a three years' interval. The function took the form of a reunion with a match played under the old rules and a dinner in Merchiston Castle. The composition of the teams is interesting in itself. Among the Academicals were the brothers W. and J. R.

Blackwood, A. and T. A. Bell, R. W. Irvine, D. R. Irvine, R. Macnair, G. Q. Paterson, J. H. S. Graham, and the entire Finlay brotherhood, James, Tom, Alexander, Gardine, and Ninian. Some of the Merchistonians were Malcolm Cross, William Cross, B. Hall Blyth, W. and G. Roland, A. Arthur, and W. Speed. Time has made its ravages on that company, but I dare say those who remain will remember the occasion well.

The Edinburgh Institution (F.P.) Club, formed late in 1871 or 1872, experienced a difficulty at the outset in getting players. Old Institution boys were fairly plentiful, but were already in membership with other clubs. J. H. L. M'Farlane, for example, was the captain of Edinburgh University, and Nat Brewis was playing with the Royal High School.

R. M. Neill, the father of two prominent later-day Edinburgh Academicals, and who still attends Raeburn Place, was at that time playing for the Wanderers, but he was one of those who assisted in founding the Institution Club. Under the leadership of J. J. Deuchar the team struggled along, and gradually worked upwards. A few years later Nat Brewis assumed the captaincy, and within ten years of their start the club had reached the highest pinnacle in club football in Scotland, and had wrested the championship from the Edinburgh Academicals.

The Watsonians started about the same time as the Institution, but their path to the summit

was a longer and steeper one, and it was not until R. M. M. Roddick's and H. T. O. Leggatt's time —nearer twenty than ten years from the club's formation—that the Watsonians won their first championship. They had good teams and good players, notably J. Tod, their first Internationalist, long before that, but they were not quite good enough as a team to reach the supreme position.

In season 1874-75 the Institution, then under Nat Brewis, were aspiring to recognition among the front rank of the clubs, though the membership was still low. They got a bad beating from the Edinburgh Academicals in October of that season. Ninian Finlay got one of the three tries scored by the Academicals and dropped a couple of goals, which was not by any means an unusual feat for him.

Real compensation and gratification came to the Institution a little later, when, to general surprise, they beat the Wanderers, but they were progressing, and even a two goals beating by the Warriston in one of the concluding matches of the season did not diminish their enthusiasm nor check their aspirations. Want of players was still their principal drawback. Like R. M. Neill, many Institution players were attached to other clubs.

Frequently R. M. Neill and J. M. Cotterill played together at ' quarter ' in the early Wanderers team, and as a coincidence it may be mentioned that in later times their sons, R. M. Neill and D. Cotterill, were associated in the same position for the Edinburgh Academicals.

With great diffidence, and fears of intrusion on a touching memory, I venture to add that the fathers are still with us, but the boys are not.

An informative situation may be traced in a series of events in which the Watsonians drew at Bainfield with St. George, who had previously beaten Stewart's College (F.P.).

Season 1874-75 saw the West of Scotland in exceeding prosperity, with a largely increased membership and a strong playing team, including the brothers M'Clure and W. H. Kidston. The 'West' drew with the Glasgow Academicals and promoted a strong public attraction in a match at Partick with a Liverpool club fifteen, which included J. R. Hay Gordon, an Edinburgh Academical, who at a subsequent date played 'quarter' for Scotland.

The same season A. N. Hornby, the Lancashire cricketer and International full-back, brought the Manchester team to Glasgow, where they were beaten by the Academicals. Manchester and Liverpool were at that time the two great strongholds of the game in the North of England.

The Glasgow Academicals were still a powerful team, but had to lower their flag to the Edinburgh Academicals, who in the first match between the pair scored a try to nothing, and in the second won by a goal dropped by Ninian Finlay to a try. R. W. Irvine was then captain of the Edinburgh Academicals, and led a very fine team, especially when reinforced by the best of the Academy boys. They were altogether too strong for most of the

local clubs, so much so that in a game with the Wanderers a friend wagered ' Bulldog ' a pound to a shilling he would not drop a goal. Now Irvine had never tried and was not expected to drop goals, but he led his forwards in his usual strenuous manner, and whether there were some of the others in the plot and helping him I cannot say, but he found his opportunity, took it, and won his bet.

St. Andrews University had lost some of their earlier prominence. There were minor teams in Perth and Dundee, and the Paisley club, that played their first match in Edinburgh in 1873 and drew with the Institution, were reckoned to be a fairly good side.

Rugby had been started on the Borders after the first Scottish victory over England. There were clubs at Langholm and Hawick and a combination of Galashiels and Melrose playing at Galashiels in the early 'seventies, but it was some years later before the Border teams participated in the general rota of club football.

In the first match between Hawick, or Hawick and Wilton as the club was then called, and Langholm, which was played at Hawick, neither side were very sure about the rules. Langholm, supported by the regulations governing a hybrid game then in vogue at Carlisle, contended that a goal could only be scored by the ball passing under the bar. The Hawick men felt certain that the ball must pass over the bar for a Rugby goal. The difference, however, was regarded as too trifling to

be of serious consequence, and the players, concerning themselves very little about goals, proceeded with the game and found in it a lusty sport admirably suited to the Border temperament.

The development of Rugby during that period is exemplified in the publication in London of a paper, *The Goal*, which was devoted to football news. In one of its issues the editor was much concerned about the roughness of the Scots in their club matches, not so much on account of the methods of play as of the effects, which were causing an inconvenient shortage of players.

From the autumn of 1876 to the spring of 1880 more club football was played in Scotland than during any previous period of similar duration. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Academical rivalry still produced the most important events, but early in that term the monopoly threatened to be disturbed by the Wanderers, and later by Edinburgh Institution (F.P.).

The 1876-77 team of the Wanderers was one of the strongest the club ever had. J. Reid led a particularly heavy set of forwards, including C. Villars, H. Hawkins, Arthur Budd, and some other weighty members. J. Montgomerie, a virile type of player, was at half-back, and E. J. Pocock joined the club that season. Budd and Pocock were Englishmen, who troubled Scotland a great deal, each in his own way. Budd played for England later, but I am perfectly sure that had he been eligible for Scotland he never would have been

selected or even have been in the running. He and Mr. Rowland Hill made themselves very prominent in their antagonism to Scotland in the years of the Dispute, and in that connection the two names were seldom mentioned on this side of the Tweed except as a co-partnery antagonistic to all things Scottish. And with all his English fervour, Mr. Hill was an Irishman.

Pocock played quarter. He was another of the 'Quinty' Paterson type. Very quick, he scored a lot of tries for the Wanderers. What the Scottish Union overlooked when they selected him for the 1877 International, and they had first to obtain the consent of the English Union, was that Pocock in his club matches was playing behind a huge protecting barricade in the Wanderers forwards. In the International, where every man had to stand on his own legs, Pocock had to be propped up. Probably he was injured—I cannot say—but they put him in the scrummage, where the other forwards carried him along. Gerry Scott, who was then playing for the Royal High School, had a dropped goal that saved them being beaten by the Wanderers.

Both Edinburgh and Glasgow Academicals had to exert themselves to the uttermost to get the better of the Wanderers. The Royal High School were a good team. P. W. Smeaton, who was a sort of handy man, sometimes in, sometimes out of the forward division, stole away from a throw-out and 'galloped' over the line for the Edinburgh

Academical winning score in the 'School' match. Smeaton had a style of progression peculiarly his own. It was more a gallop than a run.

Like hundreds more, I blamed T. A. Bell for losing the Glasgow Academical match at Raeburn Place. That judgment was as severe as it was unjust, for Bell was sticking to his post when he had been badly hurt, and in the course of the game we could only see his failure to tackle D. H. Watson when he broke away from about the '25,' and did not know of the handicap he was labouring under. Watson was a strong, forceful runner, and not an easy man to stop. 'Tommy' Bell, as he was affectionately termed, and he was brother man to all men, was a good three-quarter, very fast and second only to Ninian Finlay as a drop-kick. He was an expert hurdler, and I rather think he held some records 'over the timber.' Ninian Finlay played no football at all that season.

When we reach seasons 1875-76, 1876-77, we have left behind us what, for convenience sake, may be regarded as the more primitive period. Rugby football had established for itself a position as a popular sport equivalent to that already attained by cricket.

The Saturday list now consisted of a string of matches varying in grade and importance from those of the leading clubs down to second-fifteen club and school games, with an intermediate section containing the St. George, Cronstadt, and

Watsonians in Edinburgh, two or three teams in the Dundee and Perth districts, a club at Kirkcaldy, several on the Borders, and even one at Portobello. The game was being played at Aberdeen in the North and at Dumfries in the South. In the West country, the Paisley club were competing with the first-class teams and holding their own very well.

At the October meeting of the Scottish Union two clubs in Dundee were admitted to membership, one at Aberdeen, one each at Broughty Ferry (the Abertay), Clackmannan, and Dumfries, and two in Edinburgh (the Carlton and Collegiate). All of these have passed out of existence, but their presence at that time is evidence of the spread of the game.

Some points of procedure in the play were still creating a conflict of opinion. B. Hall Blyth identified himself very intimately and energetically with a movement having for its purpose the prevention of the forwards picking up the ball except when it was bounding. The proposal, after being referred back to the Union for further discussion and for the opinions of the club captains, was ultimately accepted and submitted to the English Union, who were still the law-makers. It did not meet with the approval of the English rulers, and, whether they were right or wrong, it was a drastic and far-reaching proposal practically cutting out a root and deflecting the growth in a direction opposite to the tendency of modern Rugby.

Yet it was in consonance with the Scottish idea that the game of the forwards was footwork. They were putting their brains as well as their bodies into the game. In fact, it was from Scotland that all the earlier progressive movements issued.

By season 1877-78, T. J. Torrie, the first International product of Fettes, had retired from the Edinburgh Academicals, and Gardine Finlay had gone abroad. The team thus lost two of its best forwards. Frequently reserve, the youngest forward of the Finlay family would almost surely have secured his International place had he continued in the game. Ninian had returned, and he and W. E. Maclagan formed the strongest half-back division the Academicals so far had had. L. J. Aitken, a notable school player and runner, had gone among the forwards, there to rub shoulders with P. W. Smeaton, who could not get his place outside so long as 'Quinty' Paterson and J. Younger were available. E. S. Balfour, the younger brother of 'L. M.,' was playing full-back.

In the autumn of 1877 the Watsonians joined the Scottish Rugby Union. John and Malcolm Tod were playing for them then. John Tod stuck to the club; indeed, I would be inclined to say he was the 'Father' of the Watsonians; but Malcolm went over to the Wanderers, for whom he did good work at quarter during several seasons. W. H. Masters, who was playing for the Royal High School, was another who transferred his affections. Before the

EDINBURGH ACADEMICALS, 1878-79.

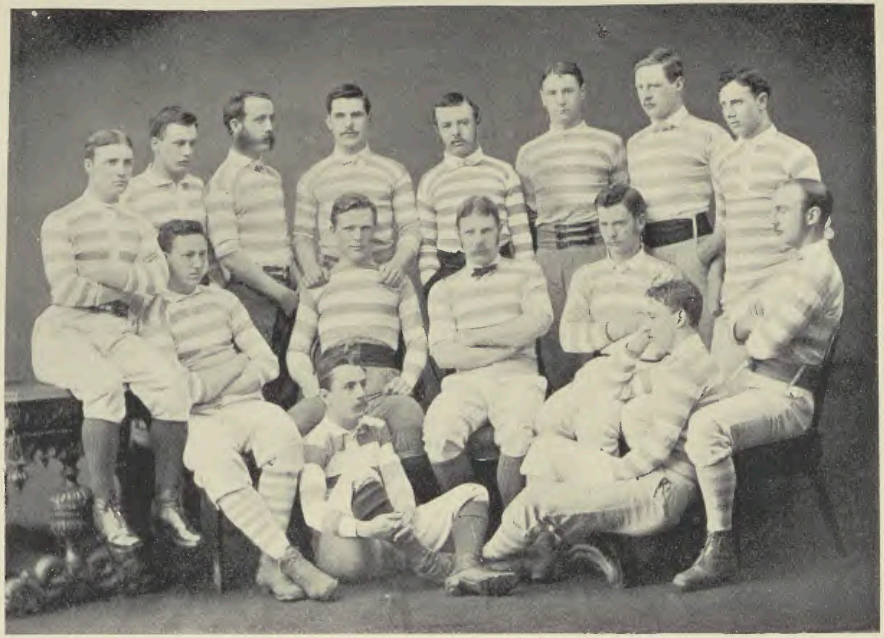

Photo by J. Howie, Edin.

G. Macleod. C. Wood. J. P. Bannerman. N. J. Finlay. L. J. Aitken. A. Ross Smith. T. Tod. P. Russel.
W. E. Maclagan. R. W. Irvine. J. H. S. Graham. D. R. Irvine. P. W. Smeaton.
G. Q. Paterson. J. Younger.

season was over he was firmly installed, with W. Sorley Brown, at quarter for the Institution.

Nat Brewis was building up his team. He got W. Somerville from the Cronstadt, or 'Leith Cronstadt' as everybody called it—a club which played down Easter Road way on a field that had a two-feet drain cut across it. This club beat Loanhead, who were under the captaincy of R. Ainslie. Soon afterwards Robert joined his brother, T. Ainslie, in the Institution Club.

That season the championship came back to Edinburgh. The Edinburgh Academicals beat the Glasgow Academicals by a try in each match, and both tries were scored by W. E. Maclagan following up unsuccessful drops at goal by 'Quinty' Paterson. The second of these matches, played at Raeburn Place, attracted a crowd of almost International dimensions. All the Glasgow team behind the scrummage were International men, J. S. Carrick, R. C. Mackenzie, M. Cross, J. A. Campbell, and A. T. Nelson. Pat Russel was full-back for the Edinburgh Academicals, and in front of him were N. J. Finlay and W. E. Maclagan, 'Quinty' Paterson, and J. Younger. The forward divisions were largely composed of the same class of players.

Naturally, the meeting produced a great game, and it was team work and combination that gave the Edinburgh side their advantage. When they scored it was from a run by J. Younger, followed by a combined movement in which Ninian Finlay carried on and transferred to Paterson, who

'foozled' his drop at goal, for Maclagan to dash in and score the winning try. J. A. Campbell, who was still at Merchiston, played best among the Glasgow backs.

J. H. S. Graham's team held the title till deprived of it by the Institution, who, even in the season under notice, could claim to be a good third to the Academicals of the East and West. Frost set in about the middle of December 1878, and did not break till near the end of the following February. Except for a few weeks at the beginning and the end, the season was a blank. L. M. Balfour had returned to football, and was playing full-back for the Academicals, who in October opened the new ground of the Institution at Coltbridge. The Academicals won by a goal and a try, but even then the Institution forwards were beginning to command attention.

The continuity of Gerry Scott's career had been much interrupted, but he started the season with the Royal High School, who were not strong, and in one of the few matches played lost to the Academicals by 4 goals (all kicked by L. M. Balfour) and 3 tries.

The Wanderers and Edinburgh University also fell heavily before the Academicals. E. J. Pocock had left, and J. Reid, who had been the Wanderers' leading forward for about half a dozen seasons, had given up the game.

Season 1879-80 was a busy one in club football. The brothers Ainslie were then with the Institution,

for whom W. Sorley Brown and W. H. Masters formed a strong scoring partnership. Behind the quarters the players were essentially sound in defence, and although Boyd Cunningham and A. Philp could score on occasion, it was in the quarters the danger lay. Masters was the more showy man, but Sorley Brown was the sounder player. He was one of the first quarters to carry on with his feet and thus beat opponents who had been specially told off to watch him. For a light player he escaped injury marvellously, and had a much longer career than Masters. When playing together the two backed each other up so well, and were so quick and clever in their movements, that they kept most teams on edge.

Malcolm Cross, who was then captain of the Glasgow Academicals, beat the Institution by his place-kicking in a hard game, in which each side crossed the other's line twice. Only one inter-Academical match, resulting in a draw, took place that season, and as the Edinburgh Academicals beat the Institution, the strongest local aspirants, the title remained at Raeburn Place. 'Quinty' Paterson had retired, and P. W. Smeaton and J. Younger were the Academical quarters. 'Jimmy' Younger, as he was currently called, was a fine player.

A notable player in Scottish Rugby appeared in the Royal High School team of this period, J. P. Veitch, who in after years became one of the stoutest defenders and soundest full-backs who ever played

for Scotland. C. D. Stuart also came into the team as a forward. Always a strong, heavy player, he went into the heart of the scrum, and held the 'School' pack together in the hottest matches of a period when forward work was of a particularly strenuous and vigorous type. In later years he had the satisfaction of seeing two of his sons, C. D. Stuart (West of Scotland) and L. M. Stuart (Glasgow High School F.P.), go into International teams.

Edinburgh University were then playing at Corstorphine, where John Smith returned to the Association game, and Frank Hunter, whom Gregor MacGregor declared to be the fastest bowler ever he kept wicket to, reverted to the football he had learned at Fettes. W. A. Peterkin and Hunter took a turn at full-back for the University till Peterkin found his true place forward. When he was champion sprinter of Scotland, Peterkin was in the International pack. Scotland in these days was often faster in the scrummage than outside of it.

The Watsonians were getting their heads above water. The brothers Tod, A. Glegg, and H. Vibert were in their team which lost to the Royal High School by a try. Vibert became walking champion of Scotland, and went to London, where he made a name for himself on the stage. J. W. Parsons, who was at Fettes with Edgar Storey, a noted Fettes captain and equally prominent Cambridge University and 'F.L.' player, was playing for the

Wanderers. Parsons was the best jumper Fettes has produced, and won both the Scottish and English high jump championships. His best jump was 6 ft. ¾ in.

By the middle of the 'seventies the game had become firmly established on the Borders. Earlier progress was mainly confined to Langholm and Hawick. Gala and Melrose were still represented by a joint team, occupying a field at Galashiels. It would be contrary to Border character and temperament if two sections remained in union for any length of time. By and by the Gala men and the Melrose men apparently got tired of each other's company, and one dark night the goal-posts disappeared from the field at Galashiels. By exercise of the wizardry Sir Walter Scott imputes to the district, the posts, the following morning, had sprouted out of the earth, and were standing erect on the Greenyards at Melrose. Clearly, the occult powers indicated separate and independent courses for Gala and Melrose, so the story goes.

Towards the end of the decade clubs existed at Berwick, Kelso, Duns, and Earlston. One of the Earlston players was a member of the Murdison family—grandfather, it might possibly be, of the youth who played for Gala a season or two ago. Both J. P. Veitch and George R. Wilson, Royal High School, had a Border connection.

An effort was made to stimulate the game north of Edinburgh by a series of fixtures played in Perth between representative teams of Edinburgh and

those chosen from St. Andrews, Dundee, and the North generally, but, in spite of all encouragement, Rugby did not take the same hold as it did on the Borders. In fact, until comparatively recent times, no football of any kind appeared to appeal to the people in the North.

The extension of the radius in the East *v.* West game as an International trial was not very productive, for, as a matter of fact, with the exception of Paisley the clubs outside Edinburgh and Glasgow were not strong. D. Lang, Paisley, who played against England in 1876 and 1877, and L. J. Auldjo, Abertay, in 1878, were the only discoveries of the earlier matches.

I remember the Paisley team. They played in green-and-black striped jerseys. The Royal High School of the period affected broad red and blue stripes. The University, when they took up house at Corstorphine, were wearing a maroon jersey. The Institution school colour was scarlet, too pronounced for the Former Pupils, who played in white jerseys, red stockings, and white knickers. That sort of thing never affected the West of Scotland. They have been blazing scarlet and yellow all the time I have known them, symbolic, they say, of the popular Glasgow dish of ham and eggs.

For a number of years the Royal High School had been well represented in all the important matches, but, good as some of them were, none of their backs compared with Gerry Scott, who came

into the team in 1875-76. He was the best product of 'School' football up to that time as far as back play was concerned. Not such a wonderful player as Ninian Finlay, he resembled the Edinburgh Academical more in style and play than Malcolm Cross did. A strong body of opinion advocated Finlay as centre half to Cross and Scott for the 1876 International, and, as events subsequently showed, that arrangement, and a change at quarter, might have made all the difference between the winning and the losing of the match. Scott unfortunately contracted a leg trouble that broke the continuity of his career, and prematurely stopped him entirely.

The 'School' had still a good team. N. Watt was playing behind the maul, sometimes with Scott at half-back and sometimes with T. L. Knott or Rutherford at quarter. A. H. Schneider helped to complete a first-rate club back division. They had lost a good forward in A. Wood, but found a strong pair in J. C. Robertson and R. B. Murrie, who was possibly a better cricketer than a football player. He certainly was one of the best fast bowlers in the East.

Fifteen a side had been generally adopted in club football, and applied to some of the representative matches two years at least before the repeated appeals from the Scottish Union for the reduction was accepted. About that time dissatisfaction with the scoring rule began to find expression, and at the autumn meeting of the

English Rugby Union in 1875 the try was established as a substantive score. Scoring by points was already being discussed, but neither Union felt disposed to do more than recognise the principle.

Club rivalry was beginning to get very keen. The Scot has always been credited with clannishness as a natural attribute. Some time later than the period under notice this characteristic revealed itself in aggravated form, and only a very fine line of distinction could be drawn between club and faction. Everyday personal relationship was hardly affected, but on the field and in the council chamber 'club jealousy' was currently accepted as an explanation for multitudes of sins of omission and commission. The curious feature of this phase of the game was the nice discrimination exercised. Every man's hand was not against his neighbour. Each club had one pet aversion, upon which they accumulated and bestowed all the love that could reasonably be translated into chastisement.

Scotland reared a race of hardy players. All old-timers will remember that invariably when play was interrupted in an International, it was to allow an Englishman time to recover. Not that the Scot was rougher than the Saxon, but he was hardier, partly by racial inheritance and partly by his football upbringing. An old military man, of many campaigns and an International player, has told me that one of the stormiest times he ever came through was in an Edinburgh club match in 1874.

James Finlay, one of the last of the Scottish twenty who played in 1871, retired at the end of 1874-75. Chosen for all representative matches during his career, he was one of the heaviest, most powerful, and athletic of the Scottish forwards. Inside the '25' there was no stopping him if he got fairly set for the line.

Personal reference is due to many of these old players of the 'seventies. Some of them are bearers of names which are still mentioned and discussed at the present day. There are those who consider that T. R. Marshall was not only a great football player, but as a cricketer was the best bat Scotland has ever produced. After his return from abroad, he played cricket in M.C.C. elevens, and occasionally appeared in Scotland. By that time he had lost much of his earlier agility, attributable no doubt to the climatic influences incidental to his sojourn abroad. His fielding was thereby affected; otherwise he would have been classed as a Gentlemen of England player.

T. Chalmers was also a very prominent cricketer. Loyalty to their own evoked the opinion in Glasgow that Chalmers was the best Scottish bat of his day. B. Hall Blyth could play cricket too. I recollect Hall Blyth taking wickets on the Academy ground, and saw Chalmers drive R. Macnair clean out of that field for a 6, and not many 6's were hit off Macnair.

J. Finlay was a member of a notable brotherhood. I cannot claim to personal recollection of him, but

I saw Ninian Finlay from his schoolboy days, and perfectly remember Gardine Finlay, who would probably have gained International honours had he not gone abroad. There never was such glamour and reputation attached to any Scottish player as there was to Ninian Finlay, until A. R. Don Wauchope reached the zenith of his powers.

To detail L. M. Balfour's career would occupy a volume in itself. I saw him play football as an Academical, watched his cricket many and many a day, saw him at lawn tennis at the time he won the Scottish Championship, heard of his triumph at St. Andrews in a game I know little about, and probably from observing him and that Sussex County gentleman who played football for the Wanderers in 1873, J. M. Cotterill, the hardest hitter in England and the greatest bat in Scotland, had it ingrained in my being that a cricket ball was a thing that was intended to be hit—a fundamental that is not universally observed.

In the mid 'seventies there was a J. Smith playing full-back for the Wanderers and Edinburgh University as occasion offered. A big fellow, you might see him stand with his arms folded over his chest in idle moments. He was that John Smith of Mauchline, afterwards Dr. Smith, leader of the Queen's Park forwards, and International successor to the great George Kerr, 'Prince of Dribblers.' He is now of Kirkcaldy, and occupies a high place among Scottish bowlers. In 1876 he was selected reserve full-back for Scotland. Had he played, the

unique distinction of representing the country under both codes would have fallen to him.

Angus Buchanan, although he continued to lead the Royal High School for a number of years later, only played in the first International. However, before retiring, he had brought the 'School' into the front rank in club football. In 1874 the Glasgow Academical-Royal High School match at Bonnington attracted one of the biggest crowds seen at a club game up to that time. The 'School' was then playing a fast, open style of game in which 'chucking' and 'backing-up' were features. However, on that occasion their play did not reach its usual standard, and they were beaten.

A. Gordon Petrie and A. Wood, of that 'School' team, became International forwards.

One of the greatest cricketers of that time was T. W. Lang, who played football in the Edinburgh Academical side of 1872. While at Oxford University he was one of the best bowlers, slow or medium, in England. In the 1874 game against Cambridge he took no fewer than ten wickets. I recollect hearing a story, but cannot vouch for its accuracy, that on one occasion he bowled the great W. G. Grace for 'duck.' 'T. W.' was a Selkirk man, brother of Andrew Lang of literary fame. There were three brothers. The family did a great deal to establish cricket in Selkirk.

J. H. S. Graham was one of the greatest forwards the game has seen. A fair-haired, enthusiastic

schoolboy, he possessed from his early days the gift of leadership, and as captain of the champion school team, captain of a great Academical champion team, and captain of the International fifteen, he gained all the honours the game could give. Of very powerful physique, it was his skill as a dribbler that carried him into his first International match in 1876. He played the game heartily and vigorously, and was always as willing to make concessions to an opponent as he was ready to acknowledge the merits and encourage the efforts of his own players. Whether he passed the ball to Malcolm Cross, or some one else did, it was characteristic of Graham that almost as the ball cleared the bar he was endeavouring to hoist Cross shoulder high there and then. No forward of his day played the game with more intelligence, skill, and effect than Graham. He was one of the most advanced players of his time, and one of the great products of Scottish football.

W. St. Clair Grant was the first great product of Craigmount, a school that in its day held its own in competition with the best of its rival scholastic institutions. When we consider its term of existence, Craigmount may be said to have provided both Scotland and England with a wonderful list of players of the highest status. St. Clair Grant not only went into all the representative football teams of his time, as a first choice man, but, as a cricketer, was reputedly one of the best bowlers in Scotland. The pink field jacket and cap

of Craigmount were the prettiest 'creation' in cricket attire.

J. H. L. M'Farlane lived before the days of authentically recorded athletic performances, but we know that as a long jumper and as a sprinter and middle-distance runner he was the best all-round man of his time in Scotland.

J. A. W. Mein, who played in the first International, is a Border laird in the Jedburgh district. His two sons were prominent Edinburgh Academy players between 1904 and 1907. In the latter season the younger, A. B. Mein, was captain of the school fifteen.

C. W. Cathcart—in 1872—was the first Lorettonian to be capped, or rather selected, for 'capping' was of a later date. In the photographs of the first International teams, several of the players can be observed wearing the conventional cowl previously referred to.

As St. Clair Grant was the first Craigmount International player, H. Springman, a Lancashire boy, of the same school, was the first Scottish-trained schoolboy who played for England. Neither Edinburgh Academy nor Merchiston had any particular first International player. Each school supplied a batch to the team of 1871.

The Institution team, which won the club championship in seasons 1880-81 and 1881-82, was of distinct character and strength. N. T. Brewis had laboured long and arduously toward the consummation of his ambition.

The title had been in possession of the Edinburgh Academicals from season 1877-78. J. H. S. Graham led a powerful team at the peak of its strength. By season 1880-81 it had begun to crumble, and a year or two later the Academicals entered a tolerably long journey through the wilderness until they were again led into the 'promised land' by C. Reid and his virile collection of young forwards. W. E. Maclagan had gone to London, but was brought down specially to face the new challengers. Two Academy schoolboys, C. Reid and Frank Wright, already building up reputations for themselves, were included. But it was of no avail; the Academicals were beginning to decline, and even if they had been able to put off the evil day, the fall would only have been deferred. The game was played at Coltbridge, and I have a tolerably clear recollection of W. H. Masters running in for the winning and only score of the match.

I cannot recall two brothers playing together as forwards in one team who would bear favourable comparison with R. and T. Ainslie. In the great International triumph at Manchester in 1882, it was they who scored both tries. When R. Ainslie, or 'Bob' Ainslie, as he was known to the world, scored, A. N. Hornby, the English back and Lancashire cricketer, stooped too soon in his attempted tackle, and Ainslie jumped clear over him. When Tom Ainslie scored again, the crowd were actually on the goal-line, and his problem was

EDINBURGH INSTITUTION F.P. (FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, 1880-81.)

W. H. Masters. R. A. Brewis. J. D. Duff. Boyd Cunningham. J. C. Paterson. G. H. Rennie. A. Drummond.
D. Somerville. R. Ainslie. N. T. Brewis. T. Ainslie. W. Gordon.
A. Philp. W. Sorley Brown. I. F. Chisholm.

to get through them and at the same time evade Hornby.

Behind the scrummage the Institution's scoring power lay in the quarters—W. Sorley Brown and W. H. Masters. They were both small men, but fast, active, and nimble-witted. In fact, they conformed in all essentials to the ideals of the period. The others were pre-eminently safe men and sound defenders. W. H. Masters went abroad after a season or two, but Sorley Brown had a long and successful career in club and International football. Over and above that he did a good deal of practical missionary work in forming a connection between the Institution and the Border teams. He and Masters were the best scoring club pair who up to that time had played together.

Actually ten of that Institution team were International players. R. Maitland, the heaviest man on the side, was a thoroughly sound forward; D. Somerville's long reach rendered him a most useful player at the throw-out, and he brought both feet and hands, along with a keen scent for a score, into operation on the goal-line.

A. Philp was wonderfully light on his feet, in spite of his rotundity, and he earned all the honours that came to him. I used to think Boyd Cunningham a very fine player of the type equally at home in any class of game, winning or losing. They were a very sound pair of halves. W. Gordon, a young Irishman—how Nat Brewis unearthed him

I don't know—was a clever back. It was therefore a powerful, well-balanced team.

The Institution men who beat the Edinburgh Academicals in November 1880 were: W. Gordon; A. Philp and Boyd Cunningham; W. H. Masters and W. Sorley Brown; N. T. Brewis, R. A. Brewis, T. Ainslie, R. Ainslie, R. Maitland, D. Somerville, A. Drummond, J. Fraser, J. Chisholm, and — Adam.

In rather an indirect manner the Royal High School won the championship of 1883-84. The West of Scotland had the misfortune to be weakly represented in their match with the Institution, which they lost; and when they came to play the Wanderers they were faced by a team reinforced by Edinburgh Academicals and Fettesian-Lorettonians, and they went down very decisively. The Royal High School brought Walter M'Farlane from London specially for their match with the 'West,' but they were beaten by a goal and a try.

The 'West' were the best club team of the season, but the Royal High School were the champions. It was an anomalous position, no doubt, but the competition bristled with incongruities. A. R. Paterson, the Fettesian-Lorettonian forward and Oxford 'Blue,' helped the Wanderers to beat the 'West,' and assisted the 'West' to get the better of the 'School.'

At that time, and for a number of years afterwards, the Royal High School were well supplied with players; so well, indeed, that they ought to have been in closer running for the championship

than they were. Their team in the 'West' match was: J. P. Veitch; W. M'Farlane and W. A. Scott; P. H. Cosens and C. Robertson; N. Watt, C. D. Stuart, A. M'Farlane, R. Roy, J. W. Walker, W. M. Gossip, D. A. Gray, J. Horsburgh, C. Paisley, and W. M'Donald.

The following season the 'School' ought to have had even a better team, for they had several notable additions, particularly G. Wilson, a half-back, who had a meteoric career; A. Duke, an International forward; W. R. Gibson, also an Internationalist; and Dr. Rutherford lent his assistance on occasion. The best they did was to make a strenuous fight at Grange Loan against the Edinburgh Academicals in a game that was unfinished 'owing to a dispute.'

Until the middle 'nineties the 'West' continued to exert a leading influence on club football, and for a great part of that time quite put in the shade their local rivals the Glasgow Academicals. Indeed, the new century had almost dawned before the Academicals began to re-establish themselves in their old position among the leaders.

When all the other home clubs were playing the hard slogging forward game, the back play of the West of Scotland in combination was not equalled until C. Reid had R. H. Johnston, H. J. Stevenson, and J. Duncan in his half-back line. After M. F. Reid left Loretto, he played centre for the 'West' until he went abroad. With Reid in the centre, and A. E. Stephen and R. G. Eagles-

ham on the wings, the 'West' had about their best scoring three-quarter line.

C. E. Orr went to them from Loretto a few seasons later than M. F. Reid, and J. E. Orr, a half-back when in England and a forward when in Scotland, came in about the same time. A couple of virile players were the Orrs, both a trifle peppery, 'Jack' rather more than his brother. There is no question that C. E. Orr was a thoroughly good quarter in his earlier days. Latterly, he got spoiled in his play by continual worrying with the forwards. But that was the work the quarter of the period had to perform if he were to be of any use. The man behind the scrum who would not get down to a forward rush or stop the movement at its inception did not command much respect.

J. D. Boswell played all his club football with the West of Scotland after he left Oxford University, and still they kept getting Lorettonians, such as Harold Paton, a clever and plucky little player. Later still half the team were Merchistonians. There were George, Gordon, and Willie Neilson of one branch of that family, and Hugh Neilson, the Cantab, of another; and about the same time another Merchistonian International forward in J. N. Millar was with them. They had always good forwards, and none served them better or longer, unless it were D. Morton, than the Fettesian, H. F. Menzies. R. G. MacMillan also played for a season or two with the 'West' before going to London.

The old-time Glasgow Academical-Merchistonian connection almost disappeared. Now and again the Academicals would get an odd good player from Merchiston, such as A. N. Woodrow and A. W. Walls, but the early-day attachment between Glasgow Academy and Merchiston was gone, to the detriment of the Academicals and the benefit of the West of Scotland.

Withal, the Academicals maintained a good position during the 'eighties. D. W. Kidston was in their back division early in the decade when their leader in the pack was J. B. Brown, one of the cleverest forwards who have played for Scotland. A. W. Walls came to them from Merchiston as a powerful addition to their front rank. Walls was a big strong useful forward, though he never had the skill of 'Johnny' Brown nor yet of H. T. Ker or J. French, who were too light to owe their success to anything but cleverness. F. M'Indoe succeeded D. W. Kidston as a full-back of the sound and safe national pattern, and A. N. Woodrow, the Merchiston marvel, was in the Academical team of 1886 and for some years later. The club left the old field at Burnbank at the end of season 1882-83. Mutual associations and old relationship demanded that the first visitors to Anniesland should be the Edinburgh Academicals. So it happened, and as a happy augury the Glasgow club opened their new home with a win. They were a better team at this time than their Edinburgh brethren, and they were stoutly disputing local supremacy with

their rivals the ' West.' In 1884-85 they renewed relationship after a ten years' interval, and beat the Royal High School, who were championship holders. They lost the autumn match of the following season to the West of Scotland by three goals and a try. The game is memorable for the fact that all three goals were dropped by M. F. Reid, who thereby accomplished the crowning achievement of his career in club football. Reid set himself almost exclusively to score from drop-kicks, and the other members of the team systematically aided him. It was very rarely that he did not drop at least one goal, but he excelled himself in the record success of 1885.

The West of Scotland were a strong side in 1882-83, when they won the championship. D. Y. Cassels had among his forwards several International men—A. Walker, the Lorettonian, and elder brother of J. G. Walker; D. Morton, a duplicate in a measure of D. Somerville; J. Jamieson and D. M'Cowan.

There were two old Loretto boys in the back division, A. J. W. Reid and C. Dunlop, school contemporary of A. G. G. Asher, and also the Edinburgh Academical, A. P. Reid, the elder brother of C. Reid, a very fast man and a good player. They beat the Institution, the championship holders, by three tries, and by a coincidence A. P. Reid, coming to Edinburgh for the occasion, scored the winning try for the Academicals against the Institution, thus indirectly helping the ' West '

OXFORD UNIVERSITY, 1884.

Photo by Hills & Saunders, Oxford.

* A. S. Blair. B. A. Cohen. A. B. Turner. H. V. Page. * A. M'Neill.
* G. C. Lindsay. * R. C. Kitto. * C. W. Berry. P. Coles. C. G. Wade.
W. H. Squire. A. Rotherham. * A. G. G. Asher (Capt.). * H. B. Tristram. R. E. Inglis.

* Lorettonians.

on their way to the title. The Institution team was beginning to break up by that time.

Let us here divert our course a little in order to touch upon some lateral influences affecting the general position. Oxford University, in the early 'eighties, was the leading team in England. Their football was accepted as the model upon which the game should be moulded. When therefore Edinburgh University team, led by the Fettesian R. F. S. Henderson, beat H. Vassall's Oxonians at Oxford in 1881, the result was very significant in several respects. Oxford had not lost a match for three seasons. Henderson had only his ordinary club team with him. Frank Hunter, the Fettesian, was in the back division along with three Watsonians playing regularly for the University, J. Glegg, M. Morton, and W. Brooke. The match reflected favourably on the strength of Scottish club football. Two years later, Oxford came to Edinburgh and wiped out the stain on their reputation. Still, there was none to beat Oxford until Edinburgh University repeated their success in 1885. In 1881-82 there were four Lorettonians (J. G. Walker, A. R. Paterson, A. O. MacKenzie and A. G. G. Asher), and also the Edinburgh Academical, E. L. Strong, in the Oxford team. The following season a further contingent from Loretto (H. B. Tristram, G. C. Lindsay, and C. F. MacKenzie) was added. When A. G. G. Asher was captain of Oxford he had with him six Lorettonians: H. B. Tristram, G. C. Lindsay, A. S.

Blair, C. W. Berry, A. M'Neill and R. C. Kitto. These were the days of the 'Oxford game,' when the University was holding up the torch to the rest of England; but the light had been kindled in Scotland, and it was the Scottish schoolboys who were the torch-bearers.

Contemporary football at Cambridge University did not feel the influence so strongly for the reason that Scottish schoolboys there were less numerous. Edgar Storey and A. R. Don Wauchope, who had played together at Fettes, were two of the earlier additions who impressed their personal powers upon the teams at Cambridge. J. G. Tait and the brothers Sample from Edinburgh Academy, Hugh Neilson from Merchiston, C. J. B. Milne and W. M. Macleod from Fettes, were all Cantabs of the early 'eighties.

From the numeric strength and playing power of Loretto and Fettes at Oxford and Cambridge sprang the inspiration for the foundation of the Fettesian-Lorettonian Club which started in 1881-82, but was not completely organised nor at its full power until the following season. All International men or 'Blues,' the early 'F.L.' team flashed into football as new stars in the firmament. We in Scotland only got glimpses of their brilliancy. In fulfilment of one of their functions as a holiday club presumably, most of their matches were played in touring the North of England. No club team that I have ever seen or heard of could produce such a back division as H. B. Tristram,

THE GREAT FETTESIAN-LORETTONIAN TEAM, 1885.

Photo by Hills & Saunders, Oxford.

W. M. Macleod. J. G. B. Sutherland. A. L. Williamson.
A. O. M. Mackenzie. H. B. Tristram. J. Steel. C. J. B. Milne. G. Hardyman.
D. A. Bannerman. F. J. C. Mackenzie. C. W. Berry. A. R. Don Wauchope (Capt.). H. F. Caldwell. A. G. G. Asher. A. R. Paterson.
W. B. Mactier. G. C. Lindsay. D. J. Gillon.

D. J. M'Farlan, E. Storey, G. C. Lindsay, A. R. Don Wauchope, and A. G. G. Asher. Five of these men have never been excelled, and two at least of them have never been equalled in their positions as International players. Tristram is still the best full-back that has played for England, and none has arisen in Scotland to bear comparison with A. R. Don Wauchope at quarter or half-back, where he and A. G. G. Asher still hold claim as the greatest pair that have played together for the country. None of the North of England teams could stand against the 'F.Ls.' till Bradford began to aspire to universal club championship about 1884. At least two great matches between the pair found them on tolerably level terms. Bradford's connection with Scotland introduces another phase of this diversion. C. Reid was building up his Edinburgh Academical team, and among other successes he had abruptly cut short the West of Scotland's run of club triumphs in the autumn of 1884. That season the Academicals had been beaten at Bradford by a snap try scored from their own goal-line by the Yorkshire team's full-back, Archer, in the last minute of the game.

When Bradford, seeking more worlds to conquer, came down to meet the Academicals at Raeburn Place in November 1885, they were prepared for a great battle, and so far they were not disappointed. It was a Homeric struggle if ever there was one. There was no quarter given or asked. Bradford

had a strong back division, but Reid's forwards held them in a firm grip, and only once did the Academical crowd get a shiver. Ritchie, the fastest sprinter in England, cut away along the touch-line, and it looked all up when C. Reid, who had taken a diagonal course behind his halves, intercepted Ritchie at the '25' flag and saved the situation. Strange to say that, though I seem still to see that tackle clearly and distinctly, a well-known Academical of the period is just as sure that it was T. W. Irvine who stopped Ritchie.

Rawson Robertshaw, who was England's International centre, seemed to become affected by the excitement, but the two quarters, Bonsor and Wright, stuck to their work, and the Yorkshiremen in the pack laid about them just as lustily as their opponents.

It was two of the smallest men engaged, D. M. M. Orr and A. P. Moir, who worked out the Academical score by a straight dash for the line from inside the '25.' When it was all over there were as many limp ones among the Academical spectators as among the players. It was certainly a strenuous encounter, but to my own personal knowledge some of the most bitter newspaper criticisms were written by people who did not see the game, and the same critics took no exception to similar happenings in local matches.

The Academical players who won that historic championship game were: F. Saunders; G. H. Carphin, H. H. Littlejohn, and R. H. Johnston;

D. M. M. Orr and H. G. Kinnear; C. Reid, T. W. Irvine, M. C. M'Ewan, A. T. Clay, A. P. Moir, R. O. Adamson, P. M. Matthew, V. A. Noël Paton, and P. W. Hislop.

From that date till the end of the 'eighties the Edinburgh Academicals dominated club football in Scotland. During the earlier seasons of this term, Reid had to depend almost entirely upon his forwards. His backs, H. H. Littlejohn, G. H. Carphin, D. M. M. Orr, and H. G. Kinnear, were primarily defensive players. The forwards were the greatest pack that has played in Scottish club football. I do not stand alone in that expression of opinion.

The team was at its best in 1887-88. During that season the only scores recorded against the Academicals was a try by Hawick and another by the Fettesian-Lorettonians. On the latter occasion the 'F.Ls.' were beaten for the first time in the club's career proper.

Hawick gave the Academicals more trouble than any of the city teams. They had a strong set of forwards, who disputed every inch of ground with Reid's pack. J. Jackson, big and fast, was one of their leaders. Dr. Wade was another. Their captain, A. Laing, was a good man. Behind the scrum they had the Langholm quarter, J. Veitch, and three good halves, W. Wilson, T. Crozier, and the elder 'Billy' Burnett—no relation to his successor of a later period.

In December of 1887 the Academicals hit the

West of Scotland the hardest blow they had suffered under for five years, beating them by five tries. Yet it was a strong 'West' team, and included C. E. Orr, R. G. MacMillan, D. Morton, and W. Auld—all International men.

A mistaken idea seems to prevail as to the weight and physique of C. Reid's forwards. He himself was a giant among men. About 6 feet 3 inches and between 15 and 16 stone—nearer 15 perhaps—he carried no superfluous weight, and was as active as a well-trained 10-stone man. M. C. M'Ewan would be about 14 stone, and A. T. Clay and T. W. Irvine about 12½ stone each. T. B. White, the prettiest dribbler and most scientific player in the team, would be fully half a stone lighter, and the others, except J. Methuen, who would be nearer 13 than 12 stone, were all a little over 12 stone or thereabouts. Their power lay in their combination, quick breaking up, and tackling.

Reid had little use for players who could not tackle and bring the man down. He had them drilled to perfection, and held a complete command over his team. On a big occasion no back division could settle down against these forwards.

Four of them—'the quartette'—Reid, M'Ewan, Irvine, and Clay—were first choice International forwards for several years, and T. B. White latterly increased the number to five. Reid still stands as Scotland's greatest forward production. No player has yet appeared who could do on the field

the things that Reid did. M. C. M'Ewan occupies a position in the highest ranks, and there will always be a wholesome difference of opinion as to whether R. Ainslie or T. W. Irvine should be regarded as the greatest tackler among forwards. That is a class of question that can be left open, to the satisfaction of all concerned. In 1888 the Academicals had seven players in the International team—W. E. Maclagan, H. J. Stevenson, and 'the quintette.' This representation, which is a club record, conveys an idea of the strength of the team of that time.

A. T. Clay was another of the early-day Borderers who obtained International honours. Of a Kelso family, he was wicket-keeper and one of the best bats in Hay Brown's Academy team of 1880. Before returning to the Academicals he played football for a time with Gala.

C. Reid obtained a scoring back division when he introduced from the Academical second fifteen the three halves, R. H. Johnston, H. J. Stevenson, and J. Duncan. In Stevenson, Reid had found one of the most wonderful players Scottish football has produced. In a contemporary reference the *Scotsman* described him as 'the greatest football player in the world.' He was equally good at quarter, half, or full back. Along with D. J. M'Farlan he formed the most potential scoring half-back combination at the Scottish Rugby Union's command. At full-back he was one of the best who occupied the position for Scotland, and

at quarter he astonished every one by practically beating the Watsonians off his own bat when they were running for the championship.

Without W. E. Maclagan's great physical advantages, Stevenson's defence was just as sound. When it was the practice for a back to fall on the ball in front of a forward rush, Stevenson nipped the ball from their toes, kept on his feet, and replied by kicking or breaking through. No one had ever seen saving done in that fashion. His offence was equally strong, and the number of tries he got out of his wings sufficiently testified to his powers of combination. Stevenson and A. R. Don Wauchope were two of the marvels of middle-time football. Stevenson refused to submit to the dictation of the Union committee as to what he should do and how he should play. Hence the explanation of the transitions from centre to full-back, and from full-back to centre.

R. H. Johnston had learned most of his football at an English public school. Many will probably remember him more clearly as a cricketer, and I may add that W. G. Grace once said of R. H. Johnston that he was the finest schoolboy wicket-keeper he had ever seen. He used to sprint down the touch-line at a great pace, but few knew that even then H. J. Stevenson had to nurse him. If he sent him off too soon, he was sure to fall before he got to the line. His brain was too active to get the response from his body, and the goal-line did not come to him soon enough.

C. REID'S FAMOUS EDINBURGH ACADEMICAL TEAM, 1887-88.

R. O. Adamson. J. M'Ewan. W. C. Dudgeon. T. W. Irvine. T. B. White. A. T. Clay. C. G. Glassford.
R. D. Jameson. M. C. M'Ewan. H. H. Littlejohn. C. Reid (Capt.).
J. Methuen. J. Duncan. R. H. Johnston. H. J. Stevenson.

J. Duncan's heart was not in football. As a schoolboy he kept tally of the salmon he had landed from the Tay, and though he was a good cricketer and a marvellous fielder at point, and might have been a first-class wing half, give him a rod and line and you might have had all the glories of the football or cricket field for those who desired them.

Club football was very strong in the later 'eighties. The Royal High School, Edinburgh Wanderers, Edinburgh University had all good teams, and on the Borders Hawick was already in the first grade, with Gala fast establishing strong local rivalry, and Melrose and Jedforest as healthy centres of the game. The Wanderers owed much of their strength to the Fettesian-Lorettonian element. A. R. Don Wauchope played all his club football with them after leaving Cambridge. A. G. G. Asher was also one of their regular players on his return to Edinburgh from Oxford, and C. J. N. Fleming, while on the teaching staff at Fettes, played centre half for the Wanderers for a number of seasons.

The decade had closed before another new name was inscribed on the club championship roll. Beginning with second fifteen fixtures, the rise of the Watsonians was gradual. Under John Tod, who, as I have suggested, is entitled to be regarded as the 'father' of Watsonian football, they achieved one of their first notable triumphs when they beat the Edinburgh Academicals in 1883. In October

of 1884 I saw them create a great surprise in practically running down a team of the Edinburgh Wanderers which included M. C. M'Ewan of the Academicals, Conrad Mackenzie, Oxford 'Blue,' H. L. Fleming, Blairlodge, and R. D. Rainnie, one of the best of the old stock of Wanderers forwards. A. W. Cameron was already making a name for himself as full-back in the Watsonian team. Most of their players behind the scrummage were fast, and they had acquired a fine open style of play. In front of Cameron, the brothers Laing and J. D. Mackenzie were very speedy players, and J. Carmichael, uncle of the present-day Watsonian wing three-quarter J. H. Carmichael, was a sound serviceable quarter. The forwards were light, but energetic and clever. Nothing gave the Watsonians more satisfaction than a couple of successive wins over the Royal High School while the 'School' were still holders of the championship. J. Rankin had succeeded John Tod as the Watsonian captain. In his pack were a number of good forwards: A. B. Easterbrook, W. M. Heron, W. Inglis, and C. White. The team was doing so well a little later that they were very hopeful of the result of their encounter with the Edinburgh Academicals, but C. Reid's forwards were far too powerful for them, and they got no chance to exert their pace.

N. Leggatt, an elder brother of H. T. O. Leggatt and a most reliable half-back, came into the team later on. W. Bruce was such another as the elder

Leggatt, safe and sound in every detail, both capital specimens of the all-round half-back of the period. When the Watsonians won their first championship in 1892-93, R. M. M. Roddick had under him a young and vigorous pack, in which H. T. O. Leggatt physically stood head and shoulders above any of the other members. On the touch-line, in the scrummage, or in close work outside, he was an invaluable player and a first-choice Internationalist.

Later, when he became captain, he exercised a strong influence over the team. H. O. Smith and Andrew Balfour were thoroughly good-class International forwards, and though it took the Union a long time to recognise the fact, W. B. Cownie was the most scientific forward in Scotland. To the prejudice of his International prospects, the Watsonians made a handy man of H. B. Wright. Abnormally strong, he revelled in the loose work outside the scrum, and there was nothing he would not face and little he would not bring down. When 'Willie' M'Ewan and Wright were in opposition, the field was not big enough for them.

J. Muir surmounted obstacles in a very direct way, and T. S. Paterson was always working in the shadow of Cownie, and along the same lines. P. G. Gillespie, W. P. Drummond, and A. W. Falconer were sound, good club forwards.

'Safety first' was the rule behind the scrum. They were not really a scoring side. Robin Welsh was fast, and got his International cap, and the

others—H. H. Forbes, G. S. Wilson, and H. A. Forrester—were more defensive than offensive players, though W. L. Bruce, Forrester, and Forbes could all cut through smartly and cleverly into the open. But there was little organised or combined offensive work behind. A. W. Cameron, like R. M. M. Roddick, had waited and worked long for the day, and no two players ever did more for Watsonian football. With John Tod, they formed a connecting-link between the base and the summit of the club's career.

A. W. Cameron was the cleverest full-back of his time. He was a 'finished player,' fast and clever, a great and fearless tackler, and a fine kick, but he lacked weight and physique, and, like many more, he seemed to be too sensitive to do himself justice on representative occasions. The Watsonians have not yet produced a successor to Cameron.

H. T. O. Leggatt's team earned a niche in history in January of 1894, when they travelled to South Wales for a match with the Newport team, which was at that time exploiting the four three-quarter formation to such purpose that there were few club teams in England or Wales that could make a respectable stand against them. Leggatt, depending upon his forwards, adhered to the usual formation behind the scrummage, and the game resolved itself into a test between the Scottish and Welsh national styles. In the end there was nothing between the two teams, and although Newport won by a

WATSONIANS. (FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, 1892-93.)

Photo by Alex. Ayton, Edinburgh.

W. P. Drummond. H. O. Smith. H. T. O. Leggatt. A. W. Falconer. W. B. Cownie. T. S. Paterson.
J. Muir. H. A. Forrester. H. H. Forbes. R. M. M. Roddick (Capt.). A. W. Cameron. C. S. Wilson. W. Stewart Morton.
W. L. Bruce. R. Welsh.

goal to a try, the victory was more moral than real. The game aroused great interest in both countries, and as an experiment its teaching ought to have been more closely observed in Scotland. The fixture marked the opening of the Watsonian relationship with Welsh clubs which has been maintained until the present time. From the date of their first championship success in 1892-93 the Watsonians have maintained a leading place in club football, and have never declined to a low or mediocre position nor fallen into an inferior style of play.

To the consternation of the Edinburgh Academical constituency and to general public surprise and regret, H. J. Stevenson prematurely retired from the game in 1892-93. The Watsonians continued to hold the championship through season 1893-94. Their strongest adversaries were the Edinburgh Wanderers, who had one of the best teams that has represented the club. C. J. N. Fleming was playing regularly for them at centre half, as the position was still termed, and they were particularly strong at quarter with a big Irish International man, A. C. M'Donnell, and H. T. Methuen, small, smart, and clever. Ben Greig, the Fettesian, who latterly played for Jedforest, and W. K. Laidlaw, neither of whom were much if anything outside International class, were two of the best of a powerful pack of forwards. In that they won one of their matches and drew the other, the Wanderers had the better of their

immediate relationship with the Watsonians. L. G. Thomas, much in the same capacity and doing much the same work as D. J. Simson had done in an earlier dark period, was scoring greatly needed tries for the Edinburgh Academicals. The Institution were doing quite well, as may be incidentally inferred from their wins over the Royal High School and the West of Scotland, and Border football had never been so strong. The Gala team of Ninian Kemp, A. Dalgleish, and the Murdison brothers, was meeting on level terms the Hawick fifteen of Matt Elliot and D. Patterson, T. M. Scott, W. L. Watson, A. B. Storrie, and R. Scott, while at the same time W. S. Oliver, J. T. Mabon, and R. Douglas were in the best team that Jedforest had yet had. These were stirring times in Border football, and the ' steer ' was not confined to the ' big three,' for Melrose startled the football world in the early weeks of the following season by beating Hawick two goals and a try on their own ground. That, too, was one of the best, if not actually the best team Melrose ever had. Three at least of their backs, J. Milton, J. Mair, and F. D. Hart, were exceptionally clever players, and there was power and play in the backbone of the forward division, G. Frater, J. Moffatt, G. Bunyan, and the brothers Telfer. That Melrose team should not have been far out of the championship. The season was spoiled by frost, which set in before the New Year and held till March. Indeed, when the Watsonians played at Myreside on the 16th of that

month, it was their first appearance on their own ground from the 17th of November.

Season 1895-96 was a Border one, and the club championship was won by Hawick, who had very strong opposition to face, not only in the cities but among their own kith and kin in the near neighbourhood.

The Edinburgh Academicals, Watsonians, and Edinburgh University were powerful teams. Hawick knew something of the University Irish three-quarter, H. Stevenson, one of the best players Ireland sent to Edinburgh. Robin Welsh, H. O. Smith, H. B. Wright, R. A. Bruce, and T. Muir were playing at Myreside. W. M. C. M'Ewan, J. M. Reid, J. I. Gillespie, A. W. Robertson, and A. M. Bucher were in the Academical team. C. J. N. Fleming was with the Wanderers, Mark Morrison and J. W. Simpson in the Royal High School ranks, and Jedforest were fast approaching the championship pinnacle. The general standard in club football, therefore, was very high.

Hawick lost to the University, and the destination of the title was left to the deciding match with the Watsonians at Hawick in the last weeks of the season. Both sides played four three-quarters, though the formation had not yet become thoroughly established. Matt Elliot was unable to play, and Hawick's team consisted of D. Corbett; W. Lindsay Watson, T. Scott, J. Sharp, and B. Hills; A. M'Kie and D. Patterson; G. Johnston, A. Laidlaw, W. Marchbank,

R. Scott, A. B. Storrie, W. M'Lean, and T. M. Scott.

That was the first occasion on which the club championship went to the Borders. Perforce the merit of the players in the South had thereafter to be recognised. The Union had been very stingy with their honours, and I do not know that they profited thereby.

I never could quite follow the reasoning that precluded the selection of D. Patterson and M. Elliot as an International pair. Each was chosen separately, yet as a pair the combination had possibilities that might have stood comparison with some of the best national pairs. Tom Scott, as already stated, was a Langholm man, and T. M. Scott belonged to Melrose. With R. Scott, five of the Hawick championship team were capped. So in that respect they fared very well.

Border football had been gradually gaining ground from the middle of the 'seventies. Fortunately they had exclusively adopted the Rugby game, and hard hit as their teams often have been by defections to the Northern Union, football would never have got its head above water had they adopted the Association form and entered into competition with the wealthy professional clubs. There would have been no premier position for any of their teams, no championship for Hawick, or for any of them, and to-day their clubs would have been struggling in an impecunious third grade.

From about the beginning of the 'eighties the principal strongholds were Hawick, Melrose, Langholm, and Galashiels. There were three clubs in Hawick until well on in the 'nineties. That was an overplus of two, and it was not until the ' Greens ' became the sole representatives of the town that Hawick football attained a permanent position in the first grade. True, the ' Greens ' were strong in the middle 'eighties, as I have shown in their interchanges with the Edinburgh Academicals, but they were merely getting firmly planted on the first step-stone of the upward flight.

Earlier than that Langholm was a strong centre, but the isolated situation of the town was always an impediment, and the marvel is that the game has been able to keep going there. They saw little or nothing of city football. One year the Wanderers went down to give them a help on, but outside their own district they had to rely for variety on the Cumberland clubs. In their earlier matches with Jedforest, the games took place at Hawick.

Langholm had a pair of quarters of wide reputation, J. Veitch and J. Scott, in the middle 'eighties. Veitch helped Hawick in some of their matches with the Edinburgh Academicals at that time.

There were too many Langholm Scotts for me to identify. Of course, we all know T. Scott, the International three-quarter, and his doings. I recollect another of the clan, C. B. Scott, captain of the Edinburgh University team about the time

of W. J. N. Davis and the 'Irish brigade,' but further than that he was an old Craigmount and Langholm boy I do not know from what branch of the tree he sprang.

I have a very clear recollection of T. Scott, or 'Langholm Scott,' as he was known in the cities, showing a clean pair of heels to Larry Bulger at Belfast, and Bulger was no mean sprinter. It occurs to me also that Scott scored a very similar try against the Irishmen at Powderhall, and the other Tom Scott, the Melrose one, kicked a goal from the touch-line. He was an expert place-kick. Mainly through having practised the art as a pastime on the Greenyards at Melrose, he became so proficient that they said he could kick goals within reasonable range with his eyes closed. There is more in knowledge of the ground than is generally supposed. Lucius Gwynne, in the Irish match referred to, punted the ball over the Scottish bar, and when H. Stevenson, who was in the Irish half-back line, asked why he did that, Gwynne replied that he had no idea he was so close to the goal.

I think Gala were at their best under Ninian Kemp and when Adam Dalgleish, the Murdiesons, D. Rutherford, and J. Ford were playing. Kemp was a very clever forward, but he had not the weight of, let me say, D. Bunyan, the first of the Melrose family still represented in present-day football. Otherwise Kemp possessed all the International requirements.

GALA. (BORDER CHAMPIONS, 1887-88.)

J. Leitch. N. Kemp. A. Dalgleish. P. Rankin. J. Welsh. J. Graham. D. Cameron. Mr. John Ward.
H. Fraser. A. Brunton. Jim Ward (Capt.). P. Morrison. W. Spiers.
G. Maclachlan. J. M'Caig. G. Symington.

In season 1900-1, Gala just failed to win the club championship. Undefeated until the end of March, they lost their last two matches, and the title just escaped them. Still, I think Ninian Kemp's was the better Gala team, although Gala were nearer the championship in the later year than in Kemp's time.

Jedforest's day was near at hand when Hawick gained the club laurels.

Melrose occupied an interesting position in middle-time football. They saw more of city football than any of the other towns, and, small as the population is, the game flourished almost from its introduction. Melrose missed the honour of providing the first Border International player by a hairbreadth.

When D. Sanderson, their quarter, played in the East *v.* West Trial match of 1884, he was reckoned to be in the running with A. R. Don Wauchope and A. G. G. Asher; surely in itself sufficient tribute to his abilities. An absurd story to the effect that Don Wauchope resented Sanderson's intrusion into the partnership gained wide currency. Personally, I cannot imagine Don Wauchope taking up such an attitude. On the contrary, he was the first to approach Sanderson before the game, and gave him his choice of the side of the scrummage on which to play. The only difference recognised at that time was right or left; a player accustomed to a particular side stuck to it. We may take it as certain that Don

Wauchope was as anxious to make the partnership a success as if he had been playing with A. G. G. Asher. Sanderson's football was so much appreciated by the Union that he was made reserve quarter to Wauchope and Asher for all International matches of that season.

Melrose had another fine quarter, A. Haig, in association with Sanderson. As the man who invented, or discovered, the seven-a-side form of football, Haig has been one of the greatest benefactors of the game on the Borders. Without its financial aid the clubs would be sore pressed to keep the fires burning.

T. M. Scott in 1883 was Melrose's first International player.

Adam Dalgleish had preceded Scott by a couple of seasons, but there were hosts of good forwards of International class on the Borders then and later. It was curious that when T. Riddle went to London from Melrose and played for the 'Scottish,' he was at once nominated for his cap. Previously he was unknown beyond his own district. But Riddle was only one of many.

J. Ward (Galashiels) was a particularly hard case. When in 1892 the South representative team swamped Edinburgh there was hardly a man in the Border pack that was not of good International class. T. M. Scott and R. Scott were capped on different occasions, but others, such as B. Greig, A. Moffat, R. Douglas, A. Laidlaw, R. Veitch, R.

Laidlaw, D. Elliott, were of much the same stamp, and there were many more.

All club football is not confined in the small circle drawn round two or three of the most successful teams. When Hawick were winning, another team, the Clydesdale, were working onwards, and still another, Heriot's F.P., further in the rear, were busy erecting the first stages of the fabric on the foundation laid in 1890 by one of the masters, Mr. D. L. Turnbull, and a few ardent workers. An old-established club, the St. George, were pursuing an eminently respectable middle course, and Daniel Stewart's former pupils were building on the base-work laid by a little band of enthusiasts, who weathered the storms and stress of football infancy at a time when every man's hand was against the aspiring branch of football society currently known as the ' rising clubs.'

Kelvinside Academicals may be included in the same category. Add to these the legion of older teams indirectly concerned in the championship, and it will be realised that the struggle for the title no more represented the whole battlefield than did the ring round the Scottish King at Flodden. Clydesdale and Kelvinside Academicals increased the Glasgow constituency to overcrowding, and to the direct detriment of the West of Scotland, whose monopoly of Edinburgh schoolboys not associated with the Glasgow Academicals ceased in the 'nineties, and with its cessation the decline of the ' West ' set in.

During all the middle and later 'eighties, and until well on in the 'nineties, the Glasgow Academicals, with the exception of a few brighter intervals, occupied varying positions in the intermediate region, and did not reach within several steps of the top of the ladder until the time of R. S. Stronach and Louis Greig after the turn of the century.

In season 1899-1900 the Kelvinside Academicals had gone undefeated up to January, when they lost by 14 points to the Academical team just mentioned, a notable occurrence generally and a disruptive one locally.

During all the 'nineties the Kelvinside Academicals attracted attention by their fast open style of play. They were a clever and successful team, and passed out a number of noted players during this time. J. C. Woodburn gained his International cap as a wing three-quarter in 1892; G. A. W. Lamond, also an Internationalist, was a very fine three-quarter. J. Knox, in the same category, who came to them from Merchiston, was of the hardy type of half-back, and the Wingate brothers were Lorettonians. G. R. Muir, J. T. Tulloch, and C. France were all of the same pre-eminently clever type of players, contributing to make the play of the Kelvinside team characteristically bright.

Some teams of the time, very jealous of their record and reputation, were just as keen to keep out of Kelvinside's way as to meet them. They were dangerous,

When I compare the Kelvinside Academicals with the old St. George, successful as that team was, the contrast suggests a deal of plodding work. For about twenty years the St. George held quite a good position. About 1890, a little earlier and a little later, they were at their best. John Brown, who had led them for years, was a first-class forward and ought to have gone further than inclusion in the Inter-city team. John Pratt was the best three-quarter the club produced, but the camel and the needle's eye applied as well to Pratt as to Brown.

For a long number of years the club was fed from Daniel Stewart's College, and, naturally, when Stewart's themselves started, the St. George felt the drain. Pratt was from that school, likewise the brothers Elder and J. MacIndoe, a very strong three-quarter. They had two Dollar Academy half-backs one year, W. Robertson and G. Anderson, and in the same position Alec Clapperton served the team well through several seasons.

'Billy' Arnot, one of the pillars of the club, was a Londoner, and F. A. Lumley, from the same quarter, did a bit of football with them when he was not boxing or aiming at sprinting honours at Powderhall, where J. J. Allan, one of their forwards, won the 100 yards championship.

Quite a good club in their day, the St. George played most of the first-class teams, and beat as many as they lost to. A crowning achievement

one year was when a youth from Kelso, J. Ferguson, scored a try for them that beat the Edinburgh Academicals. The St. George were still strong in 1892, when the infant Heriot's team surprised themselves by beating 2nd Clydesdale and 2nd St. George on successive Saturdays. On the latter occasion the triumph was achieved by a drop-kick from their full-back, W. P. Short.

D. Drysdale has dropped many goals, and important goals, too, but he is not the first Heriot's full-back to acquire the faculty, and none of his successes outweighed in club gratification that one of 1892. Short dropped another goal against the Collegiate. The habit with Heriot's full-backs is therefore an old one. In the spring of the following year Heriot's drew with Stewart's College, and a year later progress was demonstrated in a victory over the St. George. J. W. Cownie, P. J. Lawrie, J. Reekie, and A. J. Thomson were in that Heriot's team, captained by R. Bowie.

By the end of the 'nineties the team was well established. In 1903 they were reckoned a smart side. They had then quite a number of clever players—T. W. Smith, J. W. Frew, J. S. B. Wilson, J. Wilson, J. W. Drever, G. Cownie, the brothers Potts, W. M. Douglas, and T. and W. H. Clark. This was the team that made the position for Heriot's. Their back play was almost a revelation, and some of the club's friends consider that it has not been excelled by a Heriot's team even yet. Like many more 'rising teams,' want of

weight clogged their aspirations. W. H. Clark and J. A. Potts were two thoroughly good forwards, but the earlier packs were light and ability was a diminishing quality from the leaders downwards. No better forward than Potts has yet come out of Heriot's.

In 1912-13, Heriot's had to be seriously reckoned with by all comers. One of their wins was at the expense of Hawick. Heriot's team at that time contained several players who will be recognised by present-day friends of the club—J. A. Hardie, J. D. Morrison, A. B. Falconer, R. Badger, C. W. Badger, J. Docherty, J. Lamb, J. C. Dobson, W. G. Dobson, G. L. Davidson, T. Wilson, G. W. Simpson, W. S. Kerr, C. G. Sinclair, and J. B. Laidlaw. That was one of a number of victories.

Keen rivalry subsisted between Heriot's and Stewart's College F.P. For several seasons before the war, Stewart's were a strong team. In 1910 their full-back, J. G. Bell, was fancied for International honours. In 1911-12 they had a powerful pack of forwards, led by Finlay Kennedy, and including D. Lunan, G. M. Beaton, and W. L. Kerr. A. D. Lambert came in later on, and when T. R. Tod and Ivan Tait were in the three-quarter line, the team was one of the best in the country.

It had taken Stewart's about twenty years to establish themselves in the first rank. Back in the early 'nineties, when the club had left Gorgie and were playing on a not particularly good field, but

the most accessible to the boys, at Ravelston, they were fighting hard for recognition. The pioneers were a hardy band of enthusiasts, led by D. G. Smeaton. They took their task seriously and trained assiduously.

Like all teams of the time, they depended upon their forwards and asked for little more than safety from their backs. A try went a long way with them. The try by which they beat the Royal High School in 1890 was a precious donation, subscribed by their quarter, D. Smith, who stood well by the club in the stormy times. In their back division they had W. B. Morrison, brother of Mark Morrison; Tom Morris, a very sturdy player and an Englishman who naturally, perhaps, agreed with me that Briggs and Varley had played correct football when the crowd hooted them for exposing the weakness of Darcy Anderson and C. E. Orr.

They had a most excellent full-back, G. R. Turner. R. W. Hepburn was a worker at half, where J. Dick, another of the true pioneers, was smart and clever, and they had a number of good forwards, including J. M. Gow and big T. Cowan. The club removed to Inverleith in 1896, where two of their earliest products were a clever little three-quarter, W. A. Gilbert, and their forward leader, A. M. M'Donald, who obtained minor representative honours.

They lost an excellent forward about that time when A. Mann went to Glasgow and joined the

Clydesdale. As I have indicated, this club was one of those that was eating into the strength of the 'West.' Gradually they worked their way onward till, in 1896-97, they shared in the unique triple distribution of the championship between themselves, Jedforest, and the Watsonians. As the result implies, it was a very open competition, and besides the winners, the teams most intimately concerned were Hawick and the Edinburgh Academicals, while Stewart's F.P. played a distinctive part in the settlement. The Academical team, with W. M. C. M'Ewan, A. M. Bucher, A. W. Robertson Durham, J. M. Reid, C. P. Finlay, and E. C. Comrie Thomson among their leaders, were recovering from a temporary decline, and after beating the Watsonians they looked very likely winners, till Jedforest got the better of them by a penalty goal, in the same week as the Academicals' journey to Cambridge.

The Watsonians improved as the season went on and closed very strongly with victories over the Academicals and Hawick. In their later matches they developed strong scoring powers. R. Welsh was in the back division, but T. Muir was the cleverest of the lot and had double the number of tries that fell to R. A. Bruce, M. W. Robertson, and G. C. Robertson.

The forwards were not up to the best standard. Most of those who had placed the club in position had retired, though J. Muir and H. B. Wright were still playing. J. D. Dallas was in the pack,

but Dr. Balfour had gone to Cambridge. Incidentally he had warned the Cantabs they would get it very hot from the Edinburgh Academical forwards, as they certainly did, and were well beaten, as was also Oxford by the same team. Many will remember W. M. C. M'Ewan's dash from the 'twenty-five' which beat the Oxford team, whose full-back, T. A. Nelson, familiarly known to the Oxford men as 'Tommy,' and nothing but 'Tommy,' smiled perceptibly when M'Ewan, like the young Hercules he was, cleared all obstacles out of his way. T. A. Nelson was a beautifully scientific player, a great Academy favourite, and equally esteemed at Oxford.

Clydesdale were a sound rather than a brilliant side. T. L. Hendry, their forward leader, who played International on four occasions, was a fine type of a player. E. Spencer was an old Blairlodge boy and a good three-quarter. D. M'Laurin, from the same school, was in the forwards, and their full-back, J. D. Smellie, was a player of repute. In A. C. Cameron they had a very active quarter.

Jedforest had been working their way upwards for some seasons. They had a robust pack, led by Ben Greig, the Fettesian, and R. Douglas. J. T. Mabon was at half, and W. Oliver at centre three-quarter. How Oliver missed representative distinction was always puzzling. All the others in the back division, J. Lowrie, Elliott, Ellis, and Brownlie, were active, smart players.

The third portion of the championship represented a season's good work.

Clydesdale's share is the monument to a club that has passed out of football.

That two Border teams should have been associated with the club championship in successive seasons as Hawick and Jedforest were in 1895-96 and 1896-97 is sufficient testimony to the strength of the game in that district. Up to the outbreak of war the high-level standard was maintained, the form of these teams varying and fluctuating in normal manner. In the cities, the greatest strength, during the period mentioned, was concentrated in a group composed of the Edinburgh Academicals, Edinburgh University, the Watsonians, and the Glasgow Academicals. During these years the game was kept going so merrily that the period could quite justly be regarded as one of the brightest in the life of Scottish club football. And not only were rivalry and competition of themselves very strong stimulants, but methods and style of play attained a high degree of proficiency. In the earlier years of the period, the back play of the Edinburgh Academicals and Edinburgh University, supplemented by good forward work, reached a standard of efficiency bearing its own witness and testimony in the 1901 International team that swept all in front of it. The pronounced success of the Watsonians followed eight or nine years later, though all the while their teams were sharing in the finish round the ultimate championship winners.

That they did not, while at their zenith, contribute to the national success to the extent that the Edinburgh Academical-University combination did, was anomalously due, I think, to their own pronounced efficiency as a team. They perfected their combined work, and at the same time engendered the incipient weakness of interdependence of the parts. Separated, or taken in sections, their effectiveness was appreciably reduced. The team of the Watsonian era, from about 1908, made a great contribution to the popularity of the game. Contrasted with the Edinburgh Academicals no club stands comparison in the recurring periods of prominence from the establishment of the game onwards. After the teams of C. Reid, M. C. M'Ewan, and H. J. Stevenson had, we might say, exhausted themselves in the early 'nineties, the Academicals were beginning to revive when Hawick were winning the championship, and in the year of the triumvirate, Jedforest, the Watsonians, and Clydesdale, 1896-97, the most direct challenge to the trio came from Hawick and the Edinburgh Academicals. Stewart's College F.P. 'staggered humanity' and steadied the expansion of the championship by beating Hawick, and among other incidental happenings the Glasgow Academicals conceded 8 goals and 3 tries to their Edinburgh brethren, who maintained the honour and credit of Scottish club football by beating both Oxford and Cambridge. The following season their own player, J. E. Crabbie, won the Academical match for

Oxford and repeated the performance two years later. From 1897-98 the Academicals held the championship for four years, though in one of the intervening seasons, 1899-1900, they finished even on results with Hawick and Edinburgh University. This was a strong period in Academical football. In 1897-98 W. M. C. M'Ewan was at the head of their pack, and behind him were a fine, evenly balanced set of first-rate young forwards, L. H. I. Bell, F. P. Dods, L. Craufurd, G. Moncreiff, and W. Dove, a forerunner of J. N. Shaw in appearance and in style. There were four International players in the three-quarter line, Phipps Turnbull, A. W. Robertson (later Robertson Durham), A. M. Bucher, and W. H. Morrison, who came to the Academicals from Blairlodge and could play half-back or three-quarter equally well. J. I. Gillespie and a younger Morrison, J. N., were the regular halves. The Watsonians were strong and had Ian Graham, M. F. Simpson, J. D. Little, and the Robertsons behind the scrum, in which H. O. Smith, A. Balfour, H. B. Wright, J. D. Dallas, and F. A. Falconer constituted the leading section. L. M. Magee, subsequently Irish International half, was playing in the Wanderers.

The fluctuations in the championship from 1900-1, when the hold of the Edinburgh Academicals was loosened, tells its own tale of keenness and widespread efficiency. In consecutive seasons, Edinburgh University gained the title outright, and shared it, first with the Watsonians and then

with the Glasgow Academicals. Next year was eventful and memorable for the restoration of the Glasgow Academicals to the leading position after a lapse of years dating back to the early 'eighties.

The Edinburgh Academicals resumed supremacy in 1905-6, and to accent the variations Jedforest came to the top the following season. Edinburgh University had another term of honours, and next a fresh pair, Hawick and the Watsonians, had their claims divided. Myreside supremacy in seasons 1909-10 and 1910-11 was followed by Edinburgh University participating in honours in 1911-12. The Glasgow Academicals again became supreme in 1912-13 and finished second to the Watsonians in the year of the outbreak of the war.

It will thus be realised that, from the opening of the century on to war year, there was considerable stir, and sometimes a little commotion, round the top of the table. Historically, it is notable to observe one of the oldest clubs and one of the pillars of early-day football, Edinburgh University, take precedence for the first time. From the days of J. H. L. M'Farlane, in the early 'seventies, the University maintained a strong position in club football. In 1881, R. F. S. Henderson's team, as has been recorded, did a very notable thing when they beat Oxford University of H. Vassall's time.

Edinburgh University were holding their own in the best class of club football during the 'eighties and 'nineties, and contributing to Inter-

national and other representative teams. In the late 'eighties, when Irish students were numerous, they had four of Ireland's International forwards, R. D. Stokes, J. N. Nash, W. J. N. Davis, and T. M. Donovan, in their pack. H. F. Chambers, the Scottish full-back, was playing for the University about this time, and also a smart Merchistonian three-quarter, W. C. Smith, a Borderer with a Kelso connection. Again, in the middle of the 'nineties, University football was very strong, so strong that a place could not be found for A. B. Timms, who was playing in the Wanderers team of C. J. N. Fleming and H. T. Methuen. At that time the University had the best three-quarter, H. Stevenson, who ever played for the club. Stevenson was one of the 'Irish Brigade' then so numerous. There was not a back division he could not score against. I saw him go through the Jedforest defence in the year Jedforest shared the championship, and not a man of them, not even the full-back, who saw him coming all the way, could get within yards of him. He did the same thing against the West of Scotland and against Hawick on each of the three occasions, lifting his team out of a critical situation. He was equally strong in defence, a resolute and safe tackler.

Good players were numerous at the University about this time, both forwards and backs, including A. B. Flett, who was with them when the first championship fell to Edinburgh University in 1901-2. The other forwards at that time were

H. H. Bulmore, R. M. Meikle, A. O. Freer, A. M. Caverhill, L. West, J. Usher, and A. M'Ewan. It was behind the scrummage that the University were strongest, an obvious fact when we consider that the back division was composed of A. W. Duncan, A. N. Fell, A. B. Timms, W. H. Welsh, E. Baker, F. H. Fasson, and E. D. Simson, all but one International men. The presence of four Merchistonians, two Colonials, and one Englishman represents the curious conjunction of forces that combined to place a University team for the first time on the peak of club football.

In 1903-4 the Glasgow Academical team of L. L. Greig, W. M. Milne, T. Sloan and J. Russell representation loosened Edinburgh University's hold on the championship, and the following season W. G. Binny, R. H. M'Cowat, T. Sloan, J. Hally, W. Church, L. L. Greig, A. C. Frame, R. S. Stronach, W. M. Milne, W. L. Russell, R. B. Waddell, J. Macgill, J. Cowie, J. Brown, and A. Russell won the title outright. It had taken the Academicals many years to recover the old position. During the greater part of that time they lived under the local shadow of the 'West.' Sloan, Stronach, Greig, and Russell were notable players in the team which affected the Academical re-establishment. Since then there has been no retrogression, and we may accept 1903-4 as the renaissance year of Glasgow Academical football.

Again the Edinburgh Academicals rose to the top in 1905-6. Not such a brilliant team as their

predecessors of the earlier years of the century, the side was of good average championship standard. No player of his time devoted himself more to the interest of the team than the full-back, J. C. Murray. George E. Crabbie, C. Anderson, J. M. M'Keand, and A. D. Anderson composed a good three-quarter line, and R. M. Neill and D. Cotterill at half-back renewed an association their fathers had formed in the Wanderers teams of the 'seventies. The forwards were a good level pack: H. S. Reid, J. A. R. Cargill, J. C. M. Bell, P. M. Murray, J. D. B. Campbell, H. H. Thorburn, M. B. Anderson, and J. M. B. Scott.

E. D. Simson was still at Edinburgh University playing along with W. F. Archibald. D. R. Bedell-Sivright, M. R. Dickson, J. M. Mackenzie, and the Irish Internationalist T. Smyth formed the leading section of a powerful pack. That season the Gala team of J. Drummond, G. Kemp, M. M'Crirrick, and T. Elliot won the Border championship and was one of the best the club had had. W. E. Kyle was leading Hawick, of whose half-backs T. Neill was a particularly good player.

An interesting position in which the Edinburgh Academicals and Jedforest were concerned had been evolved by March of the following year. Both teams had been once defeated, but the Academicals subsequently lost to the Watsonians, and when they went to Jedburgh in the closing weeks of the season it was necessary for them to win in order to share the championship. They took with them

the schoolboy, Hugh Martin, and also A. B. Mein, whose family resided in the district and whose father was one of the Scottish twenty in the first International with England. There was a sporting ring about the whole function, and when Jedforest drew the match Mr. Crabbie, senior, father of the Oxonian Academical, entertained the teams in the Spread Eagle Hotel at Jedburgh. 'Jeddart' folks still retain recollections of that day. It was the first time their team had won the championship outright, but even at that, it was a wonderful feat for a little town on the confines of the Rugby area with no regular source of supply of players and an active list that for championship purposes did not much exceed the regular fifteen. The Foresters who raised the slogan 'Jeddart's here' were: J. T. Robson, G. M. Oliver, J. B. Wilson, W. Purdie, J. L. Huggan, W. Fish, C. W. Stewart, A. Renaldson, W. B. Jardine, T. S. Waugh, W. Hall, M. Drummond, W. C. Balfour, R. Lunn, T. Aitken. Huggan played some of his football with Edinburgh University and was one of the Scottish wing three-quarters in the 1914 English International at Inverleith and one of the many in that match who fell in the war.

One of the old clubs that had not raised its head for many years came very prominently into the running in 1907-8. Up to February of that season the Institution team of J. H. Lindsay, A. B. Davidson, J. B. Stewart, and J. Ainslie were unbeaten till they lost the Royal High School match.

Ultimately they finished second to Edinburgh University and thus made a nearer approach to the championship than any Institution team had done since that of Nat Brewis and the brothers Ainslie at the beginning of the 'eighties. It was not a great University team that won the title that season. J. R. Izatt, their captain, was rather a 'dour' type of half-back, and there was nothing out of the way in the rest of the back division, but the forwards included D. R. Bedell-Sivright, T. Smyth, J. M. Mackenzie, and L. Barrington-Ward, who played for England.

The Heriot's team of T. Smith, A. Falconer, J. Drever, and J. A. Potts did something to establish the club in public opinion when they beat Jedforest, the championship holders. Jedforest, like themselves, were light and just the type of team that Heriot's would show to advantage against. Their football was as good as that of the best when not suppressed by an overbalance in weight.

Like the Institution and others the Royal High School had for years pursued the even tenor of their way in eminent middle-place respectability. The team of G. Sanderson, A. W. Gunn, T. Sturrock, George M'Laren, J. Hume, A. C. Brown, and A. D. Laing of 1909-10 was the best the 'School' had had for many years. Gunn played International in 1912, and it will be remembered what a useful half-back J. Hume was in representative football after the war. A. D. Laing was International, ante-bellum and post-bellum. A hard-working

forward they called him in conventional language, but there was always a bit more than that in him.

The Watsonian team that won the championship in 1909-10 and retained the title over the next season was A. A. Morison, W. M. Robertson, J. Pearson, A. W. Angus, J. T. Simson, J. Y. Henderson, E. Milroy, L. M. Spiers, J. C. M'Callum, J. Thorburn, W. G. Stuart, J. W. G. Horne, W. Oliver, A. F. Wilson, J. Martin. The vital force in the back section remained unchanged till the war stoppage, except that T. C. Bowie took stand-off position vacated by J. Y. Henderson when he went abroad. C. S. Nimmo deputised for Milroy a good deal. Edinburgh University broke the Watsonian run of success with a division of honours in 1911-12. It was a good University side. A. S. Taylor (three-quarter) and S. B. B. Campbell (forward) were Irish International men. L. G. Thomas (full-back) just missed his Welsh cap, and J. M. Mackenzie, J. L. Huggan, and F. Osler played for Scotland.

I have always held in great esteem, for the soundness of their football and the reliability of the greater number of the players, the Glasgow Academical team which won the championship in 1912-13. G. Ure-Reid, C. W. Andrew, A. D. Laird and the Warrens were dependable in any sort of game. Little T. Stout went along the touch-line with an exhilarating rattle. I saw him score the winning try at Myreside and I likewise witnessed some West of Scotland players treat him

GLASGOW ACADEMICALS. (SCOTTISH CHAMPIONS, 1912-13.)

Photo by W. Ralston, Glasgow.

T. M. Burton. R. A. Gallie. E. Dobson. G. H. Warren. A. D. Laird. F. W. Sandeman. J. R. Warren.
G. L. M'Ewan. G. P. Speirs. J. Dobson. G. Ure-Reid (Capt.). J. S. Smith. A. B. S. Legate. T. Stout.
J. M. Sandeman. C. W. Andrew.

in not quite a sportsmanlike way, but I also remember the team falling badly before the Edinburgh Academicals. There was a reason for that. Some of the English Union were down to see J. H. D. Watson play, and 'Bungy' gave them an exhibition of how he could win a match single-handed. We lost the greatest centre of modern times when we allowed England to acquire Watson.

The Watsonian period of domination began in season 1908-9 and extended practically till the opening of the war in 1914. The struggles of John Tod's time and the culminating triumphs of the teams of R. M. M. Roddick and H. T. O. Leggatt mark two distinct stages in the life of Watsonian football. The third was the brightest, and left a more permanent mark in that the Watsonian team of that time set up a model and cultivated a style that it became the general aim to copy. By an intensive system of practice and rehearsal they perfected their combination and acquired a machine-like accuracy of movement that, while disconcerting to opponents, provided a most attractive spectacle to onlookers. The key to the team's success behind the scrummage lay in the conjunction of the centre three-quarters, A. W. Angus and J. Pearson, and the halves, E. Milroy and J. Y. Henderson, and latterly T. C. Bowie. The rest of the back play was more or less auxiliary. This pivotal group, working almost intuitively 'according to plan,' generated the energy from which the others derived the supply. The forwards, when the team was at

its best, were by no means an automatic service source for the supply of the ball to the backs. L. M. Spiers and J. C. M'Callum were two of the best International forwards of immediate pre-war years. The team was fortunate in its possession of E. Milroy, the best scrum worker that has been produced in Scotland since the position became specialised. While the Watsonians were working upwards Hawick in 1908-9 formed the principal obstacle, and at the end of the season the pair claimed the championship between them. Hawick football was particularly strong at this time. Walter Forrest was in the back division along with W. R. Sutherland and W. Burnett. T. Neill at half was above club class, and W. E. Kyle's long International career testifies to his rank as a forward. The team imported a breeziness into the competition, and there was always a full measure of liveliness when Hawick took the field. Sutherland was a most popular player. Variety clung to 'Watty' Forrest wherever he played. In that respect his football was in marked contrast to that of his fellow Kelso townsman, Carl Ogilvie, steady and almost staid. T. Wilson played, again, the game in his own characteristic way. Hawick football would have been minus an important concomitant without 'The Bottler.'

The position of the clubs in the war year was that although the Watsonians won the championship they were twice beaten, and the general standard was not above an average level. If there was a

feature, it lay perhaps in the upward tendency of the middle section. The Wanderers, strengthened by the Merchiston Macfarlane brothers, R. H. Lindsay Watson, and three University forwards, C. L. Marburg, G. M'Connell, and J. A. S. Ritson, had their best team for years. They beat the Watsonians in their early match, but afterwards fell before Heriot's, who had J. D. Morrison, C. W. Badger, W. G. Dobson, and G. W. Simpson in their team. The Edinburgh Academicals had the Sloan brothers, C. C. Winchester, G. H. H. Maxwell, and J. W. F. Neill in that team that beat the University, but fell to the Watsonians and Glasgow Academicals. The Glasgow team lost to the Watsonians and finished the season with three defeats.

The regular Watsonian team of the season, as near as can be judged, though there were changes from one cause and another, was E. G. Pyott, F. Hislop, J. Pearson, A. W. Angus, G. G. Marshall, T. C. Bowie, E. Milroy, J. Thorburn, J. Martin, E. F. Rankin, J. J. Maybin, R. Menzies, R. F. Kilpatrick, J. M. Dunn, and J. W. Jenkins. Rather under average strength forward, it was not a great Watsonian side, and depended altogether on the work of the quartette at centre three-quarter and half-back.

It is an old saying that 'there is always room at the top.' Club football since the resumption after the war is chiefly noticeable for the advance of two new teams: George Heriot's F.P. and the Glasgow

High School F.P. Heriot's career resembles the path the Watsonians were forced to tread before they arrived at the summit. The High School again have arrived more abruptly. During the war we saw signs of coming events in the quality of their schoolboys. When you bring the Glasgow Academicals and the Watsonians into focus you have encircled the little group that has monopolised the title during the past five years. There is nothing new under the sun, not even in Rugby football. Heriot's won their first championship by virtue of their forward play just as championships have been won many times since the earliest recognition of the competition. Honours fell to the Glasgow Academicals mainly by exercise of force of combination behind the scrummage. To carry the simile further, the contributions from Fettes and Loretto are doing for the Academicals what the same schools did for the West of Scotland in the 'eighties and 'nineties. In the wider perspective it will be seen that the rise and fall of teams is one of the main characteristics of club football. At the same time we may venture to assure ourselves of a degree of permanency in the addition of Heriot's and Glasgow High School to the list of leading clubs. Before the war neither of them had entered that class. Heriot's success in 1919-20 was achieved by exercise of the old-time forward game of quick breaking up and safe tackling. They had no methodical style of play behind the scrummage, and their backs were

GEORGE HERIOT'S SCHOOL F.P. (FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM, 1919-20.)

Photo by Alex. Ayton, Edinburgh.

E. J. Brown. D. Drysdale. A. M. Murray. A. E. W. Maclachlan. I. R. Anderson. D. Cattanach. H. R. Kerr.
F. T. Brand. J. Greenshields. W. G. Dobson. G. W. Simpson. J. D. Morrison. K. G. P. Hendrie. R. Bryce.
A. S. Officer. R. J. Anderson. C. S. Broadwood.

more proficient in stopping the other side's progress than in making way for themselves. D. Drysdale graduated from stand-off half through three-quarter to full-back, where he has had a full share of honours, and yet there remains a doubt whether he is not a natural centre three-quarter. W. G. Dobson has the distinction of being Heriot's first International player. J. Greenshields and K. G. P. Hendrie are of the handy active type of forward that used to appear as prominently in all classes of football. The first Heriot's players to win the club title was F. T. Brand, E. J. W. Brown, J. D. Morrison, A. S. Officer, D. Drysdale, R. J. Anderson, D. Benzies, C. S. Broadwood, G. W. Simpson, W. G. Dobson, J. Greenshields, K. G. P. Hendrie, R. Bryce, A. M. Murray, D. Cattanach, A. E. W. Maclachlan, J. Anderson. There were frequent changes of positions in the back division, and a fairly regular call on reserve forwards.

Heriot's receded the following year, when the title went to the Watsonians, for whom the old pre-war men, A. W. Angus and C. S. Nimmo, were still playing. J. A. R. Selby and J. H. Carmichael filled positions at scrum half and wing three-quarter, which they have retained since then, and have been two of the best post-war Watsonian backs. D. M. Bertram, A. C. Gillies, and J. P. Thomson were prominent members of a useful pack of forwards.

Another change took place in 1921-22, the third in three seasons, when the Glasgow

Academicals became championship holders with a first-rate team in which R. Simpson, J. C. Dykes, R. C. Warren, J. B. Nelson, and E. B. Mackay were the inspiration of a clever back division. Simpson is one of the best all-round players the Academicals have had for many years, and there is no more clever back in club football than J. C. Dykes. A. K. Stevenson and G. M. Murray were good International-class forwards.

Heriot's accomplished a very fine performance in coming through season 1922-23 unbeaten.

A number of new players had come into the team, and their back play in style had improved greatly. D. Drysdale was now playing full-back, and making such a success of it that ere long he had practically no rival for the position in the International team. In G. W. Somerville and G. M. King they had found a couple of good wing three-quarters. King indeed looked like developing into International class when he was unfortunately injured in one of the Trial matches. Gow Brown and W. A. Fairbairn made a clever pair of halves, and R. M. Kinnear a centre of whom, good as he is, we may not yet have seen the best. D. S. Kerr was the most valuable addition to the forwards, though as a skirmisher J. M. Graham more than paid his way.

Rivalry between the High School and the Academicals had been the feature and inspiration of Glasgow football from the date of the resumption of the game. The ' School ' had been a good team

and had quite worked for their reward when they shared the championship with the Academicals in 1923-24. They had produced a number of fine backs, including R. L. H. Donald, A. Browning, J. M. Tolmie, W. C. Johnstone, and no better forward than J. M. Bannerman has played since the war. L. M. Stuart, son of the old Royal High School player of the early 'eighties, has all along been one of the most effective forwards in the country.

Heriot's and the Glasgow Academicals fought out the championship in 1924-25, and in a couple of sensational matches, one particularly so in Glasgow, honours were even between the pair, but with the clearer record the title went to the Academicals, whose most notable addition to recent teams was H. Waddell at stand-off half.

Beyond the championship group, club football has not reached a particularly high standard. The Edinburgh Academicals in earlier years under A. T. Sloan, and with J. N. Shaw and R. I. Marshall in the forwards, promised well, but fell off for want of qualified young players in the later seasons. The Border clubs have not yet touched the pre-war standard, and some of the older city teams have descended to a lower level than they have been accustomed to.

CHAPTER III

SCHOOL FOOTBALL

It was a fortunate day for Scottish Rugby football when the game was adopted at Edinburgh Academy as a pastime for the boys in the 'fifties of the last century. From that beginning has grown the whole structure of Rugby in Scotland, and to-day without the schools the game would be of no account, if indeed it existed at all.

As far back as 1858-59 the Academy had an organised team playing, no doubt, a game which was a blend of the ancient and modern, but retaining the fundamental characteristics which enabled it to preserve its identity as ' Rugby.'

Between that year and the period in the early 'seventies which may be accepted as the beginning of organised football, a long list of notabilites, some as cricketers and football players and others in the even more distinguished spheres of public life, passed through Edinburgh Academy teams: Lyalls, Moncreiffs, Bells, Finlays, Marshalls, Langs, Balfours, Gilmours, Maclagans, Dunlops, and Macnairs are names which suggest to the mind a wide range of activities. Two of the elder brothers, W. A. Finlay and T. L. Finlay, were in the Academy

team of 1861-62, which also included H. Radcliffe, the man who started the Edinburgh Wanderers club. Academicals of the time wondered why. John and Allan Gilmour were in the Academy team of 1863-64, and the following season T. R. Marshall gained his place. The Hon. F. J. Moncreiff, first Scottish International captain, led the Academy team of 1866-67. James Finlay had J. A. W. Mein and L. M. Balfour in his team of 1867-68, and in 1870-71 L. M. Balfour, while still at school, was invited to play against England, but was unable to accept. In this summary may be traced one of the principal sources of the first Scottish International team, and the influence of the Academy on football of these times may also be recognised. A few years later that influence expressed itself in the historic Academy team of 1873-74, which in absence of earlier evidence may be accepted as the first great school combination in the game. At least three of its members were players of all time. N. J. Finlay, W. E. Maclagan, and J. H. S. Graham still bear favourable comparison with the best that up to the present time have appeared in the game. Another member, J. J. Moubray, when he went to Oxford, was the first of the long list of Scottish schoolboys to obtain his 'Blue' at an English University, though to be accurate 'Blues' were not awarded for football at Oxford until some time later. P. W. Smeaton, another noted player and an International man, also played in J. H. S. Graham's Academy team. It was not therefore altogether because the

Academy were earlier in the field than their rivals that the team of 1873-74 attained its position. It was abnormally strong for a school side, and it so far stood comparison with club football of the times as to be held in tolerably wide esteem the best team in the country.

W. E. Maclagan succeeded J. H. S. Graham as captain of Edinburgh Academy in season 1875-76. Graham, Ninian Finlay, L. G. Aitken, and J. J. Moubray had all left school. The first three passed into R. W. Irvine's Academical team, and Moubray went to Oxford. W. E. Maclagan had succeeded to a great heritage, but he had not the means to maintain it, for the players were not available. As for himself, he was not a great schoolboy player. Tall and rather overgrown looking, he had not developed the powerful physique of his later years. Even in his football he was slow to mature, and after leaving school he spent a season in the second Academicals.

Maclagan left Edinburgh in his prime, but what was the Academical loss was the London Scottish gain, for he quickly raised the standard of the play of the latter till very soon the club event of the London season was the fight for Metropolitan supremacy between the 'Scottish' and Blackheath, at that time the leading club team, as distinct from the Universities, in England. The Scottish Rugby Union had the greatest faith in Maclagan. So much so that he was urged into International matches, and even room made for

him in unaccustomed places when, however active the brain, the physical response was not forthcoming.

W. E. Maclagan was elected captain by the English Rugby Union of the first touring team which left this country under official auspices. They won all their nineteen matches in South Africa, and had only one try scored against them. The Scotsmen who accompanied Maclagan were P. R. Clauss (Loretto and Oxford University), W. Wotherspoon (Fettes and Cambridge University), and R. G. MacMillan (Merchiston and London Scottish). Cecil Rhodes guaranteed the expenses.

W. E. Maclagan comported himself very seriously on the field. For his own he never could do too much, and often and often he travelled down from London to help the Academicals when they needed help.

From about this time school football began to operate more exclusively within its own circle. Previously, school teams, in their matches with one another, had generally included some former pupils or masters. Merchiston Castle, Loretto, Craigmount, and the Royal High School had all been playing the game and had each produced a sufficiency of good players to contribute to the first International team. Fettes College was opened in 1871, but during the first few years their teams, naturally perhaps, were not quite strong enough to compete successfully with those of the other

schools. Two Edinburgh Academy boys, T. J. Torrie and P. Russel, who went to Fettes in 1873, appreciably added to the strength of the team. I recollect both perfectly well. Torrie was a forward, a very tall fellow, and, like all good forwards of the early days, became a most proficient dribbler. Dribbling as a science has gone out of the game. These old-time dribblers almost clutched the ball with their feet, kept it close and wound round and out, often in a most sinuous course. I have seen players dribble half the length of the field with the ball 'glued to their toes,' as they used to say. It was the forward's most effective weapon against backs and back play. Conversely, the back who would not go down to the ball and stop the dribbling, seldom gained respect as a player. Torrie had 'great command over the ball,' to apply the current term, and playing against England in the memorable 1877 match, he was the first Fettesian to be capped. Pat Russel ought to have preceded or followed Torrie as an International player. Imagine a man at one time playing quarter, next half-back, then full-back, all in representative matches, and being chosen one season as International first reserve for all positions behind the maul, and yet never having the luck to be included in the national team. By a strange anomaly his own versatility and cleverness were his greatest impediment. He was a very bright sprightly player in both football and cricket. I have never seen the equals of Pat Russel and A. R.

Don Wauchope as fielders at cover-point. Two of the Carruthers family were among the best of Fettes earlier players. The school had not to wait many years before winning the championship. In 1876-77 they beat all their opponents, including Edinburgh Academy for the first time. R. S. F. Henderson, who later on played for England, and Edgar Storey, a Lancashire boy who but for an accident would almost certainly have obtained the same honour, were two of the leading players of that season, but it was Pat Russel at quarter who was the life of the back division. He dropped a goal in each match against Merchiston, Craigmount, and the Academy. I may add that Russel, who was an Edinburgh boy and son of a notable editor of the *Scotsman*, carried his versatility with him after leaving school. He played cricket for the West of Scotland club and for the Grange, was one of Glasgow's Inter-city football and cricket players, assisted J. H. S. Graham's Edinburgh Academical team to beat the Glasgow Academicals for the club championship, and shared some of the remainder of his activities with the 'West' football team. Fettesians consider the 1876-77 team the best of the school's earlier teams, and one that bears favourable comparison with any of its successors. That, no doubt, is a correct estimate, but from another point I think it was the team of the following season that did more to establish Fettes football in general scholastic and public opinion. No doubt their great fights with

Merchiston brought them under more direct notice and attracted wider attention. Having seen both teams and knowing the situation at the time, I can quite confidently state that the issue was accepted as lying between the forwards of Merchiston and the backs of Fettes. Edgar Storey had become rather a school terror, and Nimmo, his companion half, was both fast and dangerous.

A. R. Don Wauchope was beginning to acquire his great scoring powers, and he and his elder brother made a very hot pair of school quarters. Against this back division Merchiston depended largely upon J. A. Campbell at quarter and T. A. Begbie at half-back. Campbell was a strong, virile, and active player. 'Hash Campbell' he was called at Merchiston. Fettes team looked big compared with Merchiston, but even then the forwards of Merchiston were being drilled to perfection, and it was they who won the first match and held out for a draw in the second, though without Campbell they would never have kept the Fettes backs under control. Thus it was in these years and under these circumstances that I think Fettes football was established. A. R. Don Wauchope succeeded Storey in the captaincy, but had to move back into the half-back line, whence he devoted a great deal of attention to the development of combination and passing among his backs. This feature has been referred to in connection with the 'Oxford game.' There is not much doubt that had there been a sufficient number of Fettesians

at Cambridge with Wauchope, the open combined play and the passing would not have been so peculiar to Oxford.

No player comparable to A. R. Don Wauchope has appeared in football from the days he played in the Fettes team until the present time. A completely equipped all-round player, his reputation rests in his extraordinary running and scoring powers. Heavily built round the haunches, he ran with a comparatively short stride and had the power to abruptly change his course within a very short space of ground. No back division could stop him, and no player could tackle him once he got fairly started and into the open. An International player and a great tackler of his time has told me that he did not believe any player could tackle Don Wauchope.

In the year that Merchiston beat Fettes for the championship J. A. Campbell played quarter for Scotland against England. He was not the first schoolboy to play International. That distinction belongs to Ninian Finlay, conferred while still in the Academy team of 1874-75.

Merchiston at this time had uniformly good teams, and Craigmount was one of the leading football schools. Two North of England boys, Harry Springman and Paul Springman, were noted Craigmount players. A large number of boys from England attended the Edinburgh schools during these and later years, and several of them, including H. Springman, H. B. Tristram (Loretto),

C. H. Sample, and E. L. Strong (Edinburgh Academy), obtained places in English International teams, while an even larger contingent passed into the Oxford and Cambridge teams. When the brothers Guild and little Playfair, a regular sprite of a quarter whom there was no holding, were playing, Craigmount had one of the best teams of the season. The Academy had dropped back, but towards the end of the decade, when C. Reid, A. P. Reid, C. H. Sample, and F. T. Wright were all at school together, their team ought to have taken a much higher position.

Two adverse influences retarded them. Primarily, as a day school Academy football was not so well organised as at the boarding-schools. Secondly, they were not keeping pace with the changes that had set in, and when the other schools were playing a line of three halves, the Academy adhered to the old formation of two. 'Charlie' Reid obtained his International cap while still at school. Considering the importance attached to physique, weight, and strength in the national pack, it was an unheard-of thing for a schoolboy to be ranked among the giants.

Towards the end of the 'seventies Fettes and Loretto had increased the half-back line from two to three players. The point, as evidence of the origin of the passing game, is most important. A. R. Don Wauchope in his last two years at Fettes, 1878-80, played half-back in a line of three. G. C. Lindsay was one of a trio of halves in the Loretto

team which won the school championship in 1881-82, and it was not until the following season that Oxford University first adopted a line of three halves, and Lindsay was one of them. As the increase was made in the direct interests of the development of the passing game, the source and origin of the greatest change that had taken place up to that time are beyond all doubt. Subsequent developments in back play were all founded on this progressive step taken by the Scottish schools, earlier perhaps, but not later than 1878.

When both the Scottish and English Unions hesitated and experimented, the Scottish public schools, quite two years before the Unions could make up their minds, boldly committed themselves to the line of three, and went on their way unconcerned as to what their seniors might think or do.

From that progressive stroke, Dr. Almond, of Loretto, must have derived gratifying support to his contention that the Union acted wrongly in refusing to admit the schools to their councils. His own school, Loretto, were very strong in seasons 1880-81 and 1881-82. Indeed, I should be inclined to say these were the halcyon days of the school as far as football is concerned. The production of players, and especially of backs, was abnormal. Loretto just missed winning the championship in season 1880-81, which, for distinction's sake, we may be permitted to term 'A. G. G. Asher's year,' without reflection upon the captain, H. B. Tristram,

but as perhaps a clearer mark of identification to Scotsmen. Our admiration for Tristram was tinged only by the regret that Scotland should have reared such a player for the ' enemy.'

Loretto beat all the schools except Merchiston. The first match they lost by a goal to a try. That was T. Anderson's year at Merchiston. A tall fellow, and a good full-back, he played once for Scotland. Merchiston's forwards were strong and sound in their football, as they always were. Loretto hoped to draw level in the return game, but it was played in a sea of mud, and the Merchiston forwards again pulled them through by a try. I do not mean to infer that Loretto had no good forwards at that time. C. W. Berry, R. C. Kitto, and A. M'Neill, who all subsequently became Oxford ' Blues,' and Berry an Internationalist, were in the pack. I cannot claim to have seen much of that team, but I shall mention one match presently which I did see and recollect very clearly.

D. J. M'Farlan played during the earlier half of the season only. If I may be permitted another little degression, I would say that D. J. M'Farlan, G. C. Lindsay, and H. T. S. Gedge were the best three halves or three-quarters the school has produced. During the year in question Lindsay had not defined his position. Sometimes he was in the scrum and sometimes out of it. So likewise was M. F. Reid. The stability of the back division rested with Tristram, C. Dunlop, and Asher.

Dunlop was a fine schoolboy player. In each match against Fettes, Asher dropped the winning goal. Loretto had never previously beaten Fettes.

But if that Loretto team failed to win the championship, they accomplished even a more wonderful thing when in the closing weeks of the season they beat an Edinburgh Academical side which included Ninian Finlay, J. H. S. Graham, P. W. Smeaton, C. Reid, F. T. Wright, and T. A. Bell, in a match which had been arranged in order to keep the Academical International men in condition. Loretto, fit as fiddles, made the Academicals gallop, and beat them by a goal and a try to two tries. I remember in the closing minutes the Loretto boys buzzing about like bees with three or four of them lighting on every Academical who tried to move. Ninian Finlay in front of the posts let blaze at goal, and you caught an indistinct glimpse of a projectile in scarlet, a tangle of bare legs and bare arms, hurl itself at him ere you realised the kick had been charged down. That was a ' save ' by C. Dunlop, and one of the small things that cling to one's memory. But I also recollect everybody thought that A. M'Neill was a right good forward. The match was the talk of the day, and the wonder of the football world long after it was played.

A. G. G. Asher, H. B. Tristram, and A. M'Neill all left for Oxford at the end of the season. C. W. Dunlop joined another Lorettonian, D. A. C. Reid, in the West of Scotland club, and was followed

later by M. F. Reid, and an influx from Loretto and other Edinburgh schools that raised the 'West' to a high position in the 'eighties and 'nineties.

In the following season, 1881-82, Loretto won the championship clearly and decisively. They had a strong scoring half-back or three-quarter line, G. C. Lindsay, M. F. Reid, and A. S. Blair, and two good quarters, J. A. Dun and T. N. Henderson, and it was in their back play that they beat all the schools. Lindsay I have referred to in his International connection. A. S. Blair, I used to think, as a very fast man, a striking example of the exception that proves the rule. He could run and score, but as a defensive player he was very tenacious, and there was no getting out of his reach. I always thought his defence better than his attack, strong as the latter was. It was almost an axiom that fast men could not defend, yet Blair was one of the finest short-distance runners Scotland has produced and a tenacious defender.

In the Oxford and Cambridge athletic contest, he beat H. F. Tindall, the English quarter-mile champion and record-holder. He got his double 'Blue' at Oxford, and missed his football International cap by the ill-luck of an accident.

I do not think Marshall Reid quite sustained his football form after he left school. Had he gone to Oxford instead of to Glasgow, it might have turned out differently with him. He retained his goal-dropping proclivities, and in club matches he

got on the nerves of some of the opposing teams. His drops were not the lofty lunges of L. Stokes, Ninian Finlay, or H. B. Tristram. They were more a gentle tap from the toe, a sort of scientific demonstration of the mechanical law of propulsion. Gregor MacGregor used to treat the ball in the same mild manner.

The career of A. G. G. Asher could only be done justice to in a much more extended and detailed description than I am in a position to attempt. As a triple 'Blue' at Oxford, A. G. G. Asher won great honour for himself and renown for his school. In football he had the singular experience of acting as partner at quarter or half-back with A. Rotherham in England and with A. R. Don Wauchope in Scotland. Neither at the University nor in Scottish International football have these partnerships been excelled or even equalled. I saw a good deal of A. G. G. Asher's football and cricket in Scotland, and I knew his 'form' on the track pretty well. The English International of 1886 is one of the games most firmly impressed on my memory, and on that occasion was seen perhaps the greatest half-back conjunction—A. R. Don Wauchope and A. G. G. Asher, A. Rotherham and F. Bonsor—that has appeared in International football. Asher had the misfortune to have his career prematurely closed by the accident of a fractured leg sustained in an International Trial match at Raeburn Place in the spring of 1887. Projecting his foot across the line of a forward rush to push the ball

out of their way, he had not time to recover his balance before the mass fell on the top of him. I happened to be standing near the spot at the time, and I think that is how the accident occurred.

H. B. Tristram, by common consent, was acknowledged the best full-back who up to his time had played for England. I know of no change in the requirements of the position, and I have seen little on the part of any of his successors that would weaken the claim that he is still the best. Tristram was a son of Canon Tristram, Durham.

C. Reid once arrived late in a representative match. His side's forwards were being beaten till he came on to the field. One who played in the game has told me that well as he knew Reid's play, he never realised its potency until that occasion. The moment Reid joined the pack the balance turned as quickly and decidedly as a scale with a prepondering weight added.

In a London match, when he was playing for the 'Scottish,' an opposing forward at the beginning asked Reid what all his bustle and hurry meant—what was he making the fuss about. Five minutes later he got his answer in a couple of tries scored by Reid, and the crowd were asking, 'What manner of man is this ?'

The Welshmen opened their eyes in wonder when he kicked off for Scotland and sent the ball over the bar. It was his practice when kicking off for the Academicals to make the other side

touch down. I recollect coming into Raeburn Place rather late and arriving at a spot just opposite the goal-line as Reid was about to kick off. Stopping for a moment, I watched the kick, and nothing will persuade me the ball did not pass within six feet of the top of the posts.

I have endeavoured to sketch the conditions and touch upon the circumstances under which school football was established in the form in which it has remained practically until the present time. To enumerate all the important happenings or to deal closely with each championship team and its players would occupy a volume in itself. After Loretto's first championship win in the early 'eighties, the competition for the position of honour during a number of years was practically confined to three schools, Merchiston, Fettes, and Loretto. Overshadowed by Edinburgh Academy in the earlier days, Merchiston football was even then of high quality. I can recollect how, in a match against the great Academy team of J. H. S. Graham and Ninian Finlay, every one admired the play of the Merchiston forwards, small and light as the boys were. It was the perfection to which their forward play was brought that impelled the late Dr. Almond in 1892 to write : ' I have no hesitation in saying that in recent years the best football in the world has been played at Merchiston.' With the exception of the years 1884-85, 1885-86, when Fettes were very strong and won the championship both seasons, Merchiston dominated school football

after Loretto's championship year till the close of the decade. During the two years in which the Merchiston sequence was broken, Fettes had a number of players who attained great prominence after leaving school. C. J. N. Fleming, M. M. Duncan, H. F. Menzies, W. Wotherspoon, and Ian MacIntyre all played for Scotland, and quite a number of the others obtained University ' Blues.' Fettes matches with Merchiston, in the earlier season mentioned, produced most conflicting results. Fettes won the first game by the unusually large score for a Merchiston match of 5 goals and 5 tries and lost the return by 3 tries. A. N. Woodrow was so badly injured in the early debacle that he had to be withdrawn from the field and sent off to Merchiston in a cab.

Of all who came before or after him, I do not think the school ever produced any one more true to type or more representative of Merchiston traits and training than A. N. Woodrow. Not that he was a great Internationalist, or even a great player, but, dapper and trim, he dominated football all the years he was at school. He was always being injured, but he had the heart of a lion, and would play on though hardly able to move. He played in all three Internationals of 1887, and, coming under the observation of ' Jakes ' M'Carthy in the Irish match, that somewhat eccentric authority described the football of the Merchistonian as a ' poem,' and henceforward he was known to the football world as ' Poem ' Woodrow.

I believe I must have seen all the Merchiston teams of the successful period that followed the two seasons of Fettes triumphs. One of my recollections is that rivalry between the two schools was very keen, and there was always a crowd at the matches, even when played on week days. The Neilson brothers were very prominent in Merchiston football in these times. F. W. J. Goodhue, W. R. Hutchison, and J. N. Millar were all good forwards, but we have to go back some years earlier for the best of all Merchiston forwards, R. G. MacMillan, one of the greatest of all Scottish scrummagers. Merchiston did not specialise in back play, but if they got two quick, active half-backs with their eyes open and their wits about them, they seemed content if the others took care not to spoil the good work of the forwards. I recollect a particularly nippy pair, A. W. Livingstone and W. M. Gow. W. J. Reid was one of the cleverest Merchiston half-backs of that time, and although W. Neilson developed into a centre half and got his 'Blue' at Cambridge and his International cap in the position, he was a forward for a time at Merchiston. He retained the Merchiston tackle to the end of his career, and especially in a winning game he made the back play go with a swing.

There were good teams and good players at Loretto during these times. J. D. Boswell was dropping and placing goals and scoring tries in 1884-85, and Paul Clauss, F. E. Woodhead, and P. H. Morrison formed an exceptionally strong line

of school half-backs. Clauss was not big, but he was strong, and besides being a clever runner he was a long and accurate drop-kick. P. H. Morrison played for England. The Patons and Patersons were also at school at this time, so that Loretto were strong. Not so Edinburgh Academy, in whose team H. J. Stevenson was passing through a rigorous course of defensive training that in later years rendered him a marvel in some phases of this section of the game.

G. T. Campbell first appeared in a Fettes team in 1888-89, and the following season he, J. H. Hall, and C. F. Marshall formed a very clever half-back line. Campbell was one of the most prominent schoolboys of his day, and later became a first-rate International three-quarter, sound in every detail of the game. Fettes recovered the championship that season. I would not say it was a great, but it was an exceptionally smart and clever team.

Craigmount had been displaced by Blairlodge, who never took the same position in football as they attained in cricket. They were strong when W. F. Holms and H. L. Fleming were playing, but Blairlodge was never really a great football school. In 1893-94 Edinburgh Academy for the first time since 1875 beat Fettes, but Academy teams had been improving for a number of years, and that season W. M. C. M'Ewan, J. H. Dods, L. B. Bradbury, J. I. Gillespie, and T. A. Nelson were playing in a side of championship status.

In 1892-93 Watson's College first began to take

its place among the leading schools. That year for the first time in their career they beat Merchiston, and were all the more pleased with their success because the Merchiston team contained A. Morton, the cleverest player in Watson's team of the previous year. Fettes beat them by 50 points, and thereafter suspended relationship with Watson's for a long number of years. The heavy defeat, in characteristic schoolboy terms, was attributed by one of the Watson's players to 'a frost of a half-back' who disorganised the team. That Watson's team will, I dare say, be identified by mention of a few of its more prominent members: J. S. Tait, H. B. Wright, C. Wright, J. Hastie, and Hugh Welsh, who, in my opinion, became the greatest amateur mile runner that Scotland, or England for that matter, has produced; so when Watsonians hear comparisons between Lieut. Halswelle, A. R. Downer, and E. H. Liddell, let them never fear to bring in their own runner, Hugh Welsh. When I read of great things done on the track by Norwegians, Finns, and other foreigners, it gives me little concern, for I know that in her schoolboys Scotland has the finest athletic stock in the world. Foot running is not their sport, neither for that matter is cricket. The Scottish schoolboy doesn't take his bat to bed with him and dream of strokes and scores all night. But think how since 1871 Scotland, with her limited resources, has stood up to the pick of England's masses from her Universities, from London, and from the provinces,

and I think it will be agreed that school football, as the pillar on which Scottish Rugby is supported, is a marvellously solid construction.

To return to the Watson's College team of 1892-93, from that date the establishment and acknowledgment of the school as a participant in the first grade of the competition may be fixed. If Watson's was not producing championship teams, the success of the Former Pupils and the number of Watsonian International players who appeared between 1890 and the date of the war is in itself a striking tribute to the quality of the school football.

Not till after 1890 did the Academy begin to resume its old position. W. M. C. M'Ewan, J. H. Dods, Ernest R. Balfour, L. B. Bradbury, J. I. Gillespie, J. M. Reid, and T. A. Nelson were all at school in the early 'nineties. I do not know but that Gillespie was the best half-back the Academy ever produced. When W. M. C. M'Ewan and Gordon Neilson were selected as schoolboys for the International, there were many who thought that J. H. Dods was the best of the three. A host of Internationalists, amongst whom Phipps Turnbull and J. H. D. Watson were exceptional players, came from the Academy after that time.

The brothers Crabbie represented high-grade three-quarter play. I have seen it stated that J. E. Crabbie, when captain of Oxford University, instituted the oblique positions in the three-quarter line worked out mathematically in relation to time and space.

Hugh Martin was a lively school three-quarter, and we saw how quickly he could slip through even an International defence. He and K. G. Macleod formed one of the cleverest combinations at three-quarter that have played in International football since the turn of the century.

L. H. T. Sloan promised great things as a schoolboy, but I do not think the army helped to bring him out. I never did fancy military football as helpful to young players. A. T. Sloan turned out the best stand-off half Scotland has had in recent times. A deadly tackler and a dangerous scorer, we saw how he ran through the Welsh defence at Inverleith, and Heriot's know how on one occasion he quenched the glimmer of their championship hopes at Goldenacre.

But of all the Academy boys of that time, F. J. Christison, who fell in the Great War, was, in my opinion, the one who held out most promise. Scotland lost a great player in him. He was a football genius, another H. J. Stevenson or J. H. D. Watson, and 'Bungy,' who went down in the *Hawk*, was the greatest centre the game has seen for many a long day. His 1914 performance for England against Scotland was only a foretaste of what was coming.

In the closing years of the 'nineties Merchiston were strong in players whose influence bore very directly upon the strength of Edinburgh University teams and was appreciably felt in International football. In a trio of first-class half-backs, F. H. Fasson,

J. Knox, and E. D. Simson, Merchiston would have to go back to the days of J. A. Campbell and Hugh Neilson to find the equal of E. D. Simson. Not such a strong and powerful player as either, his quickness and cleverness were marked attributes in his football. W. H. Welsh will always be associated with the Scottish successes of 1901. So will also A. W. Duncan, who at centre three-quarter led a fine Merchiston championship team, and when Phipps Turnbull and A. B. Timms blocked the way in the centre, Duncan fell back a step to the rear and completed the most perfectly balanced Scottish back division of modern times.

Before passing on to the events of the new century, allow me to present a little problem in the economics of the game. Everybody knows that schools pass through lean periods as well as rich periods, subject to no law of control. All that can be done during bad times is to make the most of them and wait with patience till the ills have exhausted themselves. Every rule has its exception. The Fettes team of 1898-99 contained no fewer than six future International players, D. G. Schulze, J. Ross, D. R. B. Sivright, W. P. Scott, J. V. B. Sivright, and S. H. Osborne, who played for England. A potential championship team and a powerful one at that, yet in actual practice and on results it was one of the most ineffective teams that ever played for Fettes.

During the latter years of the century and on to the outbreak of war in 1914 school football

was of a high standard generally and was producing a proportionate number of first-class players. Fettes figured very strongly in the competition, more especially in the years that followed the turn of the century, but it is long years now since the characteristic forward game departed from Merchiston. All school football is now moulded on the one pattern more calculated to produce teams than to make players. I can remember how, in early years of the introduction of combined play, the 'selfish' player was universally and wholeheartedly condemned to the depths. Selfishness was eradicated, and the selfish player expelled or expunged, but when he departed I am afraid a good deal of the self-reliance went out of the game. However, I think the days of mechanical and clock-model football are numbered. The 'break through' is quite a recent and significant addition to the vocabulary, and nobody now condemns the scrum half who has the 'enterprise' to pick up the ball and run with it, but the wheels of time have not yet revolved sufficiently to bring back the true forward, who in the best days of forward play was the most highly skilled player in the team. Why, John D. Boswell carried an emporium of component parts in his game. J. H. S. Graham, long after he had retired, once turned out in a team of old International players in a charity match. Slow and stones overweight, he got the ball between his feet, and although nearly every man in the defence made the attempt, they could

not stop him till he had traversed nearly half the length of the field. I have often seen forwards carry the play from their own goal-line to the other '25' and never a hand laid on the ball.

Even for a strong football school the run of successes of Fettes teams in the opening years of the century was very remarkable. From 1902 until 1906 Fettes were not beaten in a school match. Following a very moderate season in 1900-1, Fettes gained the championship in 1901 and retained the title till deprived of it by Edinburgh Academy in 1906-7. The period may be more clearly recognised as the times of the brothers Macleod, and more particularly as those of K. G. Macleod, one of the most brilliant football players that have come out of Fettes. The three-quarter play of the brothers Macleod and J. Burt Marshall occasioned a deal of comment even beyond school circles. Indeed, both the English and Scottish Rugby Unions were said to have sent up kites in the direction of K. G. Macleod, but Fettes school authorities have never allowed one of their pupils to take part in an International match. J. Burt Marshall would have obtained his cap after leaving school, but for ill-health. A number of Fettes forwards of these years, including G. C. Gowlland, J. M. Mackenzie, A. L. Purves, W. G. Lely, played for Scotland.

It was a good Academy team under A. B. Mein, in whom a connection with the first International in 1871 may be traced, that deposed Fettes in

1906-7. Hugh Martin, in the three-quarter line, was the schoolboy back of the year and carried his form to Oxford and into the Internationals.

Loretto followed the Academy as champions with a fair level side, and Fettes regaining the title during the next two seasons, had won the honour eight years out of ten. R. A. Gallie, subsequently Glasgow Academical and Scottish 'hooker,' was in the 1909-10 team along with two more International forwards, R. W. Symington and P. C. B. Blair.

A. T. Sloan was in the Academy team which came to the top in 1910-11, and also W. M. Wallace, later Cambridge University and Scottish full-back. Merchiston, which had been the great football school in the later 'eighties and 'nineties, had long lost their particular efficiency in forward play, and when after a lapse of about ten years they won the championship in 1911-12, it was by general smartness and cleverness all round.

Edinburgh Academy was very strong in players in the years immediately preceding the war. Three of the best backs that have come out of the Academy in recent times, F. J. Christison, A. T. Sloan, and G. B. Crole, were in school teams of these years.

War football can hardly be recognised in the same degree as that of normal times. Since the resumption the general pre-war standard has not been regained, and the production of the highest class of players, until the last year or two, has been low.

Watson's College, almost alone, have advanced, but it seems as though a year or two must still pass before the old standard has been recovered. There is no doubt that players of very moderate calibre were obtaining places in International teams just after the war, but that was inevitable. Loretto and Fettes between them have supplied the Glasgow Academicals with a batch of players who have raised the team to the highest position in club football, but Watson's College has not yet supplied the force necessary to re-establish the Watsonian team in its old position, though D. M. Bertram, J. C. Gillies, J. A. R. Selby, and J. H. Carmichael bear evidence in an International connection that the school is still producing first-class players. No great team has issued from Loretto in recent times, but national contributions, if not on a lavish scale, are being maintained as exemplified in R. S. Simpson and J. C. Dykes. The best that Fettes has given are, I think, G. P. S. Macpherson, H. Waddell, and G. S. Conway. The limit of Macpherson's football has not yet been reached, and the old irony of the position once again reveals itself in the presentation to England of G. S. Conway, one of the best forwards that has been reared in a Scottish school for a number of years past.

CHAPTER IV

EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW: INTER-CITY RIVALRY

THE game was barely on its feet before rivalry between the clubs of the East and the West began to assert itself. The next stage in progression was naturally a test between the representative strengths of the two districts. As a minor adjunct to the International the Inter-city series, inaugurated in 1872, was an inspiration that at once made a strong appeal to the general constituency, and for many years after the installation of the fixture the districts were keen on the match and very jealous in the maintenance of their reputation. If the East or West section in the national team looked numerically out of proportion to the assumed claims of either city, the injured citizens did not hesitate to let the responsible parties know about it. As the area of selection expanded, the tension lessened, and in later days it has been easier to appreciate the influence of the game as a test or trial match than to discern particular importance attached to the actual result. In this essential the event has lost prestige, and as an indication of the relative playing strength of the two cities it has been largely dis-

placed by the intercourse between the leading club teams of the East and West, and particularly so when the championship happens to resolve itself into a direct issue between an Edinburgh and Glasgow team.

Up to 1876 the Inter-city matches were arranged on the home and home principle. In that year the designation of the spring fixture was altered to 'East *v.* West,' so as to admit of a wider area in the selection of players on trial for the International match. Since then, Glasgow has been allowed to retain the autumn fixture as the recognised annual contest between the two cities, and as compensation in some degree for lack of the major representative events.

In the 'seventies the teams were usually so closely matched that scoring was either very low or there was no scoring at all. The first match took place at Burnbank, the ground of the Glasgow Academicals, on 23rd November 1872, and was won by Edinburgh. The teams on that occasion will bear reproduction as a historic reference.

Edinburgh—A. Ross (Wanderers), J. Patullo (Craigmount), T. R. Marshall (Edinburgh Academicals), W. St. Clair Grant (Craigmount), J. Junor (Royal High School), J. A. W. Mein (Edinburgh Academicals), and E. Thew (Merchistonians), backs; F. J. Moncreiff (captain), R. W. Irvine, E. M. Bannerman, J. Finlay (Edinburgh Academicals), A. Buchanan, A. G. Petrie, and M. Sanderson (Royal High School), C. W. Cathcart and J. H. L. M'Far-

lane (Edinburgh University), T. Whittington and B. Hall Blyth (Merchistonians), J. Forsyth and A. R. Stewart (Wanderers), forwards.

Glasgow — T. Chalmers and W. D. Brown (Glasgow Academicals), W. H. Kidston (West of Scotland), W. Cross and T. Drew (Glasgow Academicals), J. B. M'Clure (West of Scotland), and J. W. Arthur (Glasgow Academicals), backs ; J. K. Tod, H. W. Allan, C. C. Bryce, G. R. Fleming, J. S. Thomson, J. B. Brown (Glasgow Academicals), J. M'Clure, J. Kennedy, J. P. Tennent, R. Wilson, A. Cochrane, G. Hunter (West of Scotland), and J. W. Reid (Glasgow University), forwards.

So far as the series had extended, the fifth Inter-city match, on 5th December 1874, was the most remarkable game between the rival centres. The older generation was being replaced by younger players. The occasion saw the introduction to representative football of Ninian Finlay and J. H. S. Graham, then members of the Edinburgh Academy School team, Malcolm Cross, Nat Brewis, and G. ' Quinty ' Paterson, all but one of whom played a leading part in the drama of the succeeding decade, and he, the exception—Paterson—made more than a meteoric flash across the horizon.

Paterson's football embodied most of the requirements of the type of player currently believed to be best adapted for quarter-back play. Weight deficiency prevented him becoming a great player, yet, in spite of his handicap, he is entitled to be regarded as a historic figure and a prominent

member of a class who played an important part in early and middle-time football. A glimpse of the progress of Loretto may be had from the presence in the Edinburgh team of three old boys of that school, A. Marshall, S. Connell, and C. Hawkins.

The pitch, already soft, was rendered treacherous by a fall of rain before the start of play. Nevertheless, the exhibition of football was declared to have been one of the finest seen in Scotland. It abounded in stirring incidents. Young Finlay was first to raise the excitement with a great run, in the course of which he broke clear of the defence, and seemed to be heading for a score when Malcolm Cross intervened just in time, and, managing to get hold of Finlay, hung on in spite of the most vigorous efforts to shake him off.

Cross's great forte lay in the tenacity of his tackling. Where a bigger man would have bowled an opponent over, Cross tightened his grip and held on.

A couple of fine runs by W. H. Kidston and J. K. Tod, neutralised by the strong open work of the Edinburgh forwards, kept the play in constant motion. Tod had another run from his own '25,' but the Eastern forwards, playing well, were quickly back on the Glasgow line. The Royal High School forward, A. L. Wood, got across and scored, but too far out for the success of the kick at goal. Rayner then made a slip, which, but for a safe tackle of Tod by T. L. Knott, would have been fatal.

That put Glasgow into position, and a vigorous assault on the Edinburgh line ensued. Ninian Finlay broke up the attack and completely changed the scene of operations with another great run and drop-kick, which put the ball in touch a dozen yards from the Glasgow line.

A few minutes later the Edinburgh forwards were struggling to get over. In the heat of the mêlée neither set of forwards stood on ceremony. When C. Villars made to struggle across with the ball in his possession, he was set upon by the defending forwards in a mass, and 'nearly throttled.' They held the fort in those days with doggedness, not to say desperation. When the siege had been almost raised, 'Quinty' Paterson took one of his snap drops at goal, and just missed. Carrick, refusing to touch down, kicked out from behind his own line as much in defiance as defence. This act, more heroic than discreet, came near to ending fatally, as the ball was returned and the Edinburgh forwards carried it over the line, but impetuosity and off-side rendered their effort void.

Time was wearing on, but the culminating point had yet to be reached. W. Blackwood, one of the Edinburgh full-backs, lost his foothold on the slippery ground at midfield. Four of the Glasgow forwards were on him 'in a trice,' and G. Heron was off with the ball full tilt and with a clear field in front. Nothing, it appeared, could possibly prevent a score. The crowd were already cheering the success, when Ninian Finlay flashed into

sight, and went in pursuit. The shouting increased in volume and the excitement in intensity as the race between the pair proceeded. Yard by yard the Academy boy gained, and almost as Heron was stepping over the line his pursuer was on him, and had him down outside.

One of the old chroniclers described the incident as 'the most thrilling bit of play ever seen on a football field,' and added that several old International players, Scottish and English, declared they had never beheld anything like it. Darkness began to fall before the match was finished, and another slip among the Edinburgh backs threatened danger, but strenuously as the Glasgow men pressed their advantage they were unable to score.

Some deduction may be drawn from the circumstance that the most exhilarating game since the introduction of the series should have synchronised with the advent of so many new and young players. The game is memorable as being the debut of the greatest half-back in old-time Rugby football, English or Scottish, Ninian Finlay. The dominating personality of a schoolboy over old and experienced players, together with the outstanding influence exerted on the play, induced the generally acceded conclusion that Scotland had discovered a prodigy.

Malcolm Cross's appearance is equally interesting from the fact that his football seemed to be the natural complement of that of Finlay, and in later years the affinity found utterance in current ex-

pression associating in the same breath Malcolm Cross and Ninian Finlay as unquestionably Scotland's half-back pair. Ten or a dozen years later people referred in similar terms to the conjunction at quarter of A. R. Don Wauchope and A. G. G. Asher.

This particular match provides one of the best examples of the early-day Inter-cities. The game of 1876 is noteworthy as the first occasion upon which a representative match was played between teams of fifteen a side. It also witnessed a feat of Ninian Finlay's which was frequently referred to for many years afterwards. Starting from the Edinburgh end of the field he beat the entire Glasgow defence, including J. S. Carrick, the International full-back, who had never previously failed to bring down his man.

At the thirteenth attempt Glasgow won her first Inter-city match in 1881. The Edinburgh team had J. P. Veitch at full-back, and the Loretto schoolboy, G. C. Lindsay, at half-back. The Institution, then coming into power, were represented by A. Philp, Sorley Brown, R. Ainslie, R. Maitland, and D. Somerville. Sorley Brown scored for Edinburgh by a good run, and Robb, a Glasgow Academical forward, before half-time, got an equalising try for Glasgow. In the second half, D. Y. Cassels, the Glasgow captain, got the winning try, from which C. W. Dunlop kicked a goal. The first victorious Glasgow fifteen were: D. W. Kidston (Academicals), A. J. W. Reid and C. W. Dunlop

(West of Scotland), J. A. Neilson (West of Scotland) and C. Ker (Academicals), D. Y. Cassels (captain), D. M'Cowan, A. Walker, R. Adam (West of Scotland), R. B. Young, J. Lang (Glasgow University), J. B. Brown, R. A. Kerr, W. A. Walls, G. H. Robb (Academicals).

This success was preliminary to a lengthened period of Glasgow superiority somewhat humiliating and rather distracting to Edinburgh. One explanatory reason of Eastern failure advanced was to the effect that Glasgow's smaller number of clubs and limited resources in players enabled the Western teams to operate with a degree of combination unattainable in the more detached Edinburgh construction. It is certain that during the best days of the West of Scotland club team the Glasgow sides worked more cohesively and smoothly than those of the metropolis. All Edinburgh could claim from the opening of the 'eighties till the close of the 'nineties was four wins in a run of twenty years. Even in 1883 the abnormal individual playing strength of a side containing A. R. Don Wauchope, C. Reid, T. Ainslie, W. A. Peterkin, J. P. Veitch, John Tod, T. W. Irvine, had enough to do to beat a Glasgow team that contained five International men to Edinburgh's eleven.

Edinburgh did not win another match till 1887, and then by exertion of the influence which appeared to confirm the theory of club domination. The Edinburgh Academicals at the height of their power under C. Reid had five men, M. C. M'Ewan,

T. W. Irvine, A. T. Clay, T. B. White, and Reid himself in the forward division. A. R. Don Wauchope and H. J. Stevenson represented high striking force behind the scrummage. R. G. MacMillan and A. N. Woodrow were on the Glasgow side from which was extracted satisfaction for previous disappointments by the accumulation of 2 goals and 3 tries, representing the highest score and the heaviest defeat of the series so far.

The ground of the West of Scotland at Partick held the dismal reputation as the burial-place of Eastern hopes and prospects for many years. There are indeed cheerier spots in Scotland than this portion of Glasgow in the descending gloom of a murky afternoon in December, and among the many excuses for Edinburgh's repeated failures none were more common than those imputed to the influence of the pitch at Partick and its environment. It may be as interesting to mention one or two of the side issues of the game of 1888 as to record the almost inevitable Glasgow victory. J. Marsh, one of the trio of Edinburgh ' half-backs,' of whom the other two were H. J. Stevenson and R. H. Johnston, was a Lancashire man attending Edinburgh University. Occasionally he played for the University, but was more closely identified with the Institution. In fact, he was a regular member of the Institution team. Marsh owns the unique distinction of having played for Scotland against Ireland and Wales, and for England against Ireland. In fifty years of football no one has been

able to find an acceptable definition of national qualifications. While the Inter-city match retained its identity as purely a test between the two cities and before it assumed the character of a 'Trial' match, there was no compunction about including English, Irish, or Welsh players if it were thought advantageous to do so. A score or more of men not qualified for Scotland have played in the Inter-city game. The most anomalous case of recent time was that of J. H. D. Watson, who played for Edinburgh, and thereby one would have thought carried the seal of Scotland as a representative player, yet he took the field on the English side in 1914. The subject of qualifications is so interminably interwoven with inconsistencies that it is easier to get into it than once in to see a way out. Glasgow, in the match in question, played an old Blairlodge International half-back, W. F. Holms, who was connected with the West of Scotland, Edinburgh Wanderers, Collegiate, and Clydesdale clubs. Rugby Glasgow always included Greenock and Paisley. Holms was a Blairlodge boy of no fixed football habitat.

When Edinburgh won in 1889 Glasgow scornfully imputed the victory to an accident or to the providential intervention of a miracle. What happened was that G. R. Aitchison, the old Craigmount boy and Wanderers quarter, dropped a goal, a thing they said he had never done in his life before. Some even affected to be surprised to know that he could drop. It added to the irony of the situa-

tion to know that J. D. Boswell, who could get dropped goals where no other man could, was playing for Glasgow. Exactly ten years passed before Edinburgh won another Inter-city match.

Edinburgh received a heavy thonging in 1891. M. M. Duncan was injured and placed the side under handicap, but allowing for this, Glasgow had the more capable team. It was a first-rate Western forward division, including three of a very clever type, J. Auld, J. M. Bishop, and Hugh Ker, and also a very sound Glasgow University International man, W. A. Macdonald, with J. D. Boswell at the head of affairs. They were still playing aliens, as represented by R. D. Stokes (Ireland) in the Edinburgh pack, and F. D'Arcy Thomson (England) in the Glasgow half-back line. C. G. Newton, an Edinburgh Academical who was playing for the West of Scotland at that time, was full-back for Glasgow. In the club matches of the time between the 'West' and the Edinburgh Academicals, C. G. Newton played full-back for the 'West,' and his brother, D. G. Newton, full-back for the Academicals. A first-rate pair they were too.

By the middle of the 'nineties the representation had assumed a decided change, but not the results. J. D. Boswell, H. J. Stevenson, and the Orr brothers had gone out of the game. G. R. Turner, from Stewart's College, had come on to the Edinburgh side as full-back. Hamish Forbes and Robin Welsh of the Watsonians were in the half-back line.

W. R. Gibson (Royal High School) was the forward leader, and the strength of Edinburgh University football at that time was indicated by the presence of H. Stevenson (half), Lloyd Roberts (quarter), W. J. N. Davis and Griffiths (forwards) — all 'aliens.' The Neilson brothers were playing for Glasgow, also T. L. Hendry and W. Dykes of the Clydesdale, George Muir (Kelvinside Academicals), R. C. Greig (Academicals), J. N. Millar and J. H. Couper of the 'West.' The collection may be accepted as a tolerably fair representation of the players of the time.

A. B. Timms, then playing for the Wanderers, obtained his first representative honour in the Edinburgh Inter-city team of 1895. Similarly, Mark Morrison made his debut in the higher grade of football. H. O. Smith, A. Balfour, and J. Muir maintained the Watsonian forward connection, and G. O. Turnbull had added one more to the heavy Merchistonian contribution to Western football. The game is only worthy of record as the first draw that had taken place in fifteen years. The players were wading and plunging through snow and slush in one of the most dismal of many dismal days at Partick.

Two of the most noted 'quarters' of their day, J. I. Gillespie (Edinburgh Academicals) and L. M. Magee, Irish International, played together for Edinburgh in 1897. W. P. Donaldson, Lorettonian-Oxonian and 'West' man, was to have occupied one of the corresponding positions in the Glasgow

team, but was unable to play. The Edinburgh Academicals, very strong at that time, supplied the full-back, J. M. Reid, two of the three halves, A. W. Robertson and A. M. Bucher. The Edinburgh forwards had the worst of the grabbing for the ball in the scrummages. There was no rule at that time against ' feet up,' and often a quarter had to make three or four attempts before he was able to get the ball into the scrummage. The Glasgow team played the smarter game, and their quarters, J. Cameron (Clydesdale) and J. Wingate (Kelvinside Academicals), to general surprise, outshone Gillespie and Magee, very largely, however, due to the circumstance that the one pair was continually in possession of the ball and the other pair had to get along as best they could without it.

The turn of the tide came in 1898. and synchronised with the period of Edinburgh Academical-Edinburgh University football which produced the remarkable International team of 1901. From 1898 up to the war year, Glasgow had only one win—that of 1905—and afterwards had to wait sixteen years for another. At the beginning of the century, the Western players were competing with very strong back play against which they could not successfully contend. The same conditions repeated themselves in the years immediately preceding the war, when the Edinburgh game behind the scrummage benefited by a strong infusion of the Myreside influence. When Edinburgh beat Glasgow heavily

in 1909 the work of the Watsonian centre, A. W. Angus, and the Edinburgh Academical, J. H. D. Watson, produced the finest football in the match and appeared to point to an International wing of great potency. It was not, however, persevered with, and later Watson was allowed to pass over to England. Mainly in an endeavour to induce combination behind the scrummage, Glasgow in 1913 selected the entire Glasgow Academical back division with the exception of the full-back and the Glasgow High School International wing player, J. B. Sweet. The experiment was quite a success, and the work of the Western three-quarters, T. Stout, J. R. Warren, A. D. Laird, and J. B. Sweet, was rather better than that of the Edinburgh line. Glasgow would have drawn the game but for a freakish bit of football that left J. C. M'Callum, from near midfield, to score from a ball rolling detached and far astray inside the Glasgow '25.'

The 1920 match produced one of the best games that has been played between the two cities in post-war times. The teams contained quite an exceptional number of clever players in the back divisions. R. S. Simpson, E. B. Mackay, W. C. Johnstone, Arthur Browning, and R. H. L. Donald represent as high a standard as Glasgow has attained at almost any stage in the series, while on the Edinburgh side conspicuous ability will be recognised in A. T. Sloan, J. Hume, and E. Maclaren, all of whom distinguished themselves in International

football. For that matter so likewise did J. W. S. M'Crow, who, however, suffered a rapid decline in form accelerated by war service. Edinburgh's only superior point in the game was derived from the work of the half-backs, A. T. Sloan and J. Hume.

After nearly fifty years' association with the ground of the West of Scotland club at Partick, the site of the Inter-city fixture was transferred in 1922 to the Glasgow Academical field at Anniesland. A reversal of fortune followed the change, and after a long interval of years Glasgow succeeded in winning. It was a very good game, in which the Glasgow Academical back division, strengthened by the High School wing player A. Browning, displayed the better football. Edinburgh lost ground in the half-back play of J. A. R. Selby and Gow Brown, compared with that of J. C. Dykes and J. B. Nelson, whose success was contributed to by the ' hooking ' of R. A. Gallie. Edinburgh had two good wing three-quarters, E. H. Liddell and J. H. Carmichael, but they were not well supplied with the ball. Two well-matched teams of normal Inter-city grade played an even draw in 1923, but in 1924 an Edinburgh side, ill-balanced and conspicuously weak in parts both in the scrummage and out of it, was well beaten forward and over-run behind by a carefully adjusted combination of Glasgow Academical and High School players. Two of the Edinburgh backs, D. Drysdale at full-back and R. M. Kinnear, centre three-quarter, alone offered real resistance and

stood comparison with the best of the Glasgow backs.

The game appeared to demonstrate the law of results applicable to the series that the balance inclines to the city possessing a successful and dominating club team.

CHAPTER V

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Scotland *v.* England

A few remarks on the direct influences which led to the first International match are necessary. Primarily, it must be observed that at that time Rugby was the only form of football that had anything like a general hold, restricted and confined as that influence was, in either Scotland or England. The Association game was known in Glasgow and in London, but outside these areas, and even in Edinburgh, it had hardly been seen. When, therefore, Rugby Scotsmen heard of an International match in London between teams assumed to represent Scotland and England, and when, furthermore, it was found that the Scottish side was chosen from residents in or near London, playing under a comparatively unknown code of rules, a feeling somewhat akin to resentment was awakened.

Incidentally, it may be added, the impression was not confined to the Rugby constituency, for the Associationists were stung so keenly that the Queen's Park, as the representative club of Scotland, threw out a challenge to the Wanderers, the embodiment of the code in England, to meet them

in any town convenient to the Wanderers and play for medals in a test of national superiority.

The second of the London events evoked a newspaper correspondence to which Dr. H. H. Almond (Loretto) and Mr. Alcock (England) contributed from their respective points of view. The correspondence took place in December of 1870, and after a discussion at the termination of the match between the Merchistonians and the Edinburgh Academicals in Glasgow early in 1871, a challenge to England was drawn up and signed by the representatives of the Edinburgh Academical, Merchistonian, St. Andrews University, West of Scotland, and Glasgow Academical clubs. A committee was formed, consisting of Messrs. F. J. Moncreiff, the first Scottish captain, Dr. Almond, J. W. Arthur, Dr. Chiene, B. Hall Blyth, and Angus Buchanan. England promptly took up the gage, and the match was fixed for Monday, 28th March, at Raeburn Place.

Upon the late Mr. Hall Blyth (Merchiston) devolved the actual arrangements for the game. Dr. Almond, headmaster of Loretto, acted as umpire for Scotland.

Scotland won the match by a goal and a try to a try. There was no scoring in the first half, during which the Scottish team had rather more of the play. The general indications then were that Scotland had the better forward division. Their players were more active, and they worked together with more effect than the English pack.

Early in the second half Scotland was mauling on the English line. G. Ritchie, the Merchistonian, who was in front, was pushed over with the ball in his possession, and the crowd cheered frantically for an apparent score. They were premature, however, for, although Ritchie stuck to the ball and claimed a try, the Englishmen maintained that one of their players also had his hands on the ball when it was grounded. The umpires were in doubt, and it was decided to ' hack off ' at five yards.

Again the Scottish forwards pushed the Englishmen bodily over the line, and Angus Buchanan hung on to the ball with M'Farlane at his side, and the others on the top of them. England again protested, but the umpires, as Dr. Almond has recorded, found it was impossible in the babel to make out the exact nature of the objection, and the score was ruled valid. W. Cross kicked a goal from a difficult position.

The reverse stimulated the Englishmen, who thereafter made great efforts to retrieve their position. F. Tobin (Liverpool) crossed the Scottish line. The kick, however, failed, and Scotland still held the lead. Scotland just then were having a bad time. The spectators had been worked up to a high pitch, and were cheering not only lustily, but most impartially.

Gradually England's effort died down, and Scotland again began to assert an ascendancy. J. A. W. Mein, J. W. Arthur, Buchanan, and J. Thomson all contributed towards an attack which culminated

in Cross scoring a try, but on that occasion he failed with the kick at goal. There the match ended, and Scotland won the first International between any two countries, or in the world, if that will assist in placing the event in its true perspective.

The influence that most directly brought about the Scottish success was the superiority of the forwards. That section of the team had been selected with particular care, and due regard had been paid to the players' physical qualities and their athletic attainments, as well as to their football abilities.

The game abounded with incidents. They were not of the modern type, perhaps, but they were none the less inspiring and even thrilling. It was no sport for weaklings. James Finlay, probably the strongest and heaviest man on the Scottish side, fell into possession of the ball at one period in the game and made a direct rush for the line. An equally big Englishman rushed straight at him, and as the pair met in a straight chest to chest charge both recoiled from the impact and were stretched on the broad of their backs. Like Hal o' the Wynd, every man had to be able to 'fecht for his ain hand,' and whatever degree of cohesion or combination might be attained, the qualities of individualism and self-reliance were absolutely essentials. Backs had to make their own chances and fight their own way. Nobody made 'openings' for his neighbour.

Yet the crowd could be raised to a high pitch

of excitement, as when a man broke away from the ruck and went resolutely bowling along for the goal-line. There was nothing sloppy or slipshod in this early-day representative football, and the onlookers were as firmly gripped in the spell as they are to-day. Three men in the Scottish team, Cross, Finlay, and M'Farlane, were singled out for special commendation. Cross, as already mentioned, was a Merchistonian, and captain of the school team in 1867. He only played in one other English match, and was succeeded by his younger brother Malcolm, who, with Ninian Finlay, formed the first great partnership in International football.

Writing of the match some twenty years later in the Rev. F. Marshall's well-known book on the Rugby game, Dr. Almond said: 'Let me make a personal confession. I was umpire, and I do not know to this day whether the decision which gave Scotland the try from which the winning goal was kicked was correct in fact. The ball had certainly been scrummaged over the line by Scotland and touched down first by a Scotsman. The try, however, was vociferously disputed by the English team, but upon what ground I was then unable to discover. Had the rule been kept that no one but the captains should speak in any dispute unless appealed to, I should have understood that the point raised was that the ball had never been fairly grounded in the scrummage. This I only learned afterwards.'

R. W. Irvine's views are equally interesting.

'It was twenty a side,' he writes, 'and the Scottish forwards were heavy and fast. We were ignorant what team England would bring, of what sort of players they had, and of how they would play, and though assured by Colville, a London Merchistonian—and a rare good forward too—that we would find their strength, size, and weight not very materially different from our own, many of us entered that match with a sort of vague fear that some entirely new kind of play would be shown by our opponents, and that they would outmanœuvre us entirely. Before we had played ten minutes we were on good terms with each other. Each side had made a discovery: we that our opponents were flesh and blood like ourselves and could be mauled back and tackled and knocked about just like other men; they that in this far North land Rugby players existed who could maul, tackle, and play up with the best of them.

'There was one critical time during the match. Feeling was pretty highly strung. It was among the first no-hacking matches for many of the players on both sides. Now hacking becomes an instinctive action to one trained to it. You hack at a man running past out of reach as surely as you blink when a man puts his finger in your eye. There were a good many hacks-over going on, and as blood got up it began to be muttered, "Hang it, why not have hacking allowed? It cannot be prevented; far better have it."

'The question hung in the balance. The teams seemed nothing loth. The captains (Moncreiff and F. Stokes) both looked as if they ought to say "No," and would rather like to say "Yes," and were irresolute, when Almond, who was umpire, vowed he would throw up his job if it were agreed to. So it was forbidden, and hackers were ordered to be more cautious. The match was won by Scotland by a goal and a try. The Scots' goal was placed by Cross (not Malcolm, but his big brother William) from a difficult kick, and though many matches have been played since then between the countries, there has not been one better fought or more exciting than this, the first one.'

The twenty Scots who won the first International match with England on the first recognised encounter between two countries in any form of sport were :

Backs—W. D. Brown and T. Chalmers (Glasgow Academicals), and B. Ross (St. Andrews University).

Half-backs—J. W. Arthur (Glasgow Academicals), W. Cross (Merchistonians), and T. R. Marshall (Edinburgh Academicals).

Forwards—F. J. Moncreiff (Edinburgh Academicals), captain ; A. Buchanan (Royal High School), A. G. Colville (Merchistonians), A. Drew (Glasgow Academicals), J. Forsyth (Edinburgh University), J. Finlay, R. W. Irvine, W. Lyall, and J. A. W. Mein (Edinburgh Academicals), J. H. L. M'Farlane (Edinburgh University), R. Munro (St. Andrews University), G. Ritchie (Merchistonians), A. H. Robertson (West of Scotland), and J. Thomson

(St. Andrews University). Forsyth and M'Farlane were Institution boys.

This match laid the foundation stone of modern Rugby football, and from that time the superstructure in both countries grew steadily until it attained its present-day proportions. Rugby football is under deep obligation to the Scotsmen who issued the challenge for the first match. They lifted the game from a parochial to a national, or, it might justifiably be claimed, to a universal position. Their names should never be allowed to pass out of the annals of Rugby football.

For many years after the first match the Rugby International between Scotland and England held foremost place in public opinion as the greatest event in the athletic calendar. It was the first encounter in any form of athletic competition to bring together a crowd of over 20,000 spectators, as happened at Manchester in 1882, and although attendances of these dimensions are nowadays very ordinary occurrences, let it not be forgotten that popular outdoor sport was then in its infancy. Such an attendance was regarded with sufficient public significance to evoke general newspaper comment.

The date of the first match may be regarded as the beginning of organised football in Scotland. That the absence of organisation had been felt as a weakness is clear from the fact that the leading Scottish clubs became affiliated with the English Union, and also that the committee which selected the first Scottish team held together until the

Scottish Union was formed in 1873. The supplanting of the old committee, if not exactly resented, does not appear to have been conducted in a manner calculated to evoke unanimous approval. Dr. Almond for one did not like the method of procedure, and strenuously, but unavailingly, fought for the inclusion of the public schools. At its inception the Union's total membership numbered 8 clubs. In 1880 it had increased to 21 clubs.

The ten years' interval represents a period of steady progress marked by the advent of clubs such as the Institution (F.P.) and the Watsonians, who were both destined to play a very important part in the development of the game, and by introduction and establishment of Rugby football on the Borders, with the formation of a club in nearly every town in the district. These and many lateral issues may be attributed to the stimulating effects of the first International match.

The second International with England, played at Kennington Oval on 7th February 1872, was disastrous and disappointing to Scotland, but had a chastening and instructive effect. The Scottish team, buoyed up with their previous success, were very confident, but England had been taught a lesson, and whereas at Raeburn Place the English forwards had been well beaten, concentration upon this weakness had evolved a set of men too strong and too heavy for the lighter Scottish pack.

Only in the earlier part of the game, during which C. W. Cathcart dropped a goal, did Scotland

appear likely to win. Great expectations had been founded upon the play of the Scottish backs; indeed, it was admitted that England had entered the game with great doubts of her ability to hold her own behind the maul. But the Scottish forwards were so well beaten that between their failure and the wet ball and slippery ground the Scottish back play was rendered ineffective.

Apart from Cathcart's success, the only time Scotland looked like scoring was when T. Chalmers made a mark near the centre of the field, and L. M. Balfour just missed the goal with a very fine drop.

Scotland's team learned several important lessons from that match. Firstly, that no matter how fast and clever the forwards might be, weight was an indispensable factor in the twenty-a-side game; secondly, that a more systematic arrangement of the back division was essential; and, thirdly, that the touch-line was more than a mere boundary and could be worked to the advantage of the team.

It may be added that the playing pitch laid out for the occasion measured 120 yards long by 70 yards broad. The present rule limiting the dimensions requires the pitch to be not more than 110 yards long and 75 yards broad.

England always held out for breadth and professed to be handicapped by the 55 yards' width of Raeburn Place. The objection can well be understood by those who remember the old-time English backs, who needed room and preferred

a half-circle to a straight line as their course to the line. From the first, England's preference for speed was so marked, and in general practice was usually so ineffective, that it evoked in Scotland rather a contemptuous reference to 'mere sprinters.'

Each country had won one match at the date of the third International game in 1873. Important as the event was, and strong and tempting as were the claims of Edinburgh as headquarters, and Raeburn Place with its unequalled stretch of lawn-like turf and natural spectacular advantages, it was decided, in pursuance of the policy of 'spreading the light,' to give the Glasgow people the privilege of seeing the game. The response exceeded all expectations. A huge crowd numbering 6000 assembled on the West of Scotland club ground at Partick. 'Prodeegious' was the only appropriate term applied to such a gathering at the time.

In considering events that happened fifty years ago, we must not allow ourselves to forget that we are dealing with the mid-Victorian era. Changes upon changes in the public and private life of the individual have taken place since those days. Some of the social habits of the people were rather more pronounced than they are now, to put it that way. In those earlier days there was a marked tendency to so closely connect sport and sociability that it was difficult to separate them.

Fifty years ago a match, and especially an

International match, represented a struggle for supremacy between the two composite elements of the function, the social and the practical. To illustrate these phases, perhaps no better example could be chosen than the International match of 1873. The game was played under wretched ground conditions following a heavy snow-storm and a subsequent rapid thaw. Unfortunately for the proselytising effect, the football was not of a type that would appeal to an uninitiated spectator. Neither side was able to effect a score, and of the few incidents, a demoniacal drop by the 'demon,' H. Freeman, is one of the surviving relics of the play. But if the practical side were damped and dimmed by the prevailing weather conditions, the social side shone out resplendent in the glory, hilarity, and humour of the period.

To illustrate both phases I do not think I can do better than reproduce part of an article on the game written for *Scottish Sport* on the eve of the English match of 1894 by the Rev. P. Anton, one of the Scottish twenty of 1873. Although he has not said so, the 'St. Andrews man' who stuck to the ball during that terrible maul on the Scottish line was the reverend gentleman himself.

This is his story:—

'The air is full of commotion of the coming Rugby International to be played at Glasgow to-morrow afternoon. "Are we to have all the play and none of the luck, as usual?" The formerly high-mettled racer has become a grocery hack now,

and moves in very prosaic ways, but he confesses that these sounds stir his old blood, and bring back the old days when he was elected more than once to do battle for his country against the prowess and heroism of England.

'What a proud man he was that day three-and-twenty years ago, when, along with nineteen others, he marched out of the little Scottish pavilion at Hamilton Crescent Park through a dense and greatly admiring and cheering crowd, and "lined up" in front of the English! Did he not understand then the feeling of his sires at Bannockburn? In the first half it was our part to defend the eastern goal.

'The English made a splendid appearance as they defiled into the arena. All that training could do had been done. The previous year we had committed a preposterous and silly blunder. We sent to the Oval swift, light forwards, and we were terribly punished for our mistake, and still more terribly laughed at. The heaviest player was with us, also the lightest. Our men had a workman-like look, but the general appearance was irregular. We missed greatly "Affy" Ross, the St. Andrews crack, who had shone out at the first International at Raeburn Place, and as fine an all-round Rugby player as ever dropped, punted, or dribbled. Wanting both "Affy" and Munro, we had still men whose names were household words. There were Irvine and Mein, M'Farlane and Chalmers, Moncreiff

the Hon., and St. Clair Grant. Neither the Finlays nor Neilson played that year.

'I do not know how they select their "Internationals" now, but I can tell you how we did then. In judging merit we took into consideration the athletic record. It was a point in Irvine's favour that he was more than fairly good with the hammer. Again, M'Farlane's claim for place was helped because he was the best quarter-mile runner in the north. His dash and stride were alike magnificent. At mid "quarter" it was a sight to see him rising in his stirrups and cutting to pieces the men about him. At the inter-'Varsity sports he won the silver medal with a broad jump of 22 ft. Professor Christison, who was standing beside me at the time, said it was "like the bound of a panther." I remember I wondered if a panther could do it, but kept a stiff upper lip, not wishing to damp the growing enthusiasm of my venerable interlocutor. These considerations made good M'Farlane's claim to quarter-back.

'Thus our team was made up, and we never had a difference. When the names were published everybody was pleased. There was not a murmur, and, barring the chances of the game, not a fear. Glasgow as the field of operations was also a happy hit. It was felt all that was needed was a hot, rattling game played in the midst of the Glasgow people to develop the football ardour that then lay slumbering.

'Be it known that at that time, with the ex-

ception of the St. Andrews University, there was not a single Rugby club north of the Forth, and south of it to the Tweed only four other clubs of notable pretensions. The Association game was hardly yet above the horizon.

'It was a transition time in many ways. Hacking and tripping had just been abolished. The Union had also passed a law that the ball could only be seized on the bound. These reforms had greatly popularised the game. But little did we think, that wet, sunshiny afternoon, we were playing in the dawn of such a resplendent football day as was then about to break over Scotland!

'The game was not without its humours. If a dispute should arise, it was suggested that Joe Arthur, the Glasgow Academical captain, should champion the Scottish side. Joe had an irresistible "talking over" way with him, and seeing he was not in the team, it was thought some recognition should be made of his special powers! Again, seeing the ground was to be sloppy, the English team went into a cobbler's to get leather bars fixed to the soles of their boots. I presume the cobbler was nothing worse than a "Scots-wha-hae" patriot. At any rate, when the job was done, the boots and feet could not be got to correspond. There were two or three more of the latter than the former. Some of the English wanted "lefts" and some wanted "rights." What was to be done? The hour of onset was near. The missing boots not being found, the players put on dress boots on

the bootless feet. The Englishmen were late in arriving, but little did we know the most extraordinary, the most ludicrous, circumstance which had detained them. Goldsmith put down the cobbler who repaired his boots as a philosopher. I am not aware, however, that this was the view the English Internationalists of 1873 took of the Glasgow shoemaker.

'The sun shone, but there had been rain the previous night, and the ground had a hard bottom and a muddy surface. The fight, from first to last, was of the most determined character. Several notable things took place in the course of the match. With the wind and the sun both against us, we pressed the English in the first half. During the next half, when, having them with us, we thought we would certainly score, the English pressed us. Then the mauls presented a strange spectacle. Owing to the nature of the atmosphere, so soon as the packs were formed, a great column of steam rose right up from the scrummage, and bent eastward with the wind.

'These were two characteristics of the match, but there were other two still. In the first half of the game Freeman got hold of the ball between the English "25" and the centre, and dropped the most magnificent kick ever seen. Its fame is historical. The ball went high in the air, and dropped far behind the Scottish goal-line. There was a cry of "goal," succeeded by a dead silence. The ball was so high up it was difficult to say how

it had gone. The umpire settled matters by declaring a "poster," and the game again went on.

'When the sides were changed the Englishmen abandoned their long shots, and determined to lower the Scottish flag by industrious efforts, bringing about a touch-down behind. The pressure they brought to bear on us was of the strongest. The English forwards, stimulated by the example of Stokes, the Blackheath man and captain, worked with desperate resolution. And they were within an ace of succeeding. They compelled us to form a maul within three yards of our goal-line and some eight yards from our goal-post. It was evident the game had reached a crisis, and the excitement was wound up to the highest pitch. Almost by instinct the Scotsmen allowed their St. Andrews representative to take the centre of the scrummage.

'When he gave "down ball," the maul, which has become as historical as Freeman's "drop," then began. The steam rose in a dense cloud. For some time there was not a single movement either way. The pressure was tremendous. The English then pressed the Scotsmen a foot or two to the rear. Goaded to their utmost, and putting the edge of their boots in their "goal rut," they stopped their backward movement, and after a space we found ourselves gaining. Inch by inch we pressed them back, till finally we clove their ranks in two, and the St. Andrews man, who to prevent heeling had kept the ball between his boots the whole time, was able to snatch it up, and make a very creditable

run, and so ended in "a draw" as hard, if not as fast, an "International" as has ever been played. And for these three things will it remain memorable by players and spectators alike—the great steam, the great drop kick, and the great scrummage.'

Supplementary to the Rev. P. Anton's description of the 1873 International at Glasgow, a brief summary of an English view may be given.

Mr. Arthur Budd, in his references to that game, does not appear to be quite able to make up his mind about the Scottish shoemaker's treatment of the English boots. He has no doubt whatever that the cobbler assisted Scotland when he compelled C. W. Boyle (Oxford University), one of the most dangerous of the English backs, to wear a dress boot on one foot and an odd boot on the other. To Mr. Budd, the confusion with the boots was a 'singular incident.' He does full credit to Scottish hospitality, with the reservation that it might have ended seriously for an English forward, who was picked up by some of his companions at midnight driving one of Her Majesty's mail carts round the town.

As I have already said, it must not be forgotten that the customs of the people have vastly changed in the intervening fifty years. As the old squire in the ballad sings, 'They were gentlemen then in the palmy old days,' and when gentlemen assembled of an evening round the social board, the best gentleman of the party was the one who

was the last to fall beneath the table. Even enlightened Edinburgh, during the period of her most brilliant literary circle, bowed low at the shrine of Bacchus.

In the fourth International match, played at Kennington Oval in 1874, the Scotsmen proved themselves to be the better playing team, and they were decidedly unlucky to lose. Several new players appeared for Scotland. W. H. Kidston, who for some years had been one of the pillars of Glasgow football, was introduced, along with his fellow-clubman, H. M. Hamilton, of the West of Scotland, and the position at quarter vacated by J. H. L. M'Farlane was filled by A. K. Stewart, who had succeeded M'Farlane as captain of Edinburgh University. Every one of these men acquitted himself well, and collectively they completed the best back division who up to that time had represented Scotland.

A notable addition to the forwards was J. Reid (Edinburgh Wanderers). Standing six feet four 'in his stocking soles,' Reid was the tallest man on the Scottish side. A. Gordon Petrie would be perhaps an inch less, and R. W. Irvine, J. Finlay, and T. Neilson, if not so tall, were three exceptionally powerful men. The rest of the forwards were all players of ability, and altogether it was a particularly strong, fast, and well-balanced team.

Ill-luck, however, dogged the side all through. Play was conducted on a sodden pitch and under

an incessant downpour of rain. The fast Scottish backs were thus placed at a serious disadvantage. So apparent was their handicap that the English captain, after the match, condoned with the Scots, and frankly admitted that England had something to be thankful for in the weather and ground conditions. During nearly all the first half Scotland were on the aggressive. Finlay scored far out, and Chalmers just failed with a fine kick. Continuing to keep the ball in English quarters, Scotland scored again, but were deprived of the score by a wrong decision. Stewart had run inside the English '25,' where he was collared. A number of players on each side immediately proceeded to 'hack off.' The Scotsmen broke through with the ball in front of them, and Stewart, picking up, ran over and grounded the ball behind the posts. The thing was done so quickly that general confusion ensued, and the Englishmen were in consternation.

The umpire, who apparently had not seen the ball being hacked off, decided 'no take up,' thereby implying that Stewart had picked up a 'dead ball.' It was illegal to pick the ball up when 'dead.' If from a long kick, or any other cause, the ball got out of reach and lay dead on the field, it could only be brought into play by being mauled or hacked off. Even then the rules did not specify the number of players who should take part in the operation, or that one side should wait till the other had mustered their full array in position. On this

occasion Stewart gathered a rolling ball from a hack-off and scored a perfectly legitimate try.

That luck was dead against Scotland was proved ten minutes before the finish when H. Freeman, with a ' pure speculator,' dropped a left-foot goal from near midfield. When I say that goal was a ' fluke ' I am repeating an opinion attributed to Freeman himself to the effect that if he lived for a hundred years he might never repeat the feat. For the rest the information comes direct from men who played in the game.

A. K. Stewart, who figured in the game so conspicuously, had a very short career. Illness prevented him taking his place the following year, and after playing again at the Oval in 1876 he entered the Indian Medical Service, and was thereafter lost to football. It is significant that in the game under notice the ' chucking ' between Stewart, W. St. Clair Grant, and Hamilton was commented upon as a striking novelty in the play. The same feature had been observed in the club football of J. H. L. M'Farlane and Stewart when playing together in the Edinburgh University team.

When Stewart succeeded M'Farlane as captain of Edinburgh University team, he and other captains instituted a movement wherein it was endeavoured to impress upon the players the necessity of chucking before and not after they were held. Here we have direct evidence of the earliest implanting of the principles of the passing game. The players at first were not responsive,

and even at the schools we have Dr. Almond's testimony that the Loretto boys considered that to chuck before being held suggested ' funk.'

The work of Stewart, St. Clair Grant, and Hamilton is one of the first instances we have of a more calculated and extended form of combination than the current system of only parting with the ball in extremities.

Although Scotland were unlucky to lose this match, the event in other particulars revealed nothing but what was satisfactory. The game was extending, and in numbers and class the players were keeping pace with England. In selecting his team A. Hemersley, the English captain, was presented with a muster of two hundred candidates to choose from ; probably there would be an equal number of ambitious players in Scotland.

The fifth International match with England, played at Raeburn Place, Edinburgh, on Monday, 8th March 1875, resulted in a scoreless draw. Two of the veteran Scottish backs, T. R. Marshall and W. St. Clair Grant, had dropped out. Ninian Finlay, still at Edinburgh Academy, and Malcolm Cross were introduced. J. R. Hay Gordon, a Liverpool Edinburgh Academical, played quarter along with J. K. Tod, Glasgow Academicals. Hay Gordon, a strong forceful player, was a striking exception at quarter to the rule as far as physique was concerned, and was one of the tallest men on the Scottish side.

At the end of a severely contested game, neither team could claim a clear advantage on play. Scotland had touched down half a dozen times to England's once or twice, but the difference afforded little indication of the run of the play, for, whereas the English backs dropped for goal at every opportunity and from all positions, the Scots endeavoured to force their way over the line. The only successful attempt at goal was by Ninian Finlay, who sent the ball over the bar with a clever drop, but a clamour for offside before the ball reached Finlay was sustained.

In that match England adopted the curious formation behind the maul of three full-backs, one three-quarter, and three half-backs. The Scottish arrangement was two, three, two. Both countries were still groping after a definite arrangement of the backs.

Scotland brought her trouble on herself in the 1876 International in London. R. W. Irvine himself was not at all satisfied with the team he was called on to lead. The weakness was all behind the maul, and particularly at half, where G. Q. Paterson, clever and even wonderful player as he was, had not the physique for such a game. With men like J. R. Hay Gordon and D. H. Watson or J. E. Junor available, it was folly to trust the position to a player weighing not more than 9 stone 7 lb., and not over robust at that. 'Quinty' allowed W. E. Collins, his *vis-à-vis*, to break away from his own goal-line and part with the ball to

W. C. Hutchinson, who ran nearly the whole length of the field, and, when overtaken by A. K. Stewart, who had chased him all the way, dropped the ball for F. H. Lee to pick up and lay behind the posts.

It was a spectacular try, and evoked unbounded enthusiasm, but as affecting Scotland it was more or less a fiasco. Play was in the corner not five yards from the English line, when Paterson allowed Collins to break to the open side. Hutchinson ran diagonally to within the Scottish '25' on the other side of the field. When Stewart got him he let the ball fall, and it was 'lying about' when Lee arrived.

The Scottish forwards had the heart-breaking experience of beating the English forwards and being beaten by the weakness of their own backs. Nearly all the first half Scotland had the better of the play, but there was no system or method behind, and chances were allowed to slip. Even against the wind Scotland were on the English goal-line when Collins broke through. Later the same player scored for England.

Leonard Stokes made his first International appearance on that occasion. Generally he is accepted as the best English back of the period. In nothing more than his drop-kicking was he dreaded by Scotland. Whether he dropped more goals than Ninian Finlay there is no means of knowing. R. W. Irvine considered Finlay the longer kick. In other points, if Stokes was the best in England,

Finlay was the greater player. It is a coincidence that R. H. Birkett, the tallest, heaviest, and most dangerous man in the English back division, found his duplicate in another big Birkett, who, as centre three-quarter, worked havoc with Scotland some thirty years later at Inverleith. They were father and son.

In the three concluding International matches with England in the decade 1870-80 Scotland won the first, and the other two were drawn. If there is a Rugby Scot who does not know that Malcolm Cross dropped the goal which won the match for Scotland in 1877, I doubt some one's mission here below has not been accomplished. Although I saw that goal, and through all these long years have deluded myself with the impression that I knew every detail of the score, the cloud of witnesses, armed with the most infinite minutiae, render the subject much too dangerous to be dilated upon. Let it suffice to say that that goal has raised a monument to a great player, and has kept his memory green when otherwise it might have become faded and obscured in the mists of the past.

All Scotland was deploring the absence of Ninian Finlay, who owing to illness played no football that season. R. C. Mackenzie took Finlay's place.

My personal recollections are that that Rugby 'Bannockburn' was fought on verdant turf on a bright and breezy spring afternoon. I recollect big Hay Gordon always in the thick of it, clutching

the ball with one arm and pushing off with the other, till he was brought down by force of numbers. Current report confirms the impression in the remark that ' Hay Gordon played like a lion.'

Pocock's failure and transference to the scrum weakened Scotland at a vital spot and at a critical juncture, but the spectators, ill-pleased at the presence of an Englishman on the Scottish side, accepted the incident as a judgment on the people who selected him. The population of the capital was not so cosmopolitan then as it is now. Neither was it so familiar with the game. To half of them the function represented a lusty fight with the ' auld enemy,' a contest between fifteen leal and true Scots and an equal number of the English.

My recollection of the score is a long low drop from midfield that at first conveyed the impression the ball would not carry the distance. It passed well over the bar, and before it had reached the ground the spectators had taken leave of their senses. Many a more difficult goal has been scored, even in International matches, but, coming with dramatic suddenness in the closing minutes of a hard, long-drawn-out struggle, the effect was electrical and impressive. So impressive was it that none present will ever forget it.

Fifty years ago racial difference between the countries was more pronounced than it is now. Scottish patriotism was a very real and live thing, and no doubt the cheering that issued from the crowd owed some of its volume to historic impulse.

This was the first occasion in which the countries played with teams of fifteen a side, and from that date the old ' twenty ' formation passed definitely out of the game. A touch of ' immortal memory ' is attached to the Scots of 1877 : J. S. Carrick and H. H. Johnston (Collegiate); M. Cross and R. C. Mackenzie; J. R. Hay Gordon and E. J. Pocock; R. W. Irvine (captain), J. H. S. Graham, T. J. Torrie, D. H. Watson, J. E. Junor, A. G. Petrie, J. Reid, C. Villars, and H. M. Napier.

The Scottish victory of 1877 was the greatest event that had taken place in Rugby football north of the Tweed. The 1871 triumph had established the game; that of 1877 struck a note that sounded through the length and breadth of the land and sent the youth of the country headlong into football. It was the greatest missionary effort that ever was accomplished in the cause of the game. For many years after that the public regarded the English International match as the great sporting event of the year, and from that date football became definitely established as the Scottish national game. The next two English International matches partook of the nature of a lull in the storm.

In 1878 at Kennington Oval neither side was able to score. Early in the game Ninian Finlay broke through the English defence, but was brought down on the goal-line. J. A. Campbell failed with an apparently easy chance right in front of goal, and one of Malcolm Cross's drops grazed

a post. The first half, during which the play went decidedly in favour of Scotland, ended with a curious incident. Tackled as he crossed the line, H. M. Napier (West of Scotland) entered into a maul-in-goal with A. W. Pearson (Blackheath and Guy's Hospital), but while the struggle for possession of the ball was still proceeding half-time was called.

Scotland had to defend during the earlier part of the second half. W. E. Maclagan's tackling of Stokes (Blackheath) saved a certain score, and it was some time before the pressure was eased by Ninian Finlay, who crossed the centre-line before he was stopped. The play continued to sway alternately in favour of each side. F. R. Adams (Richmond) crossed the line for England and J. A. Nelson for Scotland, but both scores were disallowed.

That was the occasion of W. E. Maclagan's first appearance in International football. As full-back he was the first player in any country to occupy the position alone. Scotland's players were as follows: W. E. Maclagan; M. Cross and N. J. Finlay; J. A. Campbell and J. A. Neilson; R. W. Irvine (captain), J. H. S. Graham, G. Macleod, D. R. Irvine, N. T. Brewis, A. G. Petrie, H. M. Napier, L. J. Auldjo (Abertay), S. H. Smith, and J. E. Junor.

As early as 1872 Rugby football was being played in India. In that year the British residents in Calcutta formed a club which continued in existence till 1878, when, for want of fixtures, it was disbanded. At its demise the club apparently was in

affluent circumstances, and when the disposal of the funds in hand came up for discussion, Mr. G. A. J. Rothney, who held the dual office of secretary and captain of the Calcutta Club, proposed that the money should be devoted to the purchase of a cup to be offered to the English Rugby Union for presentation as tangible evidence of victory to the winners of the England and Scotland annual match. At the autumn meeting of the English Union in 1878 the trophy was accepted, and henceforward possession of the Calcutta Cup became a side-issue in the matches between the two countries.

Two players, W. E. Maclagan and Ninian Finlay, stood between Scotland and defeat in the 1879 match at Raeburn Place. Such tackling as that of Maclagan at full-back had never been seen in an International game. The Scottish backs had been very uncertain in their play, and the crowning mistake came when Malcolm Cross missed a kick in attempting to clear. The English forwards were on him at once, and A. Budd (Blackheath) had not much more to do than to touch the ball for a try, from which L. Stokes kicked a goal.

Ninian Finlay caught the return from the restart, and was only brought down on the English goal-line. In the subsequent pressure Englishmen were twice hissed by the crowd for stepping over their line and touching down. To his credit, and as an example to his men, Stokes, declining to adopt ' safety first ' tactics, ran with the ball from behind the posts into play even to the jeopardy

of his own goal. The feat was not allowed to pass without acknowledgment and appreciation by the crowd.

Scotland's equalising score was characteristic of Ninian Finlay. It often took two or three men to bring him down. J. H. S. Graham, at the head of a Scottish forward rush, picked up the ball and passed it on to Gordon Petrie. The Royal High School man in turn handed it over to Ninian Finlay, who made a direct course for the line. The way was blocked, but, with a couple of Englishmen hanging on to him, Finlay got in his drop and sent the ball over the bar. The cheering and enthusiasm did not subside, one report says, for fully five minutes afterwards.

Ninian Finlay and W. E. Maclagan each stood rather over than under 6 feet and weighed at that time over 13 stones. Later, Maclagan became much heavier. Both were exceptionally active and powerful. In his prime W. E. Maclagan was the strongest man on the Scotland side.

The Scottish team were: W. E. Maclagan; N. J. Finlay and M. Cross; J. A. Neilson and J. A. Campbell; R. W. Irvine, J. H. S. Graham, D. R. Irvine, A. G. Petrie, H. M. Napier, J. E. Junor, J. B. Brown, E. N. Ewart, R. Ainslie, and N. T. Brewis.

R. Ainslie had previously played against Ireland, but this was his first appearance in an English match. One of the greatest of all-time Scottish forwards, he had not then quite attained his high status in football.

W. E. Maclagan in physique was one of the most powerful men behind the scrummage who have played for Scotland. His defence was not only sound, it was formidable. 'Bulldog' Irvine, who himself was a very strong man, expressed the opinion that he would rather fall into the hands of anybody than W. E. Maclagan 'when roused.' That may be a friendly variation of an International colleague's *estime* to the effect that in his younger days 'Bill Maclagan was an ill-natured deevil.'

Defence was only one of his attributes. He was a great master of the game. There was no flare in his football. It was all cool and calculated. Even his drops and punts were little things from which greater could be evolved. He would restrain the forwards from driving and plunging with a sonorous 'Softly, softly!' He seldom made a big run, but, given the ball ten to twenty or twenty-five yards out, he went for the line like a shot from a high-velocity gun.

R. W. Irvine ('Bulldog') played his last match against England in 1880. As a player and organiser and as one of the pioneers in International football, he stands out prominently among the greatest figures in the early days of the game. He played against England on ten consecutive occasions, and in all representative teams of his time he was among the first to be chosen. During the last five years of his career he was captain of the Scottish team. But if Irvine's International experience

began in the illuminating blaze of the first victory over England, it ended in disaster at Manchester in 1880.

Scotland were strong favourites before the match, but the team never found their feet, and admittedly were outplayed. Irvine himself blamed his backs, half of whom, he said, might just as well have stayed in Scotland. Their tackling was weak, but it was well recognised that some of them were not defensive players. The team had no luck. Ninian Finlay twice, and Cross once, just failed to get goals from drops.

The one crumb of comfort for Scotland came in a characteristic Masters and Sorley Brown score. Masters started the run, and Sorley Brown finished it by laying the ball behind the posts. The goal which followed, and it was the last Malcolm Cross kicked in International football, was cold comfort. The attendance was a record one, as was also the English score—2 goals and 3 tries.

Scotland's fifteen were : W. E. Maclagan ; N. J. Finlay and Malcolm Cross ; W. H. Masters and W. Sorley Brown ; R. W. Irvine, J. H. S. Graham, R. Ainslie, N. T. Brewis, J. B. Brown, D. M'Cowan, C. R. Stewart (West of Scotland), D. Y. Cassels, E. N. Ewart, and A. G. Petrie.

In the English match of 1881 at Raeburn Place there were some notable occurrences. England arrived a man short and without reserves. To fill the vacancy at quarter, F. T. Wright, a bright, fair-haired Lancashire boy, then at Edinburgh

Academy, was drafted in. Mr. Arthur Budd, in his chronicles, and he is not at all accurate in some of his details, describes Wright as an 'Edinburgh University student,' and declares him to have been a weak spot. On the other hand, the *Athletic News* of the date said, 'Wright was the right lad in the right place.' Decidedly he was.

Think of A. T. Sloan and you have a duplicate of Frank Wright in speed and tackling, and very similar in build. Knowing J. A. Campbell from inter-scholastic relationship, he kept such a close eye upon the Merchistonian that Campbell could seldom get out of his reach. Wright was a deadly tackler, and I doubt whether the original player would have stood up to Campbell's 'hashing' work. To crown all, it was a mercy we were not beaten by Wright. With a good chance to score himself he unselfishly passed out to R. Hunt (Preston Grasshoppers and Manchester), who, luckily for Scotland, bungled the pass with an open road for the line and nobody in the way.

Edinburgh Academy established a triple record in that match. Primarily, C. Reid was the first schoolboy forward to play in an International. Secondly, F. T. Wright was the first and possibly the only schoolboy to play for England. And thirdly, no school has had two of its pupils in the same International match and on opposite sides.

It was a most engrossing game that was not decided until actually the last kick. R. Ainslie scored from a forward rush, in which J. H. S.

Graham and the two Institution men, R. Maitland and J. Fraser, went through the greater part of the English defence. The kick by T. A. Begbie (Edinburgh Wanderers), a typical Merchiston product—safe, sound and reliable—from far out, hit one of the posts. The game continued full of incident.

C. Reid and J. A. Campbell each crossed the English line. Reid went down with three Englishmen, who got the ball from him, and Campbell, in his course, disturbed the corner flag. The English forwards were playing a clever game in the loose, and it was anybody's match. Their combination in the open was almost a revelation, but they had among them the English apostle of combination, H. Vassall. Once Graham dribbled almost to the line, and only Wright's quickness in darting on the ball as it was taken over saved England. I recollect seeing Wright snap the ball out of the hands of a Fettes boy while the latter was stretching to lay it over the line. He was marvellously quick.

Then Scotland's prospects suddenly fell. From his own side of the centre-line and towards touch, L. Stokes (Blackheath) sent up one of his mammoth kicks, and the ball dropped over the bar. It was an astonishing feat and beyond calculation, great as Stokes's kicking was known to be. Afterwards H. C. Rowley (Manchester), who had been playing a strong determined game, and in one of his earlier runs had knocked R. C. Mackenzie and another off their feet, got in, and though Stokes missed the goal with the kick, the result looked secure.

But with only a few minutes to go, Ninian Finlay had a strong run to near the English '25.' Reid, Graham, J. Fraser (Institution), and W. A. Peterkin (Edinburgh University) carried play nearer the line, and J. B. Brown, picking up, darted in between the posts. When Graham called on Begbie to take the kick, it was said that every second man in the crowd shut his eyes. Next instant the roar that went up might have awakened the dead, for Merchiston nerve and training had stood the test, and almost as the ball cleared the bar the crowd were swarming across the pitch.

Three great players finished their International careers with that match, Ninian Finlay, J. H. S. Graham, and L. Stokes. The greatest half-back of his time, and one of the greatest players who have appeared in the game, Ninian Finlay was the accepted standard of comparison for International half-backs for many years after his retiral.

Those who remember M. C. M'Ewan may deduce a tolerably near presentment of Graham. I should say Graham was even a more commanding personage on the field. A very powerful man, his quick thinking and mastery of the game was well illustrated by the manner in which he diverted attention from the danger-point in a forward rush by unexpectedly picking up and throwing the ball wide to an unmarked player. A number of International scores were the direct result of this move, almost peculiarly his own. Had A. R. Don Wauchope been able to gather one of Graham's

passes in the International of 1881, he would almost certainly have scored. He was one of the greatest of dribblers.

It would be about this time that W. A. Peterkin won the 100 yards championship. He was the first sprint champion of Scotland and he was a forward.

Tribute must be paid to Leonard Stokes. To early-day Scotsmen he was the great figure symbolic of the English style of football.

The Scottish players of 1881 were : T. A. Begbie ; W. E. Maclagan, N. J. Finlay, and R. C. Mackenzie ; A. R. Don Wauchope and J. A. Campbell ; J. H. S. Graham (captain), C. Reid, D. Y. Cassels, D. M'Cowan, R. Ainslie, T. Ainslie, J. Maitland, J. B. Brown, and W. A. Peterkin.

The Manchester International of 1882 sent Scotland into an ecstasy of delight. Many of the older generation habitually referred to this game as ' Bob Ainslie's match.' The Scottish forwards ran riot among the English backs and played the mischief with a particularly warm scoring division. R. Ainslie's tackling, and especially his repeated tackling of W. N. Bolton, a big heavy man and a most dangerous runner, was the characteristic point in the crowning game of the Institution man's career. As a tackling forward, R. Ainslie has never been excelled.

I know of two only who could be compared with him, T. W. Irvine (Edinburgh Academicals) and Mark Morrison (Royal High School). The tackling

of these men got on the nerves of the opposing backs.

It was the Scottish forward play that won the match, and that was the game referred to later on by C. Reid in his reference to the four half-back formation when he said, 'Give me a forward team like that we had at Manchester in 1882 and I do not care how many three-quarter backs you have; we could go through them.' Scotland established a record in that their victory was the first either country had achieved on the other's ground. Coming after the previous failure at Manchester, it restored the balance and showed that at that period the countries were so evenly matched that there was little more between them than the swing of the pendulum.

The team which broke the 'away' record at Manchester was as follows: J. P. Veitch; W. E. Maclagan and A. Philp (Institution); A. R. Don Wauchope and W. Sorley Brown; D. Y. Cassels (captain), D. M'Cowan, A. Walker, J. G. Walker (West of Scotland), C. Reid, R. Ainslie, T. Ainslie, R. Maitland, J. B. Brown, and W. A. Walls.

That was undoubtedly one of the finest forward divisions that ever played for Scotland. R. Ainslie and T. Ainslie scored the tries by which Scotland won, and Maclagan had a goal from a free-kick disallowed because 'he had not properly made his mark.' A. N. Hornby, the famous cricketer, on that occasion played his last game against Scotland. The English forwards included

the brothers Gurdon, H. Vassall, and T. Tatham (Oxford University).

In 1883 and for a year or two earlier, opinion on the advisability of increasing the ' half-back ' line from two to three players had been sharply divided. The line of three had become firmly established in school football. Nationally, Scotland were cudgelled into conversion in the English International at Raeburn Place. Each country had alternately experimented with half-back lines of two and three. Scottish reluctance was mainly actuated by a desire to avoid anything that would diminish the strength of the forwards. Finally, two were decided upon, W. E. Maclagan and the Loretto schoolboy, M. F. Reid. As it happened, England was represented by an unusually strong back divison—H. B. Tristram; W. N. Bolton, A. M. Evanson, and G. C. Wade; A. Rotherham and J. H. Payne.

Behind the scrummage Scotland were badly handicapped. A. R. Don Wauchope was off with a knee injury, D. J. M'Farlan was unable to play, and W. E. Maclagan turned out although far from well. England won by 2 tries, scored by Rotherham and Bolton, to a try by C. Reid. Bolton's run was from outside the ' 25,' and he ought to have been held; but the Scottish tackling was weak, and neither M. F. Reid, the Loretto boy, nor D. W. Kidston, the full-back, had the physique to stop a man of Bolton's build. The marvel was that with such an array of backs England could

only contrive a bare win by the odd try in three.

It was not such a powerful Scottish forward team as that of the previous year, but had they been adequately supported it is doubtful whether the game would have been lost. Admittedly it was a very 'scratch' Scottish back division, and it did not play at all well, yet Sorley Brown dribbled over for a disallowed try, and, judged by the hubbub of the crowd in the south-east corner, P. W. Smeaton had wriggled over the line for a score, which was disallowed. I believe Smeaton still maintains he scored a good and valid try. Disappointing as the game may have been, the result achieved a progressive purpose, and from that date the line of two half-backs was definitely regarded as obsolete, and passed out in favour of the line of three. This was the first game in the series that Scotland had lost at home.

The 1883 Scottish team were: D. W. Kidston; W. E. Maclagan and M. F. Reid (Loretto); P. W. Smeaton and W. Sorley Brown; D. Y. Cassels, D. M'Cowan, A. Walker, J. Jamieson (West of Scotland), J. B. Brown, W. A. Walls, J. G. Mowat (Glasgow Academicals), C. Reid, D. Somerville, and T. Ainslie.

The year 1884 is memorable in the life of the game as that of the 'Dispute.' During the course of the play in the International match in London an incident of a trifling character in itself plunged Rugby football into a ferment verging upon

revolution. Little could C. W. Berry have dreamt when at a line-out he 'fisted' the ball that by that accidental trifle he was making history and disturbing the peace of nations. Underlying the misunderstanding in the actual play, and the source of all the trouble, was the want of uniformity in the interpretation of the rules and the absence of co-ordination in their application by the various countries.

In Scotland at that time there was no such term as 'knock-on,' 'knock-back,' or knock of any kind. It was illegal to 'fist' the ball in any direction. One of the most prevalent shouts or appeals heard in every match was 'fist,' and it was followed automatically by a stoppage of play. Whether at that time in England it was permissible to knock the ball back is an obscure and doubtful point.

Writing on the 'Dispute' some time later, Mr. A. R. Don Wauchope said: 'I have not got any of the papers by me, but as I played in the match, and was a member of the Scottish Committee at the time, and for some years subsequently, I know the subject pretty well. In those days there were two umpires who carried sticks, not flags, and a referee without a whistle. The ball was thrown out of touch, an appeal was made, the umpire on the touch-line held up his stick, all the players, with the exception of four Englishmen and two Scotsmen, stopped playing, and England scored a try. The only question of fact decided by the referee

was that a Scotsman knocked the ball back. This, according to the Scottish view of the reading of the rule, was illegal, and the whole question turned on the interpretation. The point that no Englishman had appealed was never raised at the time, and, to judge by the fact that eleven of the English team ceased play, it would appear that their idea was that the game should stop. I do not know of any other point of fact on which the referee decided the try was valid.'

For the best part of half an hour the players stood about the field not knowing what to do. Mr. Rowland Hill came on armed with a copy of the rules, but play was resumed without a decision, and it was not until the dinner at night that the referee expressed himself in anything approaching decisive terms.

The Scottish fifteen who took part in that memorable occasion were: J. P. Veitch; D. J. M'Farlan, E. T. Roland, and W. E. Maclagan; A. R. Don Wauchope and A. G. G. Asher; C. Reid, J. B. Brown, W. A. Walls, T. Ainslie, W. A. Peterkin, C. W. Berry, D. M'Cowan, J. Jamieson, and J. Tod.

J. H. S. Graham was the Scottish umpire who held up his stick immediately the 'fist' occurred.

After voluminous correspondence, Scotland, in order to secure a workable basis for future contingencies, agreed to concede England the match provided the English Rugby Union joined an International Board for the purpose of settling International disputes arising out of occurrences in

the course of play. Matches were resumed in 1886 and 1887, but dropped again the following year. Thus England was not played in 1885 or in 1888 or 1889.

The immediate cause of the second stoppage was the introduction by the English Union of a batch of fresh rules, which none of the other countries would accept unless presented through the medium of the International Board. The English Union desired to maintain their position as law-makers for the game. Finally the deadlock was removed by arbitration, and peace was restored by the findings of Sir J. H. A. Macdonald, as he was then, and Major Marindin.

The years of the 'Dispute,' or practically the whole period between 1884 and 1890, formed the most disturbed term in the annals of the game. Sheaves of correspondence passed between the Unions, and hundreds of public letters and columns of newspaper comment appeared on the subject. Originating in a misunderstanding of the practical application of a rule, recurrence was sought to be guarded against by the establishment of a body whose functions were of the nature of reference or co-ordination. In the second phase, the English Rugby Union appeared to see in the International Board a threat to undermine the power and position of the Union as an independent body.

The combined attitude of the other three Unions—Scotland, Ireland, and Wales—sought to enforce the principle that no one Union could any longer be

accepted as the sole maker and interpreter of rules.

The first phase of the 'Dispute' left us without an English match in 1885, but the game of 1886 was one of the hottest encounters of the whole series. The teams on that occasion were very strong. I doubt, indeed, whether four such 'halves' as A. R. Don Wauchope and A. G. G. Asher, and F. Bonsor and A. Rotherham have ever played in opposition.

I retain some very vivid impressions of this game, and can still see George Wilson, the young Royal High School 'half-back,' slipping through the English defence before play had long proceeded, for a try disallowed on account of a knock-on in gathering the ball. It was one of the hardest games ever played between two well-matched International teams. There was hot work at quarter, but the Scottish pair, A. R. Don Wauchope and A. G. G. Asher, held Bonsor and Rotherham in a firm grip, and Rawson Robertshaw, the greatest distributing agent England had produced, never got the opportunity of supplying his flying wing men, A. E. Stoddart and E. Brutton. I can recall anxious moments on the Scottish goal-line, and can still see C. Reid turn ponderous 'Charlie' Gurdon heels up when he was trying to bore his way over. A shout of relief went up when another siege was raised by John Tod, the smallest man in the Scottish pack, emerging from the ruck with the ball tucked under his arm and going ahead with all the pace he could muster till he was brought down well outside the

'25.' Twice in the second half the crowd were on their toes. A. R. Don Wauchope, at midfield, broke across into the open, and you heard the involuntary 'he 's off,' but it was well on in the game, and Wauchope had worked himself to a standstill. He hadn't the breath to carry on, and the Englishmen closed in on him and got him down. Give these Englishmen credit, they were keen and fast and they conceded little. Fittingly it was another of Scotland's prodigies that endeavoured to win the match for his side. Only a man of C. Reid's physique and power could have broken through the English defence as Reid did in the second half. From midfield it was a single-handed break clear of the forwards and straight through the English three-quarter line. You saw only two men on the field, the gigantic figure bearing down on his old schoolmate, C. H. Sample, the English back. Then another flashed into view, and you saw Reid throw the ball down from his great height, hard and low, and Walter Irvine failing to pick it up on the run. So little often lies between the winning and losing of a match. That was one of the grimmest struggles ever I saw in International football, and I think they were two of the strongest International teams that ever stood in opposition. Often as England sent down backs with great reputations earned in English football, just as often they seemed to curl in on themselves and do little or nothing in the Scottish match. A. E. Stoddart, the cricketer, presented a case in point. George Wilson never

reproduced the form he displayed on this occasion, and later he became a problem and a drag on International selection. A brilliant career was blighted almost from its outset. I cannot recall one, except it be Phipps Turnbull, who could slip through a defence as Wilson could. There were two excellent full-backs in opposition, J. P. Veitch and C. H. Sample, staunch defenders both. Veitch was strong and fearless, Sample more polished and scarcely less strong.

Scotland should have won at Manchester in 1887, but H. B. Tristram did a thing that no other player ever accomplished—he stopped W. E. Maclagan outside the goal-line. I did not see the match, but current account says Tristram stepped aside and got Maclagan by the heels. I think that is more likely to be correct than Gregor MacGregor's description that they came together with a crash that could be heard all over the field. Obviously, the latter part is overstrained. That is believed to have been the only occasion on which W. E. Maclagan in his prime was stopped on the goal-line, and if he had got through Scotland would have won instead of drawing the game. This was the 'foggy International.' It was impossible to see from one end of the field to the other. P. H. Don Wauchope had succeeded his elder brother at quarter, and in the same position C. E. Orr took the place of A. G. G. Asher, whose career had been prematurely closed by the accident of a broken leg in the 'Trial' match at Raeburn Place

some weeks earlier. A. N. Woodrow, who had been a marvel at Merchiston, made his first appearance in International football. 'Poem' had no preponderatingly strong point in his football, and he had not the physique to be a successful all-round International player, diversified as his talents and equipment were.

On the renewal of hostilities in 1890 Scotland was beaten, and deservedly so, at Raeburn Place. A tactical error was committed in inducing W. E. Maclagan, at the end of his career, to turn out once more. In selecting George Wilson for the third place in the line public opinion, and even club knowledge, was flouted, for by that time the Royal High School man had lost a lot of his form.

Then Gregor MacGregor never was International class as a full-back. He did not know how to tackle. When J. Dyson, a fast wing man, scored, it was by a straight touch-line sprint, and when Maclagan mistimed him we knew then it was not the real Maclagan who was playing. I forget what MacGregor did to try to stop Dyson, but I know that when F. Evershed, a wing forward, ran in from the '25,' Scotland might as well have had no full-back.

Scotland would have been beaten by a great deal more than two scores but for the anticipation and defence of H. J. Stevenson.

C. E. Orr and D'Arcy G. Anderson could do little against the old Craigmount boy, Mason Scott, and F. H. Fox, a little fellow who danced about on his

toes, here, there, and everywhere. I thought the long-legged, straight-running centre, R. L. Aston, one of the best Englishmen ever I had seen in the position. Besides Mason Scott, England had another old Scottish schoolboy in that team, P. H. Morrison (Loretto), a fast and dangerous scoring wing three-quarter. Adam Dalgleish (Galashiels) played in this match, and was therefore the first regular member of a Border club to receive an International cap.

The game provided us with practically our first experience of the Yorkshire forwards. Big, strong, fast, and heavy as they were, these men never acquired the skill or finish of the best class of the old-time Scottish forwards. They presented a staunch bulwark for the protection of their backs, and they brought into the game one or two new moves—notably scraping for the ball and heeling out. 'Trickery' these innovations were designated at the time, but we were a guileless people then, and had not yet recognised nor appointed the specialist or 'hooker' to exploit the trick.

A volume of indignation broke over the heads of these 'Northern barbarians' and the hapless referee two years later, when their forwards not only took possession in the scrum, but a little Bradford half, A. Briggs, went round after the ball and incessantly snapped it from under the noses of C. E. Orr and D'Arcy Anderson! I think England would have won by more than one score that year if they had opened up the play. They

certainly would have had another score but for a great bit of tackling by H. J. Stevenson when R. Lockwood broke clean away. A blunder in not placing Stevenson at centre three-quarter instead of full-back had been committed by the Scottish Union. The line consisted of three clever players, G. T. Campbell (Fettes), P. Clauss (Loretto), and W. Neilson (Merchiston), and they obtained scant encouragement from the pair immediately in front of them, but the mania for automatic combination and wide passing was then at its height. It was a poor-class International match won entirely on tactics. A bad miscalculation had been made in overestimating the value of the Scottish victory in London the previous season. There a robust pack of forwards under M. C. M'Ewan had overrun a division composed of South of England players. Notoriously, forward play in that part of the country had degenerated into a most flaccid condition. Arthur Budd, in his disgust, stated that these players 'had not the guts' to stand against Scotsmen. It was the Scottish forwards who won the match, and the back play was only a contributory aid. Official inversion of the causes of that success brought its inevitable sequel in the downfall at the hands of the Northern horde previously referred to.

By this time the International situation was beginning to change. The Welsh success at Raeburn Place in 1893, and the consequent disruptive effects, theoretical and practical, of the four

three-quarter formation, was agitating the entire football community. In the midst of the disturbance came the breach in England and the hiving off of the entire North with the formation of the Northern Union. Almost simultaneously Wales joined the race for national supremacy. Before the century had closed Ireland was asserting her strength, and a new phrase significant of the changes had been coined. Competition between the countries was now being talked of in terms of the 'International championship.' In that connection the annual encounter between Scotland and England had been shorn of some of its importance, though to those immediately concerned it could not be deprived of the glamour peculiarly its own, even if the meeting of the old antagonists could no longer claim universal recognition as the leading and all-important event on the football calendar.

The new order was well exemplified in 1893 when Scotland, after being well beaten by Wales, defeated England on the ground of the Leeds club at Headingley by 2 dropped goals. J. D. Boswell, who was captain of the Scottish side, dropped one of the goals, and G. T. Campbell the other. I don't know that the Boswell type of forward has repeated itself in football. Florid and stout almost to rotundity, he was marvellously light on his feet. In the midst of a forward mêlée he would snap up the ball and pop it over the bar, sometimes from the '25' and at other times almost from the goal-

line. In that respect, for a forward, he was unique. He did this sort of thing regularly and systematically at Loretto, at Oxford, and in Scottish club and International football. I don't think I ever saw better close scrummaging by an International pack than that of Boswell's forwards at Leeds. But there was nothing else for it, the field was too new and the young grass had not had time to make root growth, so the teams were playing on loose earth, and wet at that. It was a big, strong Scottish pack. Tom Scott of Melrose was playing his first International match as the second Borderer to be capped. T. L. Hendry of another outside section, the Clydesdale, and a fine big forward, was also in the pack along with R. G. MacMillan, J. E. Orr, H. T. O. Leggatt, and the two Royal High School men, W. R. Gibson and Rodger Davidson. Those who recollect the players will agree that there was weight, strength, and forceful football in that division. As a matter of fact, they beat the North of England men at their own game. Then we had a 'half-back,' J. W. Simpson, who had seen Briggs and Varley and had learned the 'new game' so well that he was more than a match for the English pair. Always a sound reliable player, with his head screwed on the right way, Simpson was one of the best products of Royal High School football. Like Sorley Brown he was one of the few quarters who could use their feet effectively on their opponents' side of the scrummage. It is always a difficult thing for a clever forward to obtain entrance to an Inter-

national team if his skill is not backed up by proportionate physique. W. B. Cownie, playing his first International match at Leeds, is a case in point. To this day I doubt whether Watsonian football has produced a more scientific forward than Cownie.

I would not go so far as to say there was a mystic touch in the earlier-time matches with England, but it is a fact that results were often so difficult to reconcile with the assumed strength of the teams or with their known playing form that it came to be admitted there was nothing more uncertain in football than the result of the English game. Consider that from 1877, the date of Malcolm Cross's goal, to 1894, England had not been beaten in Scotland, although in the interval some notable Scottish successes in England, including that at Leeds just recorded, had been achieved. All the while the marginal line between the two, if confined to ability alone, was so thin as to be scarcely perceptible. Scotland did three unusual things in the match of 1894: won the game at home, played a line of four three-quarters for the first time, and included a couple of schoolboys, W. M. C. M'Ewan (Edinburgh Academy) and Gordon Neilson (Merchiston), in the forwards. 'Willie' M'Ewan was a younger brother of the redoubtable 'Saxon,' not quite so clever but equally virile and as strong and active. Gordon Neilson was the third of the Neilson family, of whom I think the eldest, George, was much the best player. R. T. Neilson

later on was the fourth of the brothers to be capped. The Neilsons, like the Finlays, were a remarkable football family. J. D. Boswell had four of his Leeds forwards in the pack, the same halves, and H. T. S. Gedge had come into the three-quarter line. H. J. Stevenson had retired very prematurely from football, and Gregor MacGregor played at full-back, a position for which his main qualifications were his fielding and kicking.

G. T. Neilson, R. G. MacMillan, and J. N. Millar, along with W. Neilson at three-quarter, composed a strong Merchistonian representation in the 1895 match at Richmond, in which George Neilson kicked a penalty goal and scored a try against England's penalty goal. The 6 points won Scotland the match and the International championship. J. H. Dods made a belated first appearance, because, as a matter of fact, when the Union was probing school football the previous season they overlooked in Dods the best schoolboy forward of his year. Two other newcomers were Robin Welsh and the Lorettonian, W. P. Donaldson. Scotland was particularly well off for forwards at this time, and most of them young players, with the exception of R. G. MacMillan, who had been in International teams for eight years, but was playing with unabated vigour. A really great forward was 'Judy,' as his familiar friends called him.

I have always firmly held the opinion that it was the confident running of H. T. S. Gedge in the early part of the game that won Scotland the 1896

match at Glasgow. C. J. N. Fleming was undoubtedly a pillar in the centre. There were 16 stone of him, slow a bit, but bad to stop and 'ill ta coup,' as the Border people say. Matt Elliot played well, and would have played still better if his Hawick club companion, D. Patterson, had been with him. Many did not care for W. P. Donaldson's football. It was too cramped. He was always down among the feet of the forwards, and he had an inordinate weakness for punting into touch. Scotland had a fine set of young forwards, G. T. Neilson, Mark Morrison, W. M. C. M'Ewan, J. H. Dods, and T. M. Scott among them.

The Union Committee would never look at the Hawick quarters, D. Patterson and Matt Elliot, as a combination, and yet they were chosen separately. This game was played on Hampden Park, as the Union was homeless at the time. No doubt the equipment of the enclosure stimulated the purchase of Inverleith. I do not think the match made many converts in the stronghold of the Association game. At least we may so infer from an overheard expression from one of the crowd to the effect that it 'wasna as guid as fuitba'.' Gregor MacGregor played his last International match on this occasion. What really made his reputation was the machine-like accuracy of his passes to the wings in a winning game, and he played at the time when the craze for wide passing was at its height. His cricket experience as a 'Test' match wicket-keeper revealed itself in his

football. He could take the ball with one hand as safely as most players could with two. Placed between two fast wings in a winning game MacGregor was at his best. In other respects his football fell somewhat short of International standard.

'Nothing succeeds like success'—in turning people's heads. Scotland had beaten England four times in succession when the team went to Manchester in 1897 and left the Calcutta Cup in Edinburgh to avoid the superfluous trouble of bringing it back. The English team was regarded as a ramshackle contraption of outlanders from Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham. Who, at that time, heard of football in these counties? The Northern Union had absorbed all that was worth absorbing in the North, and England had already been beaten by Wales and Ireland. The Englishmen, by the plan of campaign adopted from almost the first International match, held the Scottish off their backs and won by the speed and cleverness of C. M. Wells, Fookes, Bunting, and others of them who could run and score as opportunity afforded. Truth to tell, they had not a very brilliant collection of Scottish backs in opposition. I can recollect that before the match home opinion turned up its nose at mention of the Scottish section behind the scrummage, but any stick was good enough to whip the remnant of England at that time. The Union Committee were shuffling A. R. Smith about a good deal just then, as if they wanted him and yet did not know quite what to

do with him. He was a tall fellow with a big stride that took him quickly over the ground, and there was virility and pushfulness in his football. One time he was full-back and another time centre three-quarter. He and his fellow Oxonian, T. A. Nelson, did not look a very well assorted pair in the Powderhall International of 1898, when, for the first time, we had a Border pair of halves, Matt Elliot and J. T. Mabon of Jedforest. They were a good combination. 'J. T.' was of a family that had done great work for the game in Jedburgh, and the Forest team about this time was one of the strongest in the country. There was another good Border man, T. Scott (Langholm), at Powderhall. Fast and with plenty of dash, he scored good tries in International football and was a power in the Hawick team behind Elliot and Patterson. J. M. Dykes, who came in as the earliest International representative of Glasgow High School, was always a first-rate forward of a lively type, and we had also a new and young full-back, J. M. Reid, who had a trace of the old J. P. Veitch game in his steadiness and reliability. Times had changed from Veitch's days and new men brought new manners. Reid had a huge and lofty punt, where his predecessors used the drop. The game was drawn and was not worth much more.

When we look back to 1871 and the games of the 'seventies, it is natural that great changes should be observed in the sources and composition of the Scottish team as we approach the close of the

century. No longer was the side a reinforced Edinburgh and Glasgow Academical combination. Small contributions in players were being extracted from a wide variety of sources, testifying to the ramifications of the game, but by no means simplifying the processes of team construction.

Another sign of the times may be read in the opening of the new ground at Inverleith in 1899. As the Union's own property, the enclosure with all its fittings and equipment represented a tremendous leap from the days when the mound and grassy slopes at Raeburn Place afforded ample accommodation for the International crowd. I wonder how many thousands of pounds have passed into the Union's exchequer since the times when the clubs paid their modest fee of 2s. 6d. for membership, and the loan of the best field in Scotland cost the Union £5.

In the match of 1899 at Blackheath, Scotland beat a 'rustic collection' of English forwards, according to Arthur Budd. England had lost to Wales by a record score and had been beaten by Ireland. The year will perhaps be more clearly recollected by the opening of Inverleith by the Irish and the success of L. M. Magee's team. J. I. Gillespie, playing his first International match, won the English game by carrying on with his feet. This was one of the characteristics of Gillespie's play. By rather a coincidence the Royal High School man, J. W. Simpson, now a veteran whose footwork was referred to as far back

as the Leeds match of 1893, was Gillespie's partner at half. This was Simpson's last International game. He died a few years ago, and I would like to pay a passing tribute to the memory of one of the finest characters in Scottish football. H. T. S. Gedge was also saying farewell to International football. Gedge was a very fine three-quarter, a cut above the general product of the time and of a higher grade and class than most of his contemporary wing players. Gillespie was distinctly the best of the young school who appeared on that occasion. Mark Morrison and W. M. C. M'Ewan were still leading the forwards, but for the rest, with the exception of J. M. Dykes and H. O. Smith, I don't know that there was much more in them than in Budd's 'rustics.'

The three years 1900-2 present a curious picture. In 1900 Scotland had two draws and no wins. The following year all three International matches were won, and won handsomely. The next season saw a descent from the heights to the depths, and all three games were lost. It is not easy to reconcile these variations except on the old rule that anything may happen, especially in the English match. There were a good many veterans in the 1900 team. So many, indeed, that nine of them, including G. T. Campbell and W. M. C. M'Ewan, retired at the end of the season. I do not think G. T. Campbell was ever done justice to in the chronicles of his country. He had played in International football for ten years, and like H. T. S. Gedge was a link with the old Fettesian-Lorettonian teams

of the bright days of that combination. At Fettes he was a great schoolboy, and had he not gone to London and played most of his football there, he might have left a more permanent impression in Scotland. He belonged to the best class of wing three-quarters, no mere runner, but a thoroughly sound all-round player. The big batch of retirals made room for the young players and helped the production of the wonderfully successful team of 1901. The more direct influence lay in the circumstance that, at least as far as the back division is concerned, Edinburgh University and the Edinburgh Academicals were particularly strong teams, more especially in back play. Indeed, it was the most successful team Edinburgh University ever had. All the national players behind the scrummage were from these two teams, and some of them were of very high grade even as International players. I cannot recall a centre three-quarter comparable in style to Phipps Turnbull, and few so effective in attack. He seemed to glide through even an International defence without an effort. If we cast our thoughts back and consider the many evolutions and changes that had taken place in methods during the twenty years prior to 1901, and compare the play of the team of that year with present-day football, it will be agreed that the changes in the play since 1900 are not comparable with the varying phases of the previous twenty years, and are so slight as to be almost negligible. There is now a little more specialisation in half-

back play, and ' hooking ' and ' heeling ' are more artfully perpetrated. Phipps Turnbull's break-through is the essential that is looked for, often in vain, in the present-day International centre three-quarter. J. I. Gillespie combined the modern with the old style, and, like Campbell, linked middle-day football with the more modern. While he could play the ' stand-off ' as effectively as any of his successors, he was one of the last who could snap the ball from the ground and dart into the open as all the old ' quarters ' aspired to do in the practice of their scoring qualities. He was positively the last to use his feet on the ball as a direct scoring medium. Gillespie was a much more fully equipped and more highly developed player than any I have seen at ' half ' since. So it was with Mark Morrison, who was approaching the end of his term. He was the last of the great forwards. I am well aware there have been fine forwards since Morrison retired. Some will find their ideal is C. M. Usher, others in J. M. B. Scott or Bedell-Sivright, and the Borderers of his time will not yield to disturbance of the pedestal on which they have placed W. E. Kyle. Scotland spread out her arms and embraced a well-beloved son when Usher scored the deciding try in 1912. As an inspiring and stimulating player Usher represented a valuable quantity in the composition of a pack. He had the football brain, and he evolved a game which was a cross between that of the Englishman, C. H. Pillman, and Mark Morrison, but short by a bit of

that of J. D. Boswell, who reputedly reduced the art of pushing and not pushing to a science. J. M. B. Scott betrayed traces of his English school training. Better with his hands than with his feet, he retained the Scottish tackle acquired by heredity, I suppose, and he was fast. I can still see him throw back his head and go for the goal-line from midfield at Myreside, with the Watsonian pack in full halloo. Forcefulness was a rather obvious component of Bedell-Sivright's play. The inevitable overtook him when he met *force majeure* in the person of Basil Maclear, and I can still hear a comment in the Border tongue: 'that 's been a long time coming till 'ee, mye mon, 'ee was never better served'; cruel and unsympathetic, but the expression of a tolerably widely entertained opinion. Personal ability and combination were very finely adjusted in the 1901 team. A. B. Timms and A. N. Fell were Edinburgh University Colonials, and W. H. Welsh was a Merchiston Castle boy. None of them was above the grade you might expect to find in an ordinarily good year. Phipps Turnbull added to their combination the inspiration that rendered the line one of the most successful that has played for Scotland. R. M. Neill's football, as the natural complement to that of J. I. Gillespie, added the last ounce to the balance. The home Scots saw them soundly beat Gwynne Nichols's Welsh team, and those who went to London had not much longer than a quarter of an hour's wait for the winning of the English match.

SCOTTISH TEAM *v.* ENGLAND, 1901.

Photo by Wayland, Blackheath.

W. H. Welsh. A. B. Flett. A. W. Duncan. R. S. Stronach. Phipps Turnbull. J. A. Bell. A. Frew. J. M. Dykes.
J. I. Gillespie. D. R. Bedell-Sivright. M. Morrison (Capt.). A. N. Fell. A. B. Timms.
J. Ross. R. M. Neill.

The remarkably successful fifteen of 1901 were: A. W. Duncan; W. H. Welsh, A. B. Timms (Edinburgh University), Phipps Turnbull (Edinburgh Academicals), A. N. Fell (Edinburgh University); J. I. Gillespie and R. M. Neill (Edinburgh Academicals); J. M. Dykes (Glasgow High School), Mark Morrison (Royal High School), A. Frew, A. B. Flett, D. R. Bedell-Sivright (Edinburgh University), R. S. Stronach (Glasgow Academicals), J. A. Bell (Clydesdale), J. Ross (London Scottish).

Explanation of the dismal fall of 1902 ' passes the wit of man,' as Mr. Gladstone said of another International problem. A. B. Timms dropped a very fine goal in 1903, such an one as revived recollections of the drop-kicking of the 'seventies and 'eighties, but Timms's feat did not imply a revival of the art in Scotland. He was from Australia, where drop-kicking is an essential part of the game, and he had brought his attainments with him. Two Merchiston half-backs were now playing together: E. D. Simson had with him J. Knox, who would have been described as a 'hard nut' in earlier times. Simson and F. H. Fasson continued the Merchiston connection till Pat Munro came from Oxford, and between 1905 and 1907 Scotland had a clever and well-adjusted pair, each abundantly endowed with a multitude of clever little moves and cute touches that cumulatively win matches.

Scotland resumed the winning sequence in 1903-4-5. Walter Forrest of Kelso and Hawick was full-back in 1903. We never had quite the

like of Forrest in the position. He could stop anything, forward or back, and the harder the task the better he seemed to like it. He almost appeared to make mistakes for the sake of rectifying them. Mark Morrison was still playing in 1904, when Scotland won by the odd try in three. J. E. Crabbie, L. M. Macleod, A. B. Timms, and J. S. M'Donald, with J. I. Gillespie and E. D. Simson in front of them, constituted a good back division. M'Donald was a South African-Edinburgh University player and a little fellow with plenty of dash. Crabbie was not big either, but he put a lot into his football, knew the game thoroughly, and could get tries when the odds were long against him. He stood in high repute at Oxford. The Borders were supplying forwards, but not many backs. T. Elliot (Gala), who played against England in 1905, was the second Border three-quarter to get his place. He was a strong wing player. J. C. M'Callum and A. G. Cairns were representing the Watsonian pack, and in 1905 Andrew Ross maintained the Royal High School connection after Morrison's retiral. As far as the English match is concerned 1906 was a shock season, but it was a good English team that won. Adrian Stoop was playing 'stand-off' to a Cornishman, J. Peters; and J. E. Raphael and J. G. Birkett were in the three-quarter line. Birkett's father had played for England in the early 'seventies. We had heard a good deal about Raphael, and were prepared to admit after the match that most of it was correct. Scotland had a

better three-quarter than either of the Englishmen, K. G. Macleod, but he was young then and only being introduced into International football. Macleod did not stay long enough even to grow old in the game, otherwise he should have passed into the Hall of the Immortals along with W. E. Maclagan, A. R. Don Wauchope, C. Reid, and others. He possessed the ability and applied it, but his football life was too short to admit of the exertion of his influence on the game to the extent of an appreciable and permanent contribution to Scottish progress.

Scotland won the next three matches. Then in 1910 England's long journey through the wilderness ended, and she emerged with a triple success and the resultant International championship for the first time for eighteen years. With the exception of 1912 the remainder of the series presents an uninterrupted run of English victories, checked at long last in the arena at Murrayfield, where, in the present year, the nation assembled wellnigh seventy thousand strong.

Scotland had a good season in 1907, when all three matches were won. In the team which beat England in London there was a new centre three-quarter, D. M'Gregor, a Watsonian who was playing for a Welsh team at the time. K. G. Macleod was in the three-quarter line, and G. M. Frew in the forwards. Frew was a Glasgow High School man and a good scrummager, but they were a good lot altogether—J. M. B. Scott, D. R. Bedell-Sivright,

J. C. M'Callum, and one of the younger generation of the Royal High School Sandersons.

Perhaps mention of a dropped goal by the Scottish full-back, D. G. Schulze, who was a Fettesian, will bring the 1908 match to the memory of some. Scotland had a couple of new halves, J. Robertson and A. L. Wade. Robertson was from the Clydesdale, a good Glasgow club of the open class, which had had some prosperous times, but which passed off the active list a few years later. Hugh Martin and K. G. Macleod made a dangerous scoring pair in the three-quarter line. Martin was slightly built, very quick on his feet, and not easily tackled when he was darting for the line. Martin played again the following year at Richmond, when Scotland repeated the Inverleith score of three goals and a try, and singularly England obtained two scores on both occasions. K. G. Macleod's all-too-brief career had finished, and W. E. Kyle, who had been in International teams from 1902, was playing his last game against England.

The 1910 match represents one of the minor landmarks in the Anglo-Scottish series. With the exception of the 1912 game, Scotland was not again successful until the present year. In the game of 1910 those who saw J. G. Birkett saw the repetition of the part played by another huge English three-quarter, W. N. Bolton, away back in 1883. Scotland was well beaten, and of the English backs I thought none contributed more to his side's success than the Oxonian scrum half, A. L. H. Gotley. The duties

pertaining to the position had by this time become more exactly defined. The Watsonians were demonstrating its efficacy in highly specialised form in club football. Indeed, the Watsonian players were providing a public problem. The Union Committee could not see their way to play the lot, and did not know very well how to separate them. J. Pearson had played against England the previous season, and his club companion, A. W. Angus, joined him in the game under notice; but without their club halves, or a pair playing their style of game, the best could not be obtained from the Watsonian centres. The effect was seen the following season at Twickenham, where E. Milroy and J. Y. Henderson gave a fine demonstration of up-to-date half-back play; but again the Union hesitated, and stopping half-way, rejected the Watsonian centres, Pearson and Angus, and in all probability threw away an excellent chance of winning the match. As it was, England got home by the odd score. The Scottish wings, W. R. Sutherland and R. F. Simson, were good, but the centres, S. Steyn and G. Cunningham, were handicapped by want of intimate knowledge of the moves of the half-backs. We are now practically treating of current football. Carl Ogilvy played full-back in that game, and the forwards all bore familiar names, J. M. B. Scott, C. D. Stuart, G. M. Frew, J. C. M'Callum, and D. M. Bain among them. Simson was the son of an old Fettesian and Edinburgh Academical who had assisted C. Reid in the spade-work of team building.

W. R. Sutherland was a bright and brilliant product of Hawick football.

The 1912 match is the game won by C. M. Usher. W. R. Sutherland and his Hawick club companion, W. Burnet, with A. W. Angus and J. G. Will, were in the three-quarter line, and F. H. Turner came into the forwards. Adrian Stoop, J. G. Birkett, and R. W. Poulton were in the English back division. It was not a particularly brilliant International display, but those of the two following years were very keen matches. There was little or nothing between the countries at this time, and England's run of successes inflates the difference.

Scotland had a very good team in 1913, and if the forwards had only been able to gain possession of the ball in the scrums England's bare one try would not have won the match. That one fault was the undoing of the Scottish forwards. C. M. Usher, J. M. B. Scott, F. H. Turner, and D. M. Bain had more brain and power among them than the usual present-day pack. England's backs were continually in possession of the ball, and W. R. Sutherland, J. B. Sweet, and W. M. Wallace had much tackling to keep the Englishmen out. Sweet, a Glasgow High School wing three-quarter, came into the team as a substitute. He was fast enough to keep pace with C. N. Lowe, and safe enough in his tackling to keep this very dangerous English scorer in subjection. By a hairbreadth Sutherland missed getting the equalising try, and by a neck-or-nothing tackle Wallace prevented Smallwood adding to the

SCOTLAND *v.* ENGLAND, 1914

At Inverleith, Edinburgh.

English score. A couple of stones more weight would have made Wallace a great back.

A multitude of reasons could be adduced for assigning a special niche to the match of 1914. As the last to precede the war, it was the last occasion upon which many notable players took part in football. Fittingly, their careers finished in a blaze of glory, and I do not think that in all the long series a more brilliantly spectacular game has been played between the two countries.

The balance between two particularly strong back divisions lay with the English centre three-quarters, R. W. Poulton-Palmer and J. H. D. Watson, and but that Watson was primarily an individualist England would not have won. As a matter of fact, the English Union had previously rejected Watson on that very point.

An example of perfect machine work was revealed between the Scottish halves, E. Milroy, who, in technical terms, reversed the engine at an unexpected moment, and T. C. Bowie, who responded almost automatically. All that was asked of J. G. Will was, as the saying is, to 'deliver the goods' the machine had turned out. But how seldom a machine works to such perfection!

It is very difficult to decide whether England's advantage over Scotland, since the resumption in 1920, is due to more rapid recovery or to Scotland having struck one of those barren periods that have occurred at intervals in all the countries. A comparison of Scottish forward divisions in the years

immediately preceding the war with the packs that have represented Scotland since the resumption suggests that the personal level is not quite so high now as it was then. It almost looks as if the automatic style of scrummaging and the over-emphasised subordination of forward play to that of the backs, is producing a standard pattern of forward of inferior and limited personal attainments. Dribbling and tackling will never be eliminated from the game. The absence of these qualities in the work of the Scottish forwards in recent years has allowed England to claim an advantage by exercise of the inherent and traditional inclinations of the English forward for hand-work supplemented by a certain amount of tactical manœuvring, generally in the interests of his backs.

In back play the comparison in spite of results has not been so unfavourable as to account for repeated failures of the Scottish teams. England has been fortunate in the possession of a pair of half-backs like Kershaw and Davies, and will be doubly fortunate if she can replace them within a short space of time. The best of the Scottish half-back productions during these years have been W. E. Bryce and A. T. Sloan. The reputation of the Glasgow Academical pair, J. B. Nelson and H. Waddell, is still in the making. The best wing three-quarter that has played for either country since the war is G. B. Crole, and the best in full-backs the Heriot's man, D. Drysdale, though I do not think he is true to type, and bears more resemblance

to the elder and greater Bancroft, the Welshman, than to the accepted Scottish model. Highly qualified International centre three-quarters are very rare. G. P. S. Macpherson has been the best native product. A. L. Gracie was self-condemned in his repeated failures to utilise the speed of E. H. Liddell, the fastest man that has yet played football, and one that had more than a mere sprinter's knowledge of the game. E. Maclaren, the young Royal High School centre, promised well while in Edinburgh, but seemed to lose ground when he went to London. I think J. M. Bannerman the nearest approach to the higher-type pre-war forward we have had since the resumption. The field of selection is now much wider, as exemplified by Selkirk, whose first cap was W. E. Bryce in 1922, while W. G. Dobson in the same season headed the list for Heriot's. I am not overlooking Kirkcaldy and Kilmarnock. Kirkcaldy's honours are by no means a ' puir show,' and who would have dreamt of the existence of International men in ' auld Killie.' The tide of England's successes has at length been stemmed, and between the opening of Murrayfield and the acquisition of the International championship events have combined to render 1925 a memorable year in the history of the game.

CHAPTER VI

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Scotland *v.* Ireland

The Irish series was instituted in 1877. Football in Ireland was then in its infancy, and the consolidated strength of Scotland with so many experienced International players presented a force much too potent for the Irishmen. The game was played at Belfast, and in the compilation of the Scottish score of 6 goals and 4 tries, E. J. Pocock of the Wanderers 'dazzled' both his opponents and the spectators. Pocock was a clever runner and scorer, nothing more, and the conditions favoured him admirably. A few weeks later he became a drag on the Scottish team at Raeburn Place. Malcolm Cross, R. C. Mackenzie, and J. R. Hay Gordon were in the Scottish back division, and R. W. Irvine, J. H. S. Graham, D. H. Watson, and A. G. Petrie in the forwards, so that it was a very strong Scottish side that opposed the Irishmen. The following season Ireland was organising, and was too busy fighting over the details to find time for International matches.

The presence of three Edinburgh Institution players, N. T. Brewis, W. H. Masters, and D. Somer-

ville, in the Scottish team which beat Ireland in Belfast by 3 goals and 2 tries in 1879 was a sign of the times.

One of the goals was dropped by Malcolm Cross from a wide pass by Graham. It was a habit with Graham, even when dribbling, to pick up the ball if the way were closed, and throw it out.

The match produced an 'incident' when the Irish team protested against Irvine and Cross handling the ball while it was being carried out from a try. The Scottish contention was that as the handling took place over the line, where the ball was dead, it was immaterial who or how many touched it. The matter was referred to the supreme authority of the time, the English Rugby Union, and Scotland lost the case.

The matches with Ireland prior to 1880 were largely of a missionary character. Up to that time, and during a goodly number of years later, Irish football struggled along under many disadvantages not felt by the other countries. Scotland was fed from a fertile nursery in the public schools; England had a wide club and University area to draw upon; and from the beginning Welsh Rugby was wholeheartedly supported as the people's game. There were four or five clubs in Dublin, about a similar number in Belfast, and teams at Trinity College (Dublin), Queen's College (Belfast), and Queen's College (Cork). It might almost be said that until about the opening of the present century the supply of players in Ireland was very precarious.

The first International match won by Ireland was that against Scotland in 1881. In more respects than that it was a memorable affair. Defeat was preceded by rebellion at home that at the time looked serious, but, viewed through a length of years, the matter is not without its comic aspect. In selecting J. H. S. Graham to captain the team, the Union were alleged to have passed an affront on A. G. Petrie, who was Graham's senior. The Royal High School section blazed up in their wrath and were supported 'on principle' by the Institution and the University. The boys met in crowds in 'Daish's,' the 'Albert' and the other howffs, and let loose their indignation on the Union.

It did not require a great deal to ignite a fire. They were inflammable material, and cared less for Petrie's wrongs than they did for a good row. Representatives from clubs as far remote as Thurso and Earlston were said to have attended the indignation meetings, but it need not be assumed that the country was agitated from end to end. It was easy to procure a mandate for a local supporter who was indignant enough to deserve it.

R. S. F. Henderson, the Edinburgh University captain, made himself very prominent in his antagonism and hostility towards the Union. As a player, he was never highly valued in Scotland. He was too stolid and too lumbering for Scottish ideas of the requirements of a forward. Later on, when he went south, he was selected for England, although he was a Scotsman. When the storm over

Petrie came to a head, it was abated by the acceptance of a compromise that in future International teams should choose their own captain.

Scotland travelled with a number of substitutes and lost the match, but it was by no means a weak team, as the names will show: T. A. Begbie; W. E. Maclagan, N. J. Finlay, and R. C. Mackenzie; J. A. Campbell and P. W. Smeaton; J. H. S. Graham, C. Reid, J. B. Brown, D. Y. Cassels, D. M'Cowan, A. Walker, J. Junor, R. Allan, and R. Robb. Tom Begbie failed with the kick at goal straight in front of the posts from a try scored by Graham, who had been placed onside by the ball from Maclagan's drop touching one of the Irish players.

In the second half, J. C. Bagot, a half-back, dropped the goal that won Ireland's first International victory. Naturally the result evoked a demonstration of enthusiasm. In quoting 'Jakes' M'Carthy's description, I should not advise any one to take it too literally. 'Jakes' was a well-known Irish writer on Rugby. This is what he wrote in regard to the incident:—

'M'Mullin, of Cork, making a miscatch, big Jock Graham, who was leaning against the goal post rubbing his shin, leisurely limped over and touched the ball down. Could we win? Surely we deserved it, as we had been on the Scottish line all day. The spectators became hysterical. On the line, the ball was heeled out to "Merry" Johnstone, who, amidst vociferous profanity, missed his pick

up. Campbell, darting on him, kicked the ball into touch. Before the Scotsmen had time to line up, "Barney" Hughes threw the ball out to Taylor, who, quicker than you could think, tossed it to Bagot, who dropped it over the Caledonian goal. Such frantic excitement as these lightning movements evoked was never seen. Men, women, and children embraced each other indiscriminately.'

Inherently weak as the Irish teams originally were, it was on a rare occasion they travelled with fewer than half a dozen substitutes. Yet even in the early times they put up some strenuous fights and produced some great matches. Until comparatively recent years the Irish Union have depended almost wholly upon their forwards. There are those who appear to think that Irish forward play is all dash and impetuosity. Far from that, I make bold to say that some of the Irish forwards have been the most highly skilled exponents of the game. By a strange coincidence, within the last few months, two of our own Scottish International players, and two of our most distinguished players at that, have each named the Irishman, V. C. Lefanu, as the finest dribbler they ever saw.

Lefanu played in a great match at Raeburn Place in 1888. Scotland won by one goal, scored in the course of a run which was started by A. R. Don Wauchope and taken up by H. J. Stevenson, who, as usual, cut out a path in the defence, and left his wing, D. J. M'Farlan, a clear course to the line. That was all the scoring in as grim a struggle as

ever took place between two representative teams. I recollect Lefanu working every ounce in the scrummage and handicapped by a damaged nose.

There was a big-boned, powerful Derry man, M'Laughlin, playing quarter for Ireland. In the second half, he broke clean away and bore down on H. F. Chambers, the Scottish back, who was a clever player and a good tackler, but not over powerful, and I am sure that if M'Laughlin had deviated a little in his course, Chambers might as well have tried to tackle a horse. M'Laughlin crashed into the Scottish back and was stopped, but Chambers had to be carried off the field.

We had a fine match with Ireland at Raeburn Place in 1892, when Scotland won by a try scored by the Merchistonian forward, J. N. Millar, a right good player. Lefanu played in that game, as did also C. V. Rooke, who was a true winger and the real father of wing forwards. S. Lee, a tall fellow, was their centre three-quarter, and they had in a half-back, T. Thornhill, a dangerous man who ran with a swerve, and was difficult to tackle.

Because he would not be converted to the ' wide passing ' doctrine then in vogue, H. J. Stevenson was playing full-back during these times. The irony of it all was that even from that position he had the finest run in the game, and all but cleared the whole Irish defence. Modern players will have a difficulty in realising that short passing could have been condemned under any circumstances.

Yet it is a fact that ' wide passing ' was a virulent mania, pursued with the wild devotion that characterised the apostleship of the aesthetic cult, another cerebral disturbance of the times.

Before the Irish Universities obtained their present status the number of Irish students attending the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow was very large. In Edinburgh they formed quite a colony. W. J. N. Davis, R. D. Stokes, J. Nash, and T. M. Donovan, all Irish International men, played together in Edinburgh University forward division. A little later H. Stevenson was one of the finest three-quarters that ever played for Edinburgh University. R. Morrow, the Tristram of Ireland, and L. M. Magee (Edinburgh Wanderers), who captained the Irish team on the occasion of the opening of Inverleith in 1899, were also Edinburgh students. There were many more, and many fine players among them, in both Edinburgh and Glasgow.

H. Stevenson played in the Powderhall International of 1897, which was rather an eventful function in its way. T. M. Scott (Melrose) won the match by his place-kicking, converting a try scored by T. Scott (Langholm), and kicking a penalty goal against Ireland's try. It was in this match that Gwynne, the Irish centre, ' punted a goal,' and it was on this occasion the redoubtable Mike Ryan made his first acquaintance with Scottish football.

When he came again in 1899 he brought his bigger but milder brother, J. Ryan, with him. They said, of the two, ' Jack was the stronger man,

but Mike had more of the " divil " in him.' Some of our own forwards, such as W. M. C. M'Ewan and H. O. Smith, were not altogether unsuited to ' Irish football,' and there was some lusty work in the forward play.

It was all fair and above-board, but L. M. Magee had to keep reminding his forwards in the second half when Ireland was holding a fairly comfortable lead that they would lose it if they did not concentrate more on the main question. The inauspicious opening of the new field and the Scottish defeat were accepted ungrudgingly, for it was really a fine Irish team that won, and the game had formed an entertaining compound of good football and legitimate ' divershun.' I recollect one of John Tod's Watsonian forwards remarking, ' I haven't enjoyed a game so much for years.' From the very earliest days this spirit appeared to attach itself to the Irish match. The concern approaching anxiety over the English result or the bite and sting of a Welsh victory have never entered the Scottish relationship with Ireland. Of course, apart from all racial and social affinities, it must not be forgotten that from the times of the ' Dispute ' in 1884 Scotland and Ireland have formed a spontaneous and natural alliance that has done more to preserve the game in its present form than is generally known. At the time of the Northern Union disruption English opinion on the adoption of professionalism was divided. The harvest field in Wales was ripe, but Scotland and Ireland presented an adamant

rock of amateurism, an assault on which it was futile to contemplate.

Ireland won the International championship in the year of the opening of Inverleith, and had near to spoil the record of the great Scottish team of 1901 on the same ground. Scotland was leading 9 points to 5 till close upon time, when A. W. Duncan stopped John Ryan on the goal-line, a feat which normally was not an easy one, but under the circumstances was a marvellous achievement on the part of Duncan, who had been battered and knocked about, and only a short time previously had been literally swept off his feet and trailed along the ground by the collar of his jersey. He hardly seemed fit to stand, much less to stop a man like Ryan, but he did it, and who knows but that the 1901 invincible team and the Scottish triple crown may have depended upon that tackle by Duncan ?

In the years prior to the war Irish football was strong, if not quite reliable, but, as a matter of fact, all the countries had players in abundance, and success depended largely on striking the balance and gauging the adjustment in team construction. Basil Maclear, another prodigy from Ireland, played in a winning Irish team at Inverleith in 1905. Maclear must have been one of the strongest men who ever played football. He was a good player, too, both in attack and defence. It was no joke to have to stop him, and defending on his own goal-line he was positively dangerous. The loose joint in his armour lay in his handling, which

was not reliable. Richard Lloyd appeared in the Irish picture later on. He was clever and he had all the details of the game at his finger ends. Even his dropped goals were calculated to evoke the distinctive comment of approval: 'Oh, pretty!' He dropped a lofty one with deliberate and calculated ease in the 1913 match, when a good game was spoiled by the sprinting of the Tasmanian-London Hospitals Scot, A. W. Stewart. Two years previously, Lloyd was in a first-rate Irish team which beat Scotland and England but lost to Wales. That was the year when Scotland, in her plenitude of players, went through a stock of four full-backs, twelve three-quarters, five halves, and sixteen forwards, and did not win a match.

Since the resumption Irish football has not gone above a fair normal standard, very much resembling the position of things in Scotland. During the present season both countries have moved upwards, and with Scotland in first place, and Ireland sharing second, the balance of the countries looks nearer restoration than it has done since 1918.

CHAPTER VII

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Scotland *v.* Wales

Wales was the last of the four countries to come into Rugby football. In the spring of 1881, or ten years after the commencement of the Scotland and England series, the Welshmen were beaten at Blackheath by 5 goals and 8 tries. The first match between Scotland and Wales was played in 1883 at Raeburn Place, and was won by Scotland by 3 goals to 1 goal. A comparison of these results would appear to suggest improvement, but, with the exception of a few isolated successes, Welsh football travelled through a vale of darkness for the next ten years, and it was not until 1893 that a Welsh success at Raeburn Place served the dual purpose of establishing Wales as a rival equally dangerous as England, and at the same time demonstrating in a very practical manner the efficacy of the new thing that had come into football—the four-half-back formation.

In the evolution of the game the four-half-back line stands as the Welsh contribution to Rugby. Its inception has been attributed to an inspiration on the part of A. J. Gould, the great Welsh player,

who, as the apostle of the new doctrine, had to preach and labour long before he saw his work accomplished. As early as 1886 Wales had tried the line of four against Scotland, but, finding the reduction in the number of forwards dangerous, Gould, who had started in the half-back line, was transferred to the full-back position, whence the occupant went into the scrummage. Wales had a horror of Scottish forwards.

In most of the earlier games, popular opinion of the Welsh teams was that they could make a stand for about half an hour, and that they then ' cracked up.' Scotland won the first match in tolerably easy fashion. The pitch was hard and treacherous after frost, and very early in the game J. G. Walker twisted a knee and was out of football for the remainder of the season. Scotland played two half-backs, W. E. Maclagan and D. J. M'Farlan, behind A. R. Don Wauchope and W. Sorley Brown. D. Y. Cassels was captain, and had with him in the pack C. Reid, T. Ainslie, W. A. Walls, and J. B. Brown among a good all-round division.

The next season at Newport A. G. G. Asher dropped a goal and T. Ainslie scored a try. J. P. Veitch, John Tod, and W. A. Peterkin were included in a strong Scottish team, which contained Asher and A. R. Don Wauchope at quarter and W. E. Maclagan, D. J. M'Farlan, and G. C. Lindsay at half-back. After a draw on a muddy pitch at Glasgow, where the Welshmen were taking no risks, the series up to 1893 continued in a somewhat con-

ventional groove, with the exception of a couple of remarkable occurrences in 1887 and 1888.

In the 1887 match Scotland ran up the enormous score of 4 goals and 8 tries. I have a clear recollection of that game, which was remarkable for the flights, successful and unsuccessful, of G. C. Lindsay, who in all crossed the Welsh line on five occasions. I remember, too, that although the team contained C. W. Berry and other reputed expert place-kickers, many easy attempts ended in failure, and as a last resort A. W. Cameron (Watsonians) was called up from full-back, and he, as others had done before him, ' sent down a wide.'

G. C. Lindsay's performance remains as an individual Scottish International record. It is of more merit than modern performances in so far that as one of a line of three he had more to do than merely run. The passing game was well established, but it was rarely worked to the advantage of the wing players as it is done in the present line of four.

In the Loretto team which won the championship of 1881-82, Lindsay was the schoolboy back of his year. He went into the Oxford University fifteen as a notable addition to the scoring strength of the team, and was fast enough to be chosen as one of the representatives in the hundred yards race against Cambridge. Speed was only an adjunct to his football. It was his vivacity, cleverness, and dash that contributed most to his effectiveness. He had no defence. On principle he did not believe in it. A confirmed heretic on the defensive theory, he went

out and out for attack. From an opponent's point he was a most dangerous man. Spectators considered him an entertainment and a beautiful player.

To transform a defeat of 4 goals and 8 tries into a victory the following year represented a most unusual occurrence, partaking of the nature of a convulsion. Following the debacle at Raeburn Place, Wales won the 1888 match at Newport by a try scored by T. J. Pryce Jenkins (London Welsh) from a run remarkable in that a goodly part of its course was in touch. Some of the Scottish defenders allowed him to go, and although his tracks were quite discernible, he got his try.

Scotland were not so fortunate. Five times the ball was touched down for a try over the Welsh line, and on each occasion it was disallowed. They were still fighting adversity and hoping that a sixth appeal on numeric grounds, if on no other, could not be withstood when time was called. That was the first Welsh triumph over Scotland.

The coming of the four three-quarters, or half-backs, as they were then termed, marks one of the epochs in the history of the game. Wales had been experimenting with the system, but until England were beaten at Dewsbury in 1890 the departure had not awakened more than a passive or academic interest in the other countries, and its adoption and general acceptance among the Welshmen themselves still hung in the balance.

Before dealing with the 1893 Welsh International, which clinched the argument as far as Scotland is

concerned, I might perhaps quote some extracts from the *Scottish Athletic Journal*, in a discussion in which I happened to be personally concerned, and which will convey some conception of the state of the Rugby mind on the subject at that time.

A. R. Don Wauchope wrote: 'I have always been a strong opponent of this "new" game. . . . Beat them well forward, and you have the game won. Many forwards play as if the half-backs (three-quarters) were the only real players on the side; consequently they never do their own share of the play. Swing the scrummage, then it is that the backs get a real chance, and then it is that the opposing backs are run over by the forwards. If our Scottish forwards will play their own good game I should not have any doubt. Forwards who are continually trying to play for their backs will invariably be beaten.'

C. Reid, who at the time of writing had given up playing, characteristically summed up the situation thus: 'Give me a forward team like that we had at Manchester in 1882, and I don't care how many three-quarter backs you have; we could go through them. We dribbled very close, and one backed up the other so well they could not get away, and they had fliers like Bolton against us. Dribbling and tackling are the characteristics of the Scottish forwards, and on them we depend to win.'

The opinion of R. G. MacMillan, one of the finest forwards who ever played for Scotland, was: 'As

to the influence of the Welsh system on Scottish forwards, I consider it will be deteriorating, as they will lose all their old dash. I don't say there should be no heeling out, but as the game stands at present the attention of the forwards is entirely given up to it. The older players may be able to stick to the old genuine game which they learned at the schools, but the younger ones will not be taught to put down their heads and shove, and will shirk and become loafers.'

H. T. O. Leggatt, the famous Watsonian forward, said: 'My opinion of the four-half-back system generally is that it is much showier, and, therefore, more attractive to the spectators. The passing is easily spoiled when the tackling is determined and vigorous. I prefer the Scottish style, undoubtedly, for this substantial reason: The Watsonians, who play essentially a Scottish game, played, under unequal conditions, the strongest Newport fifteen, who are acknowledged to be *facile princeps* in the four-three-quarter game, and morally beat them. I think the Scottish forwards would lose their strong points, rushes and footwork, if they adopted the Welsh system.'

The Newport team referred to contained seven International players, and was regarded as the perfection of the Welsh game, and invincible in club football. Reference to the Watsonian-Newport match in question will be found in its appropriate place under Club Football.

Scotland stood at the parting of the ways. On

the one hand, we had a style of play peculiarly national and Scottish, well adapted to the conditions in Scotland, and admirably suited to the temperament and upbringing of the players. Forward play was a Scottish heritage. It was Scotland's contribution to Rugby football. Even such a great exponent of back play as A. R. Don Wauchope said, 'Keep your forward play.' On the other hand, the fear of jeopardising International prospects, and the dread of being left behind in the apparent march of progress, hung like the sword of Damocles over Scotland's head.

We joined in with the mob. Whether we were right or wrong, or whether we should have stood firm and forced our game upon the others, does not admit of more than a conjectural answer, and it is too late now to turn back the hands of the clock. The only certainty about it all is that in accepting the new game Scotland bartered her heritage, and henceforward there was nothing left in Rugby that was exclusively or peculiarly Scottish.

If it had been known that proficiency in the four-three-quarter system entailed assiduous and intensive practice, coaching, rehearsal, and training, I doubt whether it would ever have obtained a footing in Scotland. During the years of 'Welsh ascendancy,' when the prospects of challenge seemed hopeless, the advantages lay far more in the preparatory functions than in the formation of the teams, and the host of great Welsh players of the time owed much of their superiority to comparison

with novices in the inner requirements of the Welsh game.

Time has dispelled that early advantage and obliterated the distinction. Schoolboys are all now trained in the Welsh game. That they are better players, or that the straining after unity and perfection of combination has not had a deteriorating effect on the individual, even so far as self-reliance is concerned, are questions of a debatable character. To all who remember the old Scottish forward game the accuracy of the prognostications dreading deterioration of the forward play will appear remarkable.

In the demonstration of 1893 the Scotsmen were not well placed for a critical test. All round, the team were rather under than over the normal strength, and, owing to an unusually long spell of frost, the players were not in good physical condition. The backs—A. W. Cameron; D. D. Robertson, Gregor MacGregor, and J. J. Gowans; and R. C. Greig and W. Wotherspoon—compared unfavourably with many former Scottish back divisions. R. G. MacMillan, H. T. O. Leggatt, W. B. Cownie, G. T. Neilson, W. R. Gibson, H. F. Menzies, A. Dalgleish, T. L. Hendry, and J. N. Millar formed a strong pack, whose failure to beat the Welsh forwards, playing a man less, was largely attributable to want of condition.

No scoring occurred in the first half of the game, and general expectations were to the effect that the Welsh team would 'crack up' in the second half.

Instead of that, the play opened out, and we had the finest exhibition of sustained handling, passing, and running that had been seen in an International match. The Welsh wings were occupied by two fast men, W. M. M'Cutcheon and N. Biggs; A. J. Gould and his brother, G. H. Gould, were in the centre; and F. C. Parfitt and P. Phillips were the 'quarters.' The younger Gould and M'Cutcheon worked out a try very prettily. A. J. Gould was playing clever football in the centre, and controlling the back play thoroughly. Another passing movement brought a try to Biggs. Bancroft dropped a goal, and the cup was full to overflowing when M'Cutcheon ran round and laid the ball behind the posts.

The Scottish forwards had worked hard and seemed to be denied a good try scored by H. F. Menzies (West of Scotland). But they had a heart-breaking experience, and even when they bore down on Bancroft in a body and seemed sure to smother him, that acrobatic member in most unorthodox fashion met the falling ball with his foot ere it reached the ground, and kicked it back over the heads of the advancing mass.

I can still hear the sharp ejaculation of a Merchistonian bystander: 'That 's not football,' and the equally prompt Welsh rejoinder: 'No, that 's Banky.' That was the older and the great Bancroft. His play did not conform to Scottish ideas of the requirements of full-back position. Still he was wonderfully clever, and in nothing more than in

the manner in which he initiated or participated in an attack. Two years later, Scotland, leading by a goal, were being hard pressed, when W. M. C. M'Ewan made his mark almost on the line. His lofty punt was caught before finding touch by the waiting Bancroft, who made a straight line into the centre, whence he dropped a goal. In a rather unsatisfactory match the numeric difference in value between the two goals was all that separated the teams. A. J. Gould, when it was all over, was an annoyed, if not an angry man. The pitch, after frost, was hardly fit for play. Before they had long started, the clatter of feet sounded very ominous. When the result hung in the balance, Gould saw a possible chance of winning the match and darted through a gap in the Scottish three-quarter line. Thus far he got and no farther, for in the next stride or two, in endeavouring to change his course, the slippery ground took the feet from him. There is no question as to 'Monk' Gould being a great player. I do not know that he could have stood up in a hurricane and sustained attack as W. E. Maclagan and H. J. Stevenson would have done, though his abilities extended much beyond the limit of the 'winning game' type of player. Years afterwards, when I heard Welshmen extol Gwynne Nichols as the greatest of all Welsh three-quarters, I thought they could never have seen or known Gould. Three years later than the match referred to, the famous Welshman became the storm centre in an International convulsion which interrupted

the Scottish series of matches with Wales during the years 1897 and 1898. The trouble arose through the largeness of the public subscription raised, and the form of the testimonial proposed to be presented, by the Welsh football community to Gould on his retirement. The sum, approaching £1000, was regarded as too large, and the investment of the money, in the purchase of a dwelling-house, could not be reconciled with the retention of Gould's status as an amateur. Scotland, as usual, was blamed for raising the dust, but if the fabric of amateurism is to be kept clean, the use of the broom is not to be hindered by the risk of soiled fingers.

The further story of Scottish relationship with Wales differs from that with the other countries in so far that while Scotland appeared to be meeting England and Ireland on conditions of comparative equality, a period dating from about the beginning of the century and continuing until the year of the outbreak of war witnessed such an eclipse of Scottish football as to engender a feeling almost of hopelessness of ever attaining the standard of the Welshmen. England was no more immune, and scarcely less was Ireland. When in 1906 Wales alone, of the four countries, beat the 'All Blacks,' Welsh football appeared to have reached the peak of perfection, and her rivals could do little more than endeavour to assimilate her teaching and copy the model that had been set up. These were the years of 'Welsh ascendancy.' I do not think

that this predominance was due to the birth in Wales of a race of phenomenal players. Rather was it the product of an intensive system of practice, preparation, and training already referred to.

After the 1901 victory, Scotland beat Wales at Inverleith in 1903 and 1907, and lost the remaining matches up to the war interval. The position is even more emphasised when it is realised that until 1921 Scotland had not won in Wales since 1892.

Wales has been an impoverished country since the resumption, and Scotland has been rapidly making up leeway. The flicker of a revival presented itself in 1922 when Wales routed England at Cardiff by the strength of her forward play, for about the first time in history. Immediately the cry arose that Wales had introduced something new and more potent than anything hitherto known in that department of the game. Scottish scepticism was justified in a draw snatched by Wales at the last gasp at Inverleith, and since then the home section have witnessed one Welsh debacle in 1924 reminiscent of the old times of the 'eighties, and has seen Welsh national football descend to quite the primitive level. That it will revive, and soon, may be hoped in the interests of Rugby in general. There is no manner of doubt that the game, as played at present, is the Welsh model moulded and polished on the base of the four-three-quarter system introduced by Wales early in the 'nineties.

CHAPTER VIII

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

Scotland *v.* France

Scottish intercourse with France began in 1898, when a Parisian team played representative sides of Edinburgh and Glasgow in February of that year. The Edinburgh game was played at Myreside, and though the Frenchmen lost by a goal and three tries to a try, they revealed possession of a good conception of the game, and some of their backs showed strong running powers.

Glasgow, with a stronger team than Edinburgh had turned out, beat the Parisians by 19 points to 3, but the game was spoiled by the condition of the ground, which was frost-bound and barely playable.

It is hardly to be expected that the International series with France, which opened in 1910, would encroach upon the more intimate rivalry subsisting between Scotland and the other home countries, or that the French event would substitute in importance any one of the old time-established fixtures with England, Ireland, and Wales. The French match has earned its status in the International sphere, and Frenchmen are worthy rivals and welcome visitors, but the results bear a detached

value not quite reconcilable with that of the other events. Since 1910 Scotland has lost twice in France and once at home. The defeats in Paris carry nothing catastrophic.

It is a long, hard journey to Paris in the dead of winter, and it just requires a little weakness or falling off on the part of the visitors and a corresponding burst of fervour and enthusiasm on the part of the Frenchmen to carry them through. The defeat of Scotland at Inverleith in 1921 is another matter. There, the Frenchmen won on their merits, and while there was nothing out of the way in their forward work generally, they were strong in the essential of obtaining possession of the ball in the scrums, and their back play was in better style than that of Scotland, whose three-quarter line, I. J. Kilgour, A. E. Thomson, A. L. Gracie, and J. H. Carmichael, was of poor International class. In contrast, there was a good deal to admire in the work of the French halves, E. Billae and A. Piteu. The full-back, J. Clement, was a clever player, and little R. Got, on the wing, won for himself an exclusive crowd of admirers. Scotland took no credit out of that match. France won again by a couple of points in a high-scoring match at Paris last year, and though the Frenchmen this season could not contend with the combination and running of the Oxford line of three-quarters, they brought with them a ' stand-off ' half-back, Y. du Manoir, who even under adverse conditions looked a player of exceptional ability.

CHAPTER IX

ANTIPODEAN VISITORS

VISITING teams from the Southern Hemisphere have played in Scotland on four occasions. The first of these was the Maoris, a combination composed principally of New Zealand aborigines, who in the course of a British tour played their only Scottish engagement at Hawick in November 1888. The local club, then very strong, provided the opposition and proved themselves quite a match for the visitors, who won by a goal to a try. Play was conducted in a storm of wind and rain. The Hawick team, under the captaincy of Dr. Wade, included the elder W. Burnet at full-back and J. Jackson, forward. W. Warbeck, the full-back, was one of the most conspicuous of the visitors.

No team left a more permanent impression than the New Zealand 'All Black' side of 1905-6. Their football was high quality, and their physique and the personal ability of the players rendered them a formidable playing combination. In the match at Inverleith, on 18th November 1905, the Scottish team all but scored a success and were leading by a point until within five minutes of the close of play, when by something approaching hurricane play the New Zealanders ran in a couple of tries

before time had expired. In response to the New Zealand ' five-eighths ' position Scotland played an extra man, L. L. Greig, behind the scrummage. K. G. Macleod, making his first appearance in International football, saved a score by exercise of his speed when the ball was kicked over the Scottish full-back's head. The game was played on a treacherous ground recovering from frost. As a general impression the play did not reveal anything necessary or desirable of introduction to the Scottish style of game.

Of the two South-African representative matches, that of 1906 at Glasgow is memorable for the great work of K. G. Macleod, and for a Scottish victory by 6 points to nil. In the return visit, in 1912, of the South Africans, Scotland was well beaten at Inverleith by 16 points to nil. G. P. Morkel, at full-back, J. A. Stegmann, a strong running wing three-quarter, left a strong impression of their powers, but it was a good all-round team, and of the Scottish backs the Hawick three-quarter, W. R. Sutherland, alone compared well with the South-African players behind the scrummage.

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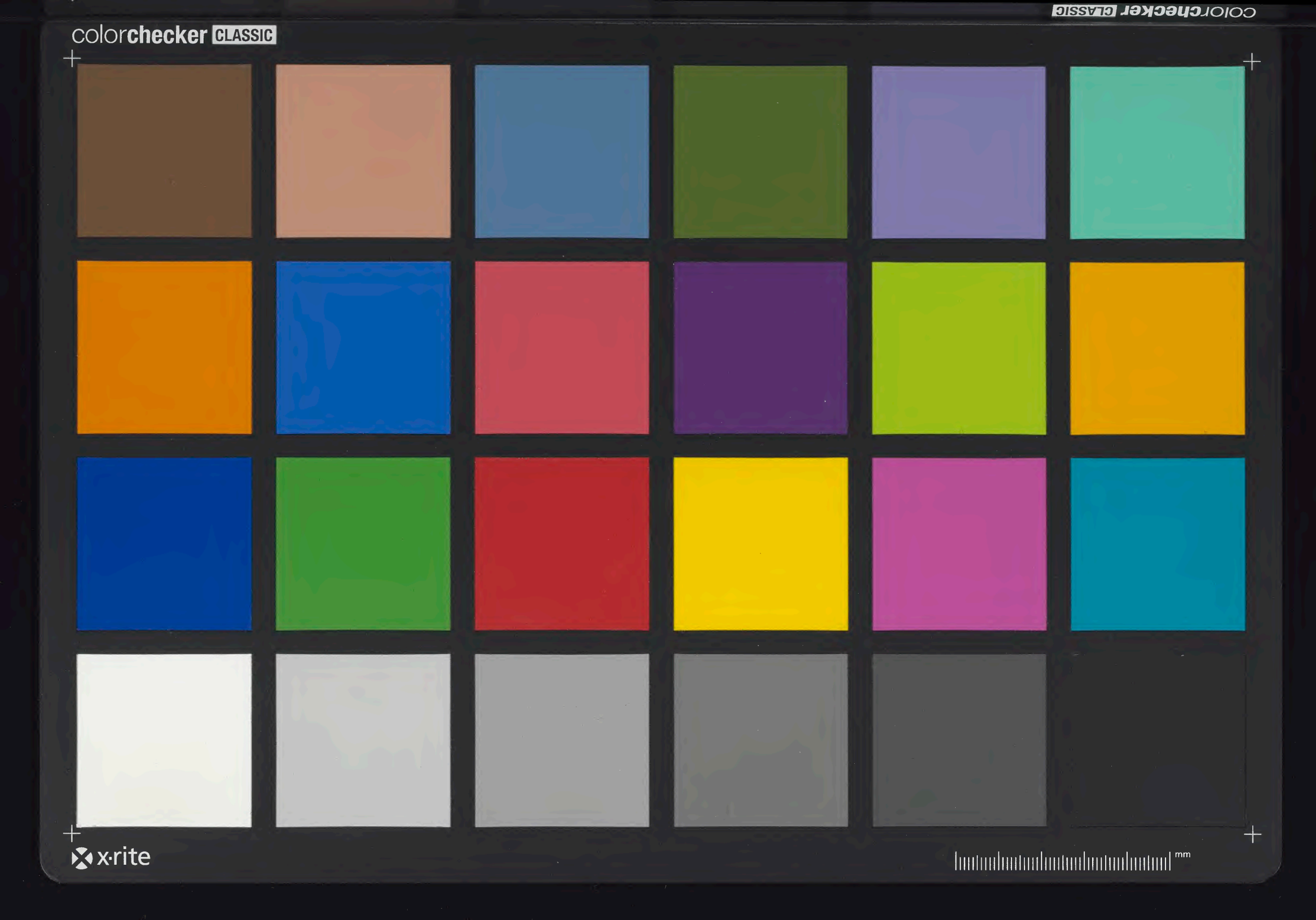
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