

SOME OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES

*" Mark my footsteps, good my page,
Tread thou in them boldly."*

GREATLY daring, we have chosen thirteen players for this series. All periods are represented, and save in two cases, those selected attained international distinction. Junor and Adamson remained uncrowned; you shall read of the one's misfortune, for his kicking alone the other might with safety have been honoured.

Tristram, with but two County appearances, will be a bone of contention with the pundits; unrepentant we remain, as surely as Tristram will remain always a personality.

It falls to the lot of few men to have commanded their Country's chosen five of these knew that honour.

A dozen others? Yes, maybe several dozen. The choice lay with us, you may now make yours. Here are our selected for Valhalla. The meagre biographies which follow are proffered with all due humility; we ask only that sight be not lost of the difficulties encountered in obtaining suitable "copy."

P. B. Junor	S. Oughtred
C. H. Newman	Y. Adamson
H. B. Tristram	W. Elliot
W. Yiend	J. T. Taylor
F. H. R. Alders 1873-80	E. Chapman
R. F. Oakes	A. J. Dingle

C. D. Aarvold

PATRICK BRUCE JUNOR. (Half-back or quarter-back, 1873 - ground - and Academicals, Houghton, Durham City.

A Scotsman, needless to say, and assuming H. H. Almond (the famous Headmaster of Loretto) to be on sound ground – and there appears to be no reason for doubting him - in his assertion that: " Alexander Crombie of Thornton Castle, Kincardineshire may fairly be said to be the father of the game in Scotland, we feel then that accounts as between Durham and Scotia are about balanced. For Crombie learnt the game at Durham School and upon returning North established the Edinburgh Academy Club and became its first Chairman. This was about 1855, and we believe the Academy to be the oldest club in Scotland. The reverse side of the ledger is our indebtedness to Scotland in sending us P. B. Junor, one of the foundation members of Glasgow Academicals R.F.C.

Whilst residing in Edinburgh, to which city he had removed early in 1873, Junor was chosen to play for his country, against England, at

Glasgow in March of that year, but was prevented from so doing by pressure of business. This must have been a very bitter pill to him for he was fated never to receive a further invitation. In those early days once a man had crossed the border, be he ever so brilliant, he was generally overlooked when honours were being distributed. A point we particularly wish to stress, and thereby finally dispose of a long-standing misapprehension, is that P. B. Junor must not be confused with J. E. Junor, also of Glasgow Academicals, a famous International forward of 1876 to 1881. We understand they were relations, but " P.B." played outside the scrum.

At the end of 1873, P. B. Junor accepted an appointment with a brewery at Houghton, and became the undoubted founder of the club of that name which subsequently gave twenty-two players to the County, eighteen of whom gained their caps during the first twelve or fifteen years of the Club's existence and can therefore safely be credited to P.B.'s sphere of influence. He moved later to Durham, where he captained the City Club. In 1883 we find him at Spennymoor; here again he displayed his genius as an organizer by founding the Tudhoe Club from amongst the iron-workers and miners of that district.

That he was a very brilliant player there is no doubt, and we have the assurance of his contemporaries, W. A. Kidson, R. H. Mallett, Arthur Hill and W. F. Cross, and also of that doyen of Northumbrian and English Rugby legislators, the late William Cail, that P. B. Junor is entitled to be classed as the Father of modern Rugby in County Durham. He was a great Captain, an inspiring leader and a wonderful tactician. One who played with him states : - " He undoubtedly introduced the open game.' Previous to his coming it was a proper forward battle and the ball seldom came loose. If, more by chance than design the ball happened to reach the backs, the fellow who was lucky enough to secure it hung on till he was practically unconscious

from the friendly ' attentions of his opponents. Passing was virtually unknown, you played for your own hand and the consequences." It is alike a tribute to Junor's ability as a leader and coach, as also to the natural instincts for the game displayed by the youth of the Tudhoe Club, that within twenty years of its foundation, they turned out no less than thirty-one County players and won the Challenge Cup four times within fifteen years of their first appearing in this competition. Upon one occasion they took the field against West Hartlepool with thirteen County men in their team.

From " Paddy " Junor's hand first came that torch of inspiration and leadership without which no Rugby fifteen can ever aspire to the heights.

CHARLES HENRY NEWMAN. (Half-back, 1883-86.)

Monmouth Grammar School, Newport, Cambridge University, and North Durham.

Even down to the present year of grace (and publication) we have clear indications of what was once described as the " South Country Rugby mind "; a booklet claiming London as its home of origin, refers to the international career of C. H. Newman as of " Cambridge and Newport."

This is extremely misleading; Newman was capped ten times for Wales between 1881-87, and he was a regular playing member of the North Durham and County XV's during the years in which he won six of these caps, and incidentally, he captained Wales in all six matches.

Having achieved a "Blue " in 1882, he took Holy Orders the following year, and from 'eighty-four onwards he laboured for nearly forty years in the Diocese of Durham.

Newman was also in the Welsh team v. North of England in 1882, the year in which Wales played Ireland only in international fixtures; this match was looked upon officially as substitute international, and we are therefore in order in assuming that the subject of this sketch was unfortunate in not securing at least two further caps (v. England and Scotland), he being, we understand, an automatic choice.

C. H. Newman is classed among those who are born leaders of men; save for his University, he skippered every team for which he played; he was a magnificent tackler and a fine drop-kick; his voice is said to have urged the flagging and reproved the delinquent with equal impartiality. To him also belongs the credit of having introduced the passing game into Wales.

Although C. H. Newman was no supporter of the Association code, he readily confessed to the advantages he had gained from playing this type of football whilst still very young, and to the end he remained a strong advocate of a policy which would restrict the playing of Rugby to boys of not less than fourteen years of age.

As regards Cup-ties, he travelled yet farther along the opposition road than did even Junor, ristram and Alderson. He positively loathed them, maintaining that they : " Engender nought but what is foreign to the true principles of Rugby."

His association with A. E. Douglas at half, begun at Cambridge in 1882, was later continued on behalf of Durham County, and in the 'eighty-five-six season, these two shared with A. R. Wilson, also a " padre," the duty of working the scrums; thus we find "parsons " monopolizing the half-back positions.

Endowed by nature with every attribute of the ideal half, Newman was nothing if not versatile; equally at home amongst the "threes," he played also at full-back for Wales upon at least one occasion.

His career was full of vivid episodes and in Wales he was ranked as second only to Arthur Gould as a strategist. Reliable authorities rate him one of the greatest half-backs of Rugby, and we are assured he would have shone resplendently had his lot fallen in the days of the "fly," "stand-off" - or as the Welsh prefer it, "outside half."

His achievements place his name with those which the Rugby world cannot forget. He died in September, 1922, aged 60.

H. B. TRISTRAM. (Full-back, 1884-85.)

Loretto, Oxford University, Fettesian-Lorrettonians, Newton Abbot.

Followers of Cricket during the " 'seventies and 'eighties " are wont to dwell rapturously upon the great hitting abilities of the late C. I. Thornton; the ancient habitues of the " Scarborough Festival " point with justifiable pride to the five storeyed house in Trafalgar Square over which " C. I." Safely carted some wretched bowler.

In writing of H. B. Tristram, there is no shadow of doubt we are dealing with Thornton's Rugby-Counterpart; authoritative critics who have seen all the " class " full-backs, maintain that, for sheer length of kicking under all conditions Tristram stands alone, and length apart, we know one English selector who steadfastly asserts that Tristram remains the full-back par excellence. We can imagine a pretty close ballot when recalling such superb "last-liners " as : W. J. Bancroft, the wonderful Welshman, who appeared in every Welsh International for eleven consecutive years, George Nepia, the Apollo of the famous " 1924 All Blacks," H. T. Gamlin and W. R. Johnson of England, A. F. Marsburg and G. Morkel (Springboks), W. E. Crawford (Ireland) and D. Drysdale (Scotland).

Tristram possessed uncanny instinct in the art of positioning himself to the greatest advantage, he was a clean tackler and his handling was beyond reproach.

He played five times for England, twice for the " North " and once for the "South," and alas, but twice for Durham, the last occasion being against Cumberland at Carlisle in 1885, when he was severely injured by a kick on the head after touching down. University and other prior calls prevented his playing regularly for Durham, but there remains little doubt that the Carlisle incident - which one authority described as attributable to sheer recklessness - and further incidents when assisting "City " in a cup-tie, did nothing to quicken Tristram's love for local Rugby. Like Alderson, he has at times been somewhat outspoken concerning Cup-ties in general.

Our friends across the border, who, by the way, resented his playing for England, asserting that his Loretto associations gave to Scotland a prior claim to his services, are yet sufficiently appreciative of his great abilities as to class him "The greatest full-back England ever had." It was actually written of Tristram at the close of his career : " He never made a mistake in a representative match."

H. B. Tristram, who also played Cricket for the County, was born at Durham being the son of the Rev. H. B. Tristram, Canon of Durham and former Rector of Castle Eden. He is at present, we regret to record, in very delicate health.

"I could have better spared a better man."

WILLIAM YIEND. (Forward, 1886-94.)

A Gloucestershire man born 1860 who came to Hartlepool Rovers via Keighley. The fact of his being known in Rugby circles as "Pusher " is a pretty clear indication that he made the most of his 5 ft. 11 ins. and 14½ stone. Could a higher tribute be paid to his consistently good play and perfect physical fitness than his 35 appearances for Durham out of a possible 36, of which 32 were consecutive. It is highly probable the last was only seen of him, despite his 35 years, because business took him out of the district. He left us after giving magnificent service to Club and County, both of which he captained. During the period this book has been in course of preparation he has frequently and ever willingly drawn upon his extensive knowledge for the benefit of the authors. His very considerable achievements in representative football include six International caps, four North and one South cap. For the Rest of England v. Champion County he also appeared four times, a grand total of 15. The Rovers appreciated his services in no less than five victorious Cup-Finals, and the famous Barbarians count him one of their original members. He was no mean performer at the summer game and secured a place in Durham County Cricket XI in 1890.

F. H. R. ALDERSON. (Centre three-quarter, 1889-94.)

Durham School, Tynedale, Northumberland County, Cambridge University, Blackheath, Hartlepool Rovers, Barbarians.

In writing of Fred Alderson we are instinctively conscious of our inability to do anything approaching justice to the reputation of a man who, in his day, was considered by universal opinion to be not only the outstanding exponent of the art of centre three-quarter play, but in direct succession to P. B. Junor and C. H. Newman, as possibly the greatest strategist the County has as yet produced. He was a personality, of that there is not the slightest shadow of doubt. Not only was he a strong advocate of that revolutionary and epoch-marking innovation, the four three-quarter system," but with truth it can be asserted that almost alone was he responsible for its adoption in 1890-91 by the County Executive.

" F.H.R.A.," born at Hartford, Northumberland, in 1867, was initiated into the game at Durham School, where as a foretaste of what was to follow, we find him a member of the 1885 school team that vanquished a Hartlepool Rovers side which included six County players. Proceeding to Cambridge in 1886, he played half-back for Clare College that year. In February, 1887—still at half—he assisted Northumberland to beat Durham and also played for Tynedale when they won the Northumberland Cup.

The much-coveted " Blue " was gained as a wing three-quarter in 1887, and in the North v. South match of 1888 he was again at half-back, after which his outstanding talents were displayed in their correct setting, that of "centre three-quarter." In 1889 he accepted a scholastic appointment in Hartlepool—subsequently becoming head-master of The Henry Smith School—from which year dates his remarkable career with the Rovers and Durham County.

In any assessment of his value, in so far as it concerns the County, his personal "points for "column, similarly his number of appearances in a winning team, are of little consequence; we are concerned with, and grateful for that outstanding and beneficial influence which he wielded during a most difficult period of transition when County fixtures were none too numerous, freedom from work not always possible, and the might of Yorkshire in those pre-professional days something truly terrible to be hold. He captained England upon several occasions, and barring the University XV, it is fairly safe to maintain, that he led every other side he played for from "eighty-nine "onwards. He was an original member of the " Barbarians " and at a later date sat on their Committee. In six seasons for the Rovers alone - during the first of which he was not deputed to take the place kicks—his scoring record reads : —108 tries, 127 placed goals, and 24 dropped goals. He stood 5 ft. 11 ins.; and scaled 13 stones. Whilst he played in many cup-ties, he wrote a warning note against their undoubted and totally unnecessary roughness; this over 30 years ago, and as late as 1922 in a speech at Sunderland he courageously voiced similar sentiments.

It is related there was a love of pre-eminence; we are concerned only with his great attainments. His record in representative matches is :

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1887-88 | North v. South at Manchester.
Cambridge v. Oxford at Kensington. |
| 1888-89 | Cambridge v. Oxford at Kensington.
Rest of England v. Champion County (Yorks.) at Halifax. |
| 1889-90 | North v. South at Manchester.
South v. North at Richmond.
Rest of England v. Champion County (Yorks.) at Bradford. |
| 1890-91 | England v. Wales at Newport.
England v. Ireland at Dublin.
England v. Scotland at Richmond.
Rest of England v. Champion County (Lancs.) at Manchester. |
| 1891-92 | North v. South at Newcastle upon Tyne.
England v. Wales at Blackheath.
England v. Scotland at Edinburgh.
Rest of England v. Champion County (Yorks.) at Leeds.
(Chosen but unable to play.) |

1892-93 North v. South at Richmond.
 England v. Wales at Cardiff.
 Rest of England v. Champion County (Yorks.) at Huddersfield.
 (Chosen but unable to play.)

Four Cup-winning teams for the Rovers between 1890 and 1896 and one for Tynedale in 1887.

ROBERT F. OAKES. (Forward, 1892-98.)

Hartlepool Rovers, Headingley and Barbarians. Born at Hartlepool, 1873.

In November, 1933, a complimentary dinner was given to the subject of this sketch by his old club, the Rovers, to commemorate his election as President of the Rugby Football Union; the attractive menu-cards for the occasion referred to him as "Our Bob and Yours," reflecting thereby his true position in the hearts of all Rugby followers in his twin counties, Durham and Yorkshire. His election to this, the highest office in the Rugby world, was but a commemoration of the sterling service he has rendered and still renders to Rugby.

We are dealing here with a man who, in the words of to-day, may be described as a "radio-active personality." The achievements of Bob Oakes' 50 playing career will be dealt with all in good time; let us linger a space and review the man; comparisons we are assured, are odious we are not afraid. Junor was the maker of bricks without straw, Tristram the "beau sabreur," Newman the delicate manceuvrer, Alderson the greater artist. These were his predecessors (those who followed him we leave out of our reckoning), they were all outside the scrum as befits trim-fashioned strategists. R.F.O., cast in a sterner mould, was of the scrum, the very heart of it. Does there exist in the North to-day, one so incisive, so unambiguous? We doubt it. We wrote him upon an occasion, yes, frankly we were "cadging " seats. Cheque was enclosed, but we knew it would be returned, and it was (far better thus than through the Bank I). His answer, so typical, instructed as to report at a certain rendezvous and then shout for me ." His like is hard to parallel, great physical and much intellectual vitality, the welfare of the game is carved deeply into his very being. Fearlessness and integrity, coupled with a fighting spirit that is linked to sound judgment and an " all-seeing eye," complete a shining example to future generations.

It is thirty-six years since he left us, but he has never really been away. It was his proud yet painful duty in 1919 to write some poignant lines touching upon those Yorkshire players who fell in the war; we extract the following—it needs no comment from us : " I cannot claim to be a Yorkshireman—not, indeed, that I ever wish to, for that little County of Durham is as dear to me as I know Yorkshire is to a Yorkshireman."

He started the game early enough, for Hartlepool Trinity enjoyed his assistance in 1888. His career with the Rovers commenced in 1890 and lasted up to his leaving the district in 1900.

He was skipper of the team for six years, during which they won the Cup three times. At nineteen years of age he made his first appearance for the County and figured in 28 matches altogether, unfortunately missing, through injury, several games during his last season. In addition to captaining the County upon innumerable occasions, he twice led the North side against the South, and on migrating to Yorkshire he took charge of the Headingley XV, for a season or so, finishing his playing career with this Club in 1904; from which time date his activities as a senior legislator.

By way of apprenticeship, he put in twelve years as treasurer of Headingley, and 1907 saw the additional duties as Secretary of the Yorkshire Rugby Union undertaken, which office he still holds after nearly thirty years' unbroken service. That our very good Yorkshire friends appreciate his value is evidenced in their having elected him President of their Union for the years 1922-23-24; then came the crowning glory, the Rugby Union presidency in 1933 as already stated. As though the foregoing were not ample sufficiency by way of Rugby diet, he has, in addition, been an English International Team Selector for the past twelve or fourteen years, his broad shoulders carrying lightly the " slings and arrows " of our modern Press. Durham, not to be behind-hand in honouring so outstanding a son, had the greatest possible pleasure in creating "Our Bob " her first vice-patron. The late Harry E. Ferens, of beloved memory, and R. F. O. are the only Durham-born men who have as yet held the Presidency of the Rugby Football Union.

His representative career is, we believe, well known to all students of Rugby; we append it, however, by way of completion and formality.

1897	1898	1899
North v. South	North v. South	North v. South
England v. Wales	England v. Wales	England v. Wales
England v. Ireland	England v. Ireland	England v. Scotland
England v. Scotland	England v. Scotland	

His omission from the Irish match in " ninety-nine " caused fierce comment; he was, however, restored for the Calcutta Cup battle against Scotland. It is worthy of note that Oakes was Durham's sole representative in the aforementioned international matches; our Northumbrian friends being represented by "Tot " Robinson, E. W. (little Billy) Taylor, Stanley Anderson and G. R. Gibson. Sight must not be lost of the fact that J. T. Taylor was then of Yorkshire.

Bob Oakes has one very pronounced *bête noire* he positively sees RED when the question of " Shamateurism "arises; equally intense is his faith in the youth of to-day, and which unfortunately is lacking in most men of his age.

Destructive criticism is anathema to him. Some one whispers his second name is Frederick. Don't believe it, it's FORCE!

BERNARD S. OUGHTRED. (Half-back, 1899-1902.)
Hartlepool Rovers, Hull and East Riding, Yorkshire, Barrow.

This sprightly half-back joins Junor and Newman among the selected celebrities as representing that section of a Rugby XV, upon the shoulders of whose members rests the smooth (or reverse) working of something approaching 80 per cent. of the movements behind the pack.

In assessing Oughtred's services to the County—he played in sixteen matches—it must not be forgotten that change of employment moved him to Hull early in January, 1903, and for the succeeding three seasons he played for Yorkshire; the "Tykes" knew his worth and forthwith elected him to the captaincy of the side. He remained but two years at Hull, and for season 1905-06 he is recorded as of Barrow; he continued, nevertheless, to assist Yorkshire. During these three seasons Yorkshire fulfilled 25 fixtures, but the calls of business reduced Oughtred's appearances to a total of twelve.

The representative career of Bernard Oughtred is reflected in six international caps, two each against Scotland, Ireland and Wales respectively. He was also selected six times for the North and once for England v. Rest, and the seal was set to his fame when he was appointed captain of the English XV v. Wales at Swansea in February, 1903. In addition, he led three club and two County teams.

After removing to Barrow, he is said to have made strenuous efforts to re-establish County Rugby in Westmorland, either as a separate unit, or in conjunction with Cumberland. This venture appears to have met with little success, though one West Country friend assures us that certain fixtures were arranged and that "B.S.O." skippered his third County team. For Rugby purposes, Barrow-in-Furness was at that time geographically considered as being in Westmorland.

The question as to who were the best *pair* of "halves" seen in the maroon colours, as distinct from individuals, will remain always a debatable point; with many sound judges, the opinion surviving to this day, is that the Oughtred-Joicey combination possess a rightful claim to this honour. There is added satisfaction in the knowledge that they are natives. Incidentally there must have been a real homely atmosphere about the Welsh match of 1903, for in addition to the "skipper," Jack Taylor, R. Bradley and J. Duthie all played, Northumberland had two representatives in T. Simpson and P. F. Hardwick and thoroughly to complete the sequence, Norman Cox and Bob Poole were reserves in attendance.

Candid confession being good for the soul, it remains only to add that England were soundly trounced!

As captain of Yorkshire, Bernard Oughtred experienced his first clash with Durham in November, 1903, and succeeded in piloting his team to victory, and by the way, he was solely responsible for the last two tries scored by his side, giving Yorkshire their first success against Durham for four years. All right thinking people agreed with Oughtred, when in his speech following hostilities, he said : " The result will do a great deal of good to the amateur game in Yorkshire "—our good neighbours were at this time in the throes of the " split."

These remarks appear to have annoyed a certain individual (all shades of opinions are to be met with on committees), for " Old Ebor," always a very reliable scribe, records : "Another Durham official—nameless, of course, but readily recognized as being amongst those present—was rather less generous, to put it mildly. However, even his County friends do not at any time take him quite seriously ! "

It was alleged that Oughtred was prone to get offside, but we are far from alone in our opinion, that he was more sinned against than sinning.

CHARLES Y. ADAMSON. (Half or centre, 1894-1907.)
Old Dunelmians, Durham City, Bristol.

Between his first and last County matches, Charles Adamson placed an interval of thirteen years; let us examine his somewhat varied career during this interval. He played in 27 matches for Durham, in which he scored no less than 40 goals (including 2 dropped and 8 penalties) and 7 tries. He was in the team that visited Australia in 1899, along with A. Ayre-Smith (a forward).

Remaining in Australia at the conclusion of the tour, he enrolled in the Queensland Imperial Bushmen (Mounted Infantry) and saw a considerable amount of active service in the South African War. Following demobilization, he returned to England and assisted Bristol for a season, his services being thus lost to Durham for three complete seasons, during which 19 championship and three friendly matches were played.

Writing, at a later date, of this particular Australian tour, one authority mentions three well-known internationals, two of whom were three-quarters and the third a forward, as : " the most famous members of the team." A short analysis of the results scarcely supports this sweeping contention.

Eighteen of the 21 matches played were won, the remaining three being lost, and, by the way, three of the four " Tests " played were won. Our special concern is the " points for " column; this reads 333, of which Charles Adamson was responsible for 138, composed of 9 tries, 35 goals, 11 penalty goals and 2 dropped goals; and mark you, we have no proof that Adamson appeared in every match, in fact we rather suspect he was missing from the first " Test " — the only one lost.

The remaining twenty members of the party, which included eight internationals and sundry lesser lights, were jointly and severally responsible for the five (two dropped) other goals kicked throughout the complete tour.

Lest it be assumed that Adamson held proprietary rights as place-kicker in chief, we should add that there is ample proof of unsuccessful goal-kicking by the more famous. May we shed a little more light upon this alluring subject? 126 points were scored through the medium of the boot, one man, the uncapped " C.Y.A." was responsible for no less than in of this total! He is merely recorded as being " amongst those present." The historian does not specify the type of boot favoured by " the most famous members of the team." We must surely be correct in assuming that they (the boots) were not of the " shooting variety."

We may survive to be reminded that our figures do not correspond to those slumbering in the archives at Twickenham. Whilst we stand firmly by the appeal for corrections which we elsewhere make, it would perhaps be as well to disclose the then Hon. Secretary of the New South Wales Rugby Football Union, Mr. W. A. Rand, as our authority for the figures given.

Before taking a long and final farewell of this tour, it is just and proper that we make a still further slight adjustment in the balance-sheet of the "most famous members," etc., by crediting Alan Ayre Smith with a trifle of 6 points (2 tries); one other forward only exceeded this contribution.

To labour not unduly the individual effort in Rugby, we will quote but two further examples of Charles Adamson's ability as a match-winner. During the game with Cumberland, October, 1902, he had twelve attempts at goal, from all manner of angles, nine of which were successful, one hitting the upright and two missing by inches; he scored 21 points, which included one try.

His last season was in 1907-08, when he captained the XV, and by way of a " swan-song," he kicked eleven goals out of fifteen attempts, one other rebounded from the crossbar and a further quasi-successful effort was touched in transit.

By way of a complete change of thought, we recall that the joint County careers of John Hall and Charles Adamson extend over a period of 21½ years, and yet they appeared together against Northumberland in 1895.

One of the most versatile players of his day, Adamson failed to secure international recognition; he did, however, play three times for the North.

The Adamson family have rendered fine service to Durham Rugby, for in addition to the master goal-kicker, his two sons Charles and John, and his brother " R.W.," have all "played County." The family association with the

Cathedral City is complete in that all four were educated at Durham School, our premier Cricket and Rugby nursery.

Charles Adamson possessed the added distinction of having captained the Durham County Cricket XI. Several centuries stand to his credit, but the finest batting performance of his local career (he also excelled as a batsman in Australia) was undoubtedly that masterly 65 on a real "sticky dog " at Ashbrooke against the Australians of 1912. His father and his two sons have also played cricket for the County.

Charles Young Adamson was commissioned into the Tyneside Scottish Battalion of the "Fifth Foot " early in the late war, and as Captain and Quartermaster of a battalion of the Royal Scots he fell in action in September, 1918, on the Macedonian Front.

Robert William Adamson (eldest of the family) was reported wounded and missing in May, 1915, whilst serving as an officer in the 7th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

EDGAR W. ELLIOT. (Wing three-quarter, 1896-1903.)

Wellington College, Sunderland, Barbarians.

Though Edgar Elliot is but a name to the present generation, the passage of time has failed to remove the glamour from that name.

His career as a County player extended over a period of seven years, less an interval during 1901-02 season when he was on war service in South Africa. His 20 tries and 3 goals were scored in 29 matches. Originally a right wing three-quarter, his reputation was gained on the opposite flank; he possessed exceptionally sure hands, was fleet of foot and a born opportunist who turned the slightest opening to the greatest advantage, although upon occasion his defence appears to have called for mild criticism.

Elliot gained four international and three North caps, and together with the late Norman Cox as his inside man, he gave many sterling exhibitions for club and County. These two stalwarts largely contributed to the success of their club in the 1903 Cup Competition, following an unsuccessful interval of 22 years. They both played for the Barbarians and were elected to the committee of that club in 1901.

Edgar Elliot came of Rugby stock, two uncles having played for Durham, " W.S." in the early years, and the more famous Charles in the 'eighties.

We recall that the fallacy still persists that Elliot and Cox played as partners v. Scotland at Blackheath in 1901. The English three-quarter line as originally published, following the North-South match at Hartlepool, was reading from right to left, the then customary method — G. C. Robinson (Northumberland), J. T. Taylor, N. S. Cox, and E. W. Elliot (all Durham).

Unfortunately Jack Taylor was not selected, in consequence W. L. Bunting received the last of his nine caps, and being a gentleman of decided opinions, he insisted upon playing "left centre "; hence "Tot " Robinson and Cox played together and Bunting partnered Elliot.

There are many players who, being naturally right-handed, prefer slinging the ball to the left, and equally so there are not many who can pass the ball from left to right with the easy facility and precision of, say, Carl Aarvold or Ian McLaren, to name but two of the moderns.

North-eastern England has not as yet produced a greater personality in the realms of cricket. Comparisons may be odious, yet there cannot surely be two opinions that Elliot's ability as a cricketer outshone his achievements as a Rugger player. Had his lot fallen in a first-class County, undoubtedly he would have played for England; this was the considered opinion of the late John Tunncliffe - a sound judge.

In ten seasons Edgar Elliot scored over 5,000 runs for Durham County alone, a record that remains unchallenged after 30 years. He was a brilliant batsman, a fine field and an inspiring leader. Throughout this corner of England " E.W." will always be remembered as one of the greatest personalities in sport, and his innumerable exploits will long continue to provide stand and pavilion alike with, as the ship-yard worker said, " the best chin-wag in the North."

The last 24 years of his life were spent in South America, where he died (1931) in the early fifties.

*" He trod the ling like a buck in spring
And he looked like a lance at rest."*

JOHN T. TAYLOR. (Centre three-quarter, 1900-10.)

Castleford, Yorkshire, West Hartlepool, Winlaton Vulcans.

It has, with a certain amount of regret, to be recorded that Jack Taylor is a "son of Yorkshire," who gave to his native county some three or four years' excellent service prior to taking up residence in West Hartlepool. Incidentally, he secured two International caps whilst playing for Castleford, and a further achievement, not so palatable to us, was his personal triumph in Yorkshire's colours against Durham at Cleckheaton in November, 1899, when it is recorded that he beat Durham single handed.

His record for the county of his adoption may have been equalled (though we doubt it), but it most certainly has not been - and we question if it ever will be surpassed. Consider these figures for a moment: 11 International caps, 10 North or Trial caps, 44 appearances for Durham and 18 for Yorkshire, a grand total of 83 matches.

He first played for Yorkshire in 1896 and made his last appearance for Durham in 1910, fifteen years of representative football, extended to a

period of nearly twenty years when one considers his club service previous to and after receiving County recognition. He scored on Durham's behalf no less than 12 goals, 8 dropped goals, 4 penalty goals, 1 goal from a mark, and 17 tries.

He captained England, " North," Yorkshire, Durham, Castleford, West Hartlepool and the " Vulcans." Admittedly this bald restatement of facts and figures reads somewhat soulless, but we ask the student of Rugby to analyse and con them for a passing moment; it will then be recognized how great was the service rendered.

His old admirers, who are legion, never tire of recalling his achievements. One very well-known ex-international unhesitatingly declared after our defeat in the final by Gloucestershire in 1932, that " J. T. T.'s " presence was all that was required to turn defeat into victory. He was a great strategist and possibly the greatest drop-goal artist this County has seen.

The year 1905 was one of complete disaster for England, and we think it is something more than a reflection on the English selectors that, whilst they called upon 27 players to fulfil three fixtures and secure a grand total of 3 points, only J. T. Taylor of the Durham County XV was considered of sufficient merit to represent his Country; even so, he was almost a despairing choice, being chosen to appear at full-back, of all positions, against Scotland in the final encounter of the season. Two other full-backs, Irvin and Stanger-Leathes, had already appeared against Wales and Ireland, respectively. In playing a man of Taylor's great ability as a centre in such an unusual position, for him, as full-back, very little imagination was displayed. Surely his attacking abilities would have been more than merely useful to a country that could manage to register only 3 points in the course of 240 minutes' play, for poor old England suffered defeat at the hands of Wales, Ireland and Scotland to the terrible tune of 50 points to 3!

Of the 27 players honoured by their Country, 19 were Southerners, and we might add, Durham was Champion County that season, having beaten Middlesex in the Final.

" J. T. T." shares with that gallant warrior George Summerscales the record of having played in eight Championship finals and a replay. He was, in addition, extremely unfortunate in being passed over for the England v. Scotland match at Blackheath, March, 1901, having had to " cry off " the North v. South match at Hartlepool shortly before. He was overlooked whilst playing right at the top of his form; the selectors were rather inconsistent in giving preference to W. L. Bunting, who likewise had withdrawn from the Hartlepool match. Had Taylor been available, the English side would have included four Dunelmians and one Northumbrian in the back division, for Edgar Elliot, Norman Cox and Bernard Oughtred joined " Tot " Robinson in imparting a strong North Country flavour, which was further increased by the presence of Kendall of Cheshire (who, alas, fell in the Great War) as Oughtred's partner at half.

Space does not permit detailed reference to the many outstanding games he played, though some of his performances in the County Championship Finals, in particular his scintillating exhibition against Gloucestershire in 1902, will live long in the memory of those who were fortunate enough to witness them.

Being an undoubted genius at the game, Taylor, like Homer, permitted himself to nod occasionally; yet there was science and action in all that he did. A personality, he took the eye and warmed the heart and his play was resplendent with colour.

FREDERICK E. CHAPMAN. (Wing three-quarter, 1906-19.)

Westoe, Durham University, Hartlepool Rovers.

To have appeared in the County colours in six of the eight matches played in season 1906-07 and to be able still to command a place in the fifteen in November, 1919, following lengthy overseas service in the R.A.M.C., is fairly clear indication that the person concerned has maintained a standard of fitness rather above the average.

F. E. Chapman graduated from the College of Medicine and Durham University XV's to Westoe, which latter club he faithfully served for several years before migrating to Hartlepool

Rovers, where his long and brilliant career finally closed. Unfortunately, Chapman was a casualty throughout the 1911-12 season and played in one match only the following year thereby missing nine County matches and the Welsh game of 1911, for which he had already been selected.

His appearance: for the County total thirty-one, in which he kicked 15 goals and scored 14 tries. Whilst with Westoe, he won four of his seven international caps and the remaining three during his membership of Hartlepool Rovers. He toured New Zealand in 1908 under the captaincy of A. F. Harding (one of the greatest of many great Welsh forwards). A further honour, was his selection for the Anglo-Welsh team v. the Australians (Wallabies) in December 1908, and he also played in nine English trials. The distinction of having scored the first try in an international match at Twickenham is another achievement worthy of record; this was against Wales in January 1910, England's first victory over the principality for fourteen years.

Entirely apart from his versatility as a player (he has operated on both wings, at centre and also at full-back), Dr. Frederick Chapman will ever be remembered as possibly the greatest side-stepping artist of modern Rugby, the legitimate successor to A. R. Don Wauchope. Unlike most of his imitators in this fascinating method of deceiving an opponent, Chapman possessed the rather unique ability of being able to side-step either to right or left; there was no pretence of "selling the dummy"; he came full-tilt right

up to his man, performed his weird hitch-step ritual, which caught the other fellow on the wrong foot, in fact not infrequently got him going the wrong way, with the result that, failing a clear run-in, there was alternatively one of those " barn-door openings for which Messrs. Jack Taylor, James Dingle and many another centre must have been truly grateful.

In modern parlance, Fred Chapman was a " Mini-lateral merchant." He has taught that wonderful little winger. Cliff Harrison, some of his tricks, but unfortunately, Harrison is restricted to " one-way traffic."

We almost omitted to add that F. E. Chapman captained the County XV upon innumerable occasions.

ARTHUR JAMES DINGLE. (1911-13.)

Hartlepool Rovers and Oxford University.

One of the outstanding three-quarters in England in the seasons immediately preceding the War. Leaving Durham School for Oxford in 1910, he was awarded his Blue in 1911, in which season he made his last appearance for the County and received his North cap. Coming down from Oxford, he obtained an appointment upon the staff of his old school, where together with F. E. Steinthal, he did much to maintain the true Rugby spirit.

In season 1913-14 he played for the County — and scored — in all seven matches, his record being 16 tries, of which 12 were secured in three matches (four in each). He also appeared in all three English "Trials of this season and was capped v. Scotland, Ireland and France. Those of us who were fortunate enough to witness the game with Scotland, one of the best of the series, consider the selectors were ill-advised to play Dingle on the left-wing; it is thought he would have been a still greater success in his correct position, centre, more particularly alongside that genius, Poulton-Palmer.

Writing of this season's international matches, it is our proud, yet painful duty, to record that no less than seven of England's and eight of Scotland's chosen fell in the War; Dingle and Maynard of England and Huggan of Scotland had Durham County associations.

Jimmy Dingle was built on " stocky " lines, he had a rare turn of speed allied to a most deceptive running action; though going very straight for the line, he gave the impression of progressing on a perpetual curve, somewhat like a skater. He was an exceptionally quick starter and possessed the gift of changing not only his action, but also his speed and direction in one and the same move, which, in conjunction with his tenacity and determination, made him a most difficult man to stop.

Whilst he played in nine matches only for Durham, University claims naturally taking priority, he scored seventeen tries and also achieved several outstanding scoring feats for the Rovers. There is little doubt that James

Dingle is entitled to rank as one of the really great centre three-quarters this County has produced.

He was commissioned to the East Yorks. Regiment in 1914 and was killed at Gallipoli in 1915. His brother, Hugh, likewise a "County man," was also killed in the War, and they are thus numbered amongst the 95 Old Dunelmians who gave their lives.

CARL D. AARVOLD. (1929-34.)

Durham School, West Hartlepool, Cambridge University, Headingley, Blackheath, Barbarians.

Those who strive after correctness, will expect us to describe him as a centre three-quarter, but seeing that he played full-back in one University match, 'centre' in three others, and has appeared as both a right and a left-wing three-quarter in England's International side, in addition to occupying both centre positions whilst wearing the red rose, it is perhaps advisable not to dogmatize. Tabulations of records become monotonous, yet no player born in Durham County, and we may safely include Cheshire, Cumberland and Northumberland, has appeared in anything approaching so many representative matches as Carl Aarvold. These include 16 International caps, 15 English Trials, 4 Overseas Tests and 4 Inter-Varsity matches. In addition, he toured Argentina in 1927, and as the afore mentioned word "tests indicate, he was a member of the British team that visited Australia and New Zealand in 1930.

It is, in fact, considerably more than a suggestion that he played his best football whilst on that particular tour; one sound critic from Durham who happened to be "down under" at the time and witnessed several matches, including two "Tests," is most emphatic in his assertion that C.D.'s overseas displays far transcend anything he produced at 'home.' As with Fred Alderson 40 years earlier, his genius as a capable and inspiring leader was instantly recognizable; it is therefore not surprising that from School onwards, including his County, University and Country, he captained almost every XV of which he was a member. In six consecutive international matches he was England's leader.

The brothers Aarvold join the Oakes and Cox brotherhoods in having supplied the County with two rattling good skippers "from each family. Their further achievements include a very gallant, though unsuccessful, attempt in the Senior Cup Final of 1929 to secure that trophy for West Hartlepool. It remains, however, a tribute to their inspiration and leadership that "West" reached the Final after a lapse of 23 years. It would be all for the good of the game were honours in this direction more equally distributed.

An interval of only four years leaves one rather too close to the picture when it comes to assessing comparative values; we feel certain, nevertheless, that time will abundantly prove Carl Aarvold's rightful place in the hierarchy of

Durham Rugby, to be on a par with Junor, Newman, Alderson, Bob Oakes, and Jack Taylor, of whom Oakes and Aarvold alone were native born.

Similarly, the exact classification of the famous 1931-32 team, which he led throughout and with success in all but the Championship Final will, we venture to predict, result in that particular XV coming very near the top of the poll in any ballot for the " best-ever " seen in the famous Maroon livery. They participated in seven matches as compared with a maximum of six (save in the case of replays) contested by their illustrious predecessors of the halcyon era, and in so doing piled up 156 points to 42 in striving for a triumph so narrowly lost. Gloucestershire, the winners, played six matches only, one of which they lost. They scored 80 points to 47 - a record not to be compared with that of Durham, six clear victories with points as already indicated.