

about the music and say it's wrong, no matter what they play. Finish off your step with a smile at the judges and a sneer at the musicians and mumble something going down the stairs (anything). It sometimes helps to complain about an uneven platform.

You're up again; you've made yourself known (you can see the judges staring at you in disbelief) and you are doing your very best this time - but now the pipe bands are marching down the field and you can't hear a note of music (no reflection on the bagpipes). This should be good for a recall at any rate. Then the Dedication Ceremonies begin.

As a general rule, Dedication Ceremonies are inclined to be a little dull; the best thing to do is to collect a few friends and go for tea. For a change, however, you might cause a commotion on the field, but first join with the soloist in singing the national anthems.

When it's all over, you can turn your attention to the more serious business of the figure dancing competitions.

After you have given your instructor a heart attack (he has just run through the dance and found that several people get "stage struck" and forget what to do) you can volunteer, if qualified, to call out the parts of the dance. The requirements for such a duty are these: the person must be alert; he must be able to smile throughout the whole dance; he must be able to talk through his teeth, or with his mouth closed; and he should know the dance. If everyone has good hearing, the dance should be well executed, but if someone unfortunately misinterprets what was called, he will naturally go astray and lead others to do the same. When this happens, smile and keep doing three's, or pick up in a circle and talk the thing over. Just keep moving!

By this time, the teacher is on the point of collapse and in need of refreshment, and well for him. Not even he knows what is coming next. It is wise, when things reach this stage, to finish the dance as quickly as possible.