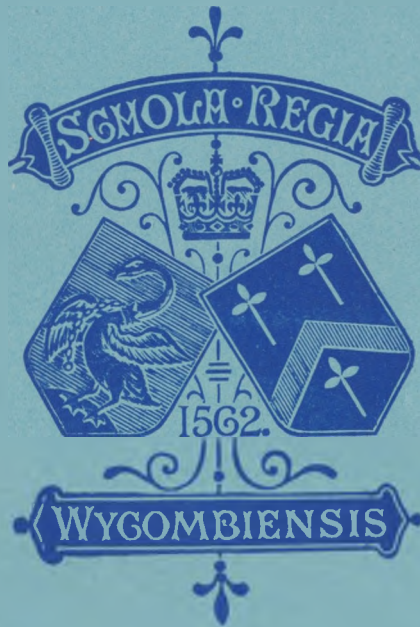


Vol. XI. No. 2.

The Wycombiensian.



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THE
Wycombiensian.

*THE WYCOMBE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
MAGAZINE.*

Vol. XI

No. 2.

Summer, 1948.



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SCHOOL NOTES.

The first Sunday of the Spring Term was marked by the invitation of boys and parents to the morning service at the Parish Church at which the Headmaster preached the sermon.

Mr. Legge, a headmaster from the Argentine, visited the School on 6th February and spoke to the Sixth about the political situation and the conduct of secondary education in Argentina.

On February 9th Miss Joan Elwes talked to the Sixth and to boys taking examinations in music about the structure and line of a group of songs which she sang very delightfully.

Mr. L. Pocock, on February 10th, lectured to the Sixth on the future of the legal profession. This was the first of a new series to be given on a variety of professional topics.

Teaching practice was, as we have now come to expect, pursued by a number of students during the term ; one from Oxford, one from Cambridge and six from Newlands Park.

On February 17th five instrumentalists visited the School, under the auspices of the County Music Adviser, and played to the Sixth and some others a Haydn quartet and a Bach suite.

The School Concert was held on Friday, March 12th.

Inspector Watson of the Bucks County Constabulary on March 15th talked to the Upper School on the police service and the part it plays in the life of the community.

On Thursday, March 18th a number of boys were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford in Terriers Church in the presence of a large congregation. The ceremony was followed on the next day by a Communion Service at the Church.

The Boxing Finals held on March 19th were remarkable for a number of sporting bouts recorded later in this number.

On March 22nd the House Music Competition confirmed the impression made at the School Concert that ensemble work is gaining ground.

The term events ended on March 3rd with the Cross Country Finals at which nearly all school records were broken.

During the Easter holiday a School trio, Collins (D), Roberts, and Standing, won a competition for trio playing at the London Music Festival.

The following boy entered the School in the Third Term of 1947 :—

Thornton, D. M., placed Vux.

The following boys entered the School in the First Term of 1948 :—

Curtis, R. M., placed IVG.
Williams, I. H., placed IIB.
Irving, B. A., placed IVs.

The following boys left during or at the end of the Third Term, 1947 :—

Ashford, S. W., VIg. S.C.	Lochhead, I. S., VIg. S. C.
Baker, D. G., VIs. S. C.	Marks, N. M., VIg. S. C.
Blackmore, P., VIg. S. C.	Maunder, A., VIc. S. C., H. C.
Carden, W. E., VIg. S. C.	Nicolson, P., VIs. Prefect, S. C., H. C.
Chapman, K. F. VIg.	Oxlade, D., VIm. S. C.
Clifford, M. J. Vuc.	Plumb, J. D., VIg. S. C.
Cohen, L. S., VIs. S. C.	Plumridge, J. W., VIg. S. C.
Collins, J. D., VIg. S. C.	Rolfe, F. A., Vuc.
Conrad, M. P., VIs., S. C.	Ross, J. VUm.
Coppock, G., VIg. S. C.	Sachs, M. C., IVA.
Dunn, I. G., IVs.	Shaw, D. R., Vc.
Everitt, L. H. G., VIg., S. C.	Slight, A. D. J., VIg., S. C.
Francis, M. J. D., VIg., S. C.	Smith., D. IIB.
Hearne, G. S., VIg., S. C.	Stokes, P. J., VIg.
Hobbs, C. F., Vuc.	Warrington, M. J., VIg., S. C.
Hodson, D. A., VIm., S. C.	Whittaker, VIm., S. C.
Ing, R. A., VIg., S. C.	Wright, D. H., IIC.
JELLY, A. W., IVA.	
Johnson, J. W., Vm.	
Langston, S. J., VIm., S. C., H. C. Prefect	

The following boys left during or at the end of the First Term, 1948 :—

Barrow. P. J., IIIs.	Laxton, P., IIIs.
Convisser, B., IVG.	Myers, A., Vm.
Copp, D. M., VIs., S. C.	Prosser, W., IVG.
Doyle, M. L., Vuc.	Robinson, C. T., VIm., S. C.
Gibbs, W., VUm.	Sears, T., IIA.
Haines, C. D., IIIs.	Smith, K. G., IVG.
Haines, P. E., VUm.	Webb, A. L., IIB.
Harris, J. C., VIm., S. C.	Wilmot, D. P., Vc.
Hine, G. W., IIIs.	Youers, T. R., VIm., S. C.
Langston, P. A., VIm., S. C.	

HOW TO WRITE A ROMANTIC NOVEL.

As far as I know, no one lately has written a good romantic novel ; indeed, I doubt whether anyone will do so now, for the species, like the dodo, seems to be extinct. The writing of a romance should, in this age, be the very last course that a reasoning being should take ; it does horrifying things to the writer's mind. He would have to be in a condition of the blackest dsepondency before contemplating the prospect without a shudder. Yet there are people so unhappily placed that writing a romantic novel holds no terrors for them. It is to these demented creatures that my wisdom is primarily addressed. Not, I hasten to assure you, that I have ever written a novel myself, but I am moved by pity for these unfortunate fellows to sketch with, I think I may say, admirable courage, the outlines of the method.

Let us first travel in imagination and therefore in comfort to the olde worlde village of Little Skeffington-in-the-Dumps. There let us call on the dowager duchess who will be the central figure in our story, not so much because of her importance as because she is so placed at the beginning and is not built for moving about a lot. To reach her we ascend the beautiful drive to the stately manor house, employing our bowie knife to hack a path through the nine-foot elephant grass which the head gardener, not expecting visitors until after his retirement, has thoughtlessly left sprouting for five or six years. We gain the sanctuary of the porch half a head in front of a pack of ferocious wolf-hounds and pause there for a moment to regain our breath and composure before having the butler, a family heirloom, announce us to the duchess.

We are shown into a room in the neo-gothic-byzantine style of architecture and, side-stepping neatly to avoid an elaborate chandelier hanging by a piece of rope from the ornamental ceiling, we are confronted by the duchess baring her expensive teeth in an expansive grin before an admiring retinue of French poodles. The duchess looks up as we come in and bumps her head on a chandelier similar to the one above the doorway—she must remember to have them raised sometime—and her light, joyous laugh of welcome ripples across the room, freezing the poodles in attitudes of horror and cracking two of the tall venetian glasses on the sideboard. Her ladyship is built on the lines of a heavy cruiser, yet somehow contrives to sail like a yacht ; she has unavoidable presence and a scarlet complexion of the kind that lights up at night. Taken all in all she is difficult if not impossible to ignore.

Our heroine, for diehard convention decrees that we must have a heroine, is the duchess's daughter, a languid, sinuous type who wears lapis lazuli earrings in her bath and an expression of outraged innocence out of it. If we want to know more about her we turn to the scandal columns of the Little Skeffington-in-the Dumps *Weekly Echo* or, on Sundays, to *The News of the World*. It is advisable to use violet-tinted, highly scented paper when writing episodes concerned with this young lady. Apart from that, I leave the portrayal of her and her character to you and your conscience.

The hero seems to be a splendid product of Eton and Oxford, wearing the top hat of the one and the accent of the other, without having been at either. His finely-chiselled features need only a touch of putty here and there to be really handsome. There is a glint of steel in his eyes, which are blue when they are not bloodshot, and that look about his jaw which betokens both the rugged strength for which the sons of England are famous and the fact that, before very long, he will have to start shaving.

His father is lord of the adjacent village of Upper Plumleighbury and owner of a magnificent family seat which, owing to the state of the family fortunes, he has been compelled to let to the butler while maintaining his dignity from a nissen hut at the bottom of the garden. The coffers are almost empty and the mere ten thousand a year that is left is spent recklessly in keeping up appearances, much of it going on pin-striped trousers for his lordship and his son and on flags and bunting to hang out on Empire Day.

It says much for the keen, incisive business brain of our hero that he ventured upon desperate gambles on the Stock Exchange in his endeavours to restore his father's fortune, recently going so far as to buy consols at $2\frac{1}{4}$ one week and sell them at $2\frac{1}{2}$ the next. Indeed a resourceful young man upon whom trenchant worth you can afford to dilate at considerable length. But all is not lost in Upper Plumleighbury ; yet may the family seat regain its accustomed magnificence ; for, lo ! the lovelorn eyes of the only son have looked with passion into the green ones of the daughter of the dowager duchess who is reputed to be worth her weight in gold, a colossal sum if true.

However that may be, looking into this female's eyes—"limpid pools of liquid emerald," is a phrase you might care to use—seems to arouse all the only son's protective instincts, and others more natural but more primitive. Having got these two where you want them, you have the essentials of a jolly good love story. Now you begin to throw them into some of the vicissitudes of life and what have you ; send the only son out into the wicked world to fight a

precarious battle for life on fifty pounds a week plus board and lodging ; get the daughter entangled with some swarthy interloper, the owner of an enormous estate and proportionate corpulence ; bring back the only son just in time to prevent her fourth marriage but send him away again as soon as he looks like settling down himself ; allow her to wilt and wilt under the strain of his absence and finally droop right into his arms on the last page. A chorus of French poodles, wolf-hounds, stockbrokers and creditors breaks into discreet cheers led by the lord of Upper Plumleighbury and the reader with a sigh of relief throws the book into the fire.

If you would rather make it a murder mystery, your first entry into the hall of Little Skeffington would disclose the dowager duchess hanging, like the chandelier, by a rope from the ornamental ceiling. Who could possibly have raised her to that eminence provides the element of mystery at the very outset. It only needs a few really gruesome episodes and some black-mustachioed, stiletto-bearing characters to twist this into a first-class thriller. Though I can spare no more space to outline the plot, I must add that writing a murder mystery is by far the healthier of the two occupations. To those among my readers who still feel depressed enough to contemplate the romantic novel business I address a final appeal to repent, repent before it is too late. P.S.C. VI.

PHANTASM.

Twisting fancies
On the clouds above ;
To imagine vasty castles,
And billowing buttresses
Towered with turrets, latticed with ivy,
Moats marooned with hush of Evening,
Shady slants of light, filtering through
The dank night ; aged as old
As Zeus, but before the drawbridge
Stands a hermit, a sage,
Like some old oak garnished
With age, clothed in a goat-skin.
The silver orb of night gleams
Through the moorland mist,
And betrays the Form ! A shape
A ghoulish Phantom. But,
Behold the hermit, gone.

R. H. W. Vs.

NOX NEFASTA.

Out of lairs immane the screeching band
With noise whirling, seeming of black art
And thoughts for them open, to men hidden,
To the praerupt mount.

“ Let all the unevil in cowering tremble away ;
We the blessed, damned for our blessedness have gathered
Sacrate to below gods ; here we know no
Bonds of that mortal live jealousy ; inspired
Together, the initiates of Satan again are dedicated.
Begin Revel.”

Now the new and slow devotees, wives
Of cobblers try with hags mingled to obtain
More confident ethereal height, rushing
Drabs, bustling maidens, wheeling about—and none
None forgotten, screaming, by the infrapotent.
Above, the trust, longed rejoice in power height ;
They gibber, shrieking, streak across the sky and
A field burns beneath ; Above--delight.
Grips them and mingles terror ; lately to earth
Descendant, they meet their Lord who masters to them,
These devilish mistresses of sin

* * *

. . . . horrand the sight

Along the dawn ringing comes the note,
The song of the holy house, of our loss
On the Cross but is gain. With seemed fleeting the witches
Turn and disappear,
Their orgy over for another year.

B.C.P. VI.

EPITAPH FOR A MODERN POET.

Pause, passer by, and shed a piteous tear
For him whose earthly dust lies buried here.
For tho' his lines may seem a bit perverse,
He once excelled the best in modern verse.
But tho' he try until the end of time,
He'll never manage now to make a rhyme,
And tho' he gaze on worlds unknown to man,
Be this assured—his verse will never scan.

B.C.P. VI.

THE ELECTRICIAN.

Behold the Electrician where he stands ;
Soot, oil, and verdigris are on his hands.
Large spots of grease defile his dirty clothes,
The while his conversation drips with oaths
Shall such a being perish in its youth ?
Alas ! it is indeed the fatal truth,
In that dull brain beneath that hair unkempt,
Familiarity has bred contempt
Some random touch—a hand's imprudent slip—
The terminals—a flash—a sudden " zip "
A smell of burning fills the startled air,
The Electrician is no longer there !

R. H. J. IVs.

IF NAPOLEON HAD WON THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

There were no cheering crowds, no ringing bells, no triumphant acclamations for Napoleon Bonaparte as on that twentieth day of June, 1815, he rode at the head of his victorious, but war-weary columns through the silent thoroughfares of Brussels. Could it really be possible that little more than twenty years before his countrymen had tramped those very same streets, hailed as conquerors, liberators and friends ? In truth it did seem impossible. But as the grim, stocky figure surveyed that scene of ruin and desolation, catching sight now and then of a furtive Belgian patriot disappearing behind an abandoned house or an empty shop, he realised that, victor though he was, his triumph was hollow, in reality a sham. He had won a military victory but he had suffered a moral defeat. He no more ruled that desolate city with its defiant populace than he ruled the moon.

A sense of bitter frustration overcame him and gradually the realisation of the tragedy of his life became apparent to him. What had his career been, except the egoistical exploitation of his own genius for ends which he could now see were valueless and by normal standards immoral ? He had sought glory and found it in conquest. And then, he knew that he would go down to posterity, not as the vigorous young general of the French Revolution who took Austria—oppressed Italy by storm and became the idol of the people, but as the enfeebled despot whose sole aim was to suppress by sheer military force the liberal aspirations of a benighted Eurpoe. His soul rebelled against the thought and his whole being rejected all that had gone before, all that he had been and was.

But what could he do? In an instant his mind was made up. He would return to France. Proclaim an end to his dictatorship, seek peace with the Allies and then disappear from the scene altogether, having ensured that his last public acts were acts of a man who stood for freedom and that his name would go down in the annals of history as a lover of freedom. Suddenly the whole idea of preserving the name of Bonaparte as a symbol of liberty seemed to fill his soul and it expanded with the thought of fulfilling that ideal. He must return to France; he must appeal to the people; he must appear not only as the ruler of the people but their father as well. A feeling of patriarchal obligation seized him; he reined his horse, turned round and galloped full into the ranks of cavalry before him. His horse stumbled; fell; and flung him beneath the hooves of the oncoming columns.

It was a week later and the citizens of Brussels still rejoiced; not, as twenty years before, welcoming the arrival of those who came as liberators and heroes, but proclaiming that he was dead who had come as tyrant and despot to destroy their freedom and despoil their homeland.

B.J.F. VI.

THE DAYDREAMER.

Bismarck is gone from my mind,
Napoleon is further still,
My thoughts are wandering further,
Over the distant hill.

Over the hills my thoughts drift,
Further even than time,
But, they're not worth a penny,
Not even one-tenth of a dime.

They wander even further,
From nothingness to less
My rapid thoughts are leading
To what? I cannot guess.

My mind now forms a shape,
The shape is forming faster,
With head, and arms, and legs
It is—THE HISTORY MASTER!

A.B.D.

RAIN.

The thunder rumbles across the sky
The wind is rising, rising high,
The rattling casements seem to say
We can't always keep wind at bay
From you so warm inside.

Spreading over us high aloft,
The clouds so even, smooth and soft,
Have the appearance of velvet black.
One last low liquid rumble, crack!
The storm at last has broke.

With a whistling, hissing, swirl the rain
Covers the parched up earth again
In little eddies the dust goes round,
Sinking soon to the muddy ground.
At last the rain is come.

—
J. B. VM.

LAMENT OF A YOUNG AUTHOR.

I was lazing one day in a classical way,
When the "staff" of the *Wycombiensian*
Approached me, and quoth, "Come, arise from thy sloth,
And compose for me something—Dickensian,
Or something a weeny bit like Peter Cheyney—it
Might even imitate Runyon.
But whatever you write, please, please make it light
Or a humorous poem—a funny 'un."
Now in years gone and past I have tried hard and fast
To get stories and poems accepted
But my stories and verses, 'mid howling and curses
Consistently came back—"Rejected."
As on those I spent ages, and pages and pages
To bring them to blossom and floweriness
What can I expect, but another "reject,"
When for this I've got only an hour, or less?
But I'm writing like lightning, my muscles are tightening,
I'm wretched and want to rush motherwards,
And if for my pain all I meet with again
Is the same old reject, "We decline to accept,"
That I've met with before—If you throw on the floor
My poem sublime, and hope that in time
It will moulder, unseen—for the School Magazine
I declare that I won't write another word!

B.C.P. VI.

A NEW BOY'S IMPRESSION OF A SATURDAY MORNING.

Slowly the early morning mist rose over Wycombe, revealing with morbid satisfaction, billows of grey, dark smoke which issued forth with ever increasing violence into the blue of the heavens and the surrounding hills. High Wycombe, as most know, is a town which has very few divisions and consequently the High Street manifests itself in imitation of Oscar Wilde's Hyde Park Corner as the centre of fashion, in the days of leisure for Grammar School boys.

If one is partly attracted by the seething multitudes of Wycombe on a Saturday morning, the person concerned should not be surprised to see walking the High Street, brightly arrayed in the loudest fashion, Grammar School boys. They meet in little groups and discuss the weather, or politics or even girls, sometimes even praising the beauty of the handsome or the dress of those who are not.

Therefore with much consideration I deemed myself worthy of venturing—one Saturday morning—into Wycombe's high society, for fortunately I had secured a new coat. Paying my 1d. down the hill, I decided to get off before the traffic lights. So, rising from my seat, I found myself suddenly caught in the midst of a roaring mass of boys with bright ties and attractive coats, thrust out of the bus and nearly trodden on. On looking round, I perceived my aggressors walking towards the traffic lights, hands in pockets, bantering each other. I realized then that these must be the feared gentlemen of the boarding house—so much for that. I slowly walked after them pulling myself together and pretending to look pleasant. Outside the local newspaper offices I distinguished in the middle of a group of girls, two gigantic fellows with fair hair who were the objects of hero worship. Ah! thought I, so this is how boys of simple nature and straight forward character spend their Saturday mornings. I passed the traffic lights (after having a miraculous escape from being knocked down by a Grammar School boy on a bicycle who did not obey, or possibly did not notice the red signals). At the entrance to the Library I saw another R.G.S. boy—preparing maybe for his future career—holding the door open for persons entering or leaving the building. As I approached, I expected again that a fortunate change had occurred in on or two of the boys. Pausing on the threshold to look behind me, something hit me with a force which was annoying and somewhat stunning. A minute or so later I found myself on the library steps, rubbing my head. But I observed on

this occasion that the victor had left, so picking myself up, I beat a hasty retreat. Frequently looking around me I pondered on the problem that about every ten yards I went, I either saw or passed a group of Grammar School boys. Brilliance is not in my line I admit but with an idea that flickered on genius, I wondered if there was going to be a procession. So placing myself on the edge of the pavement, I intended to *curb* my impatience and wait for a few minutes. I was pushed five times into the gutter, but whenever I looked around my adversary said he was frightfully sorry—so, nothing could be done.

I waited a considerable time and then decided to visit Lyons, the palace of glass, that place filled with a thousand horrible objects which are supposed to represent varieties of food and also littered with marble tables and wooden chairs that creak and groan if tea is even spilt over them. I made sure of opening the swing doors myself this time and I entered an atmosphere which was hot and stuffy and of which several distinct odours managed to reach the nose and somewhat opposed breathing by the nostrils. I deigned not to look at the two gentlemen (who have the laborious job of teaching boys like myself an education which is presumed to be instructive in future life), who were repasting on coffee and rolls. Pushing my way through the crowd with my tray, I managed to obtain the only possible seat at a table situated in a corner with three of those fearsome boarding-house men-about-town. I cringed in cowardice to the wall hardly daring to blink, but these august gentlemen ignored me and continued their debate on the relative merits of the films that would be showing that afternoon. I gathered enough courage to glance around the palatial room. I noticed that most of the customers were Grammar School boys who were creating a considerable amount of noise which was confusing to the homely atmosphere. I saw the boarding-house gentlemen were getting all the available cups, saucers and plates and making a magnificent pyramid of china. At this moment I wisely slunk out, thinking that even the air of Wycombe was better than the over-powering fuggy air inside. I made my way to the bus stop after being pushed and jostled by the people in the market place. But as I went, I noticed still more reverend Sixth Formers making devious remarks to the shrieking stall-holders who were crying their wares: "Don't forget yer elastic, only 2d. a yard; yer can't live without yer elastic, lady." When I reached school, I rushed to a place of solitude and exclaimed at the stupidity and vanity I had seen.

D. M. P. & J. B.

RUGBY RETROSPECT, 1947-8.

Summary of Results.

	<i>Played</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Drawn</i>	<i>Lost</i>
1st XV.	16	12	1	3
2nd XV.	13	7	1	5
"A" XV.	2	1	0	1
3rd XV.	3	0	0	3
Colts	7	3	0	4
Juniors	6	3	1	2

The 1947-8 season has had some special distinctions of its own. The School Captain, J. E. Woodward, has played on several occasions for Oxfordshire and for the Wasps first team whenever he has been free. R. E. Syrett also distinguished himself in the schools' games organised by the Wasps in the Christmas holidays, and he has played for the club second team when free. A large proportion of the 1st XV matches have been won; though in comparing results with the previous season's, it should be remembered that this year all club matches were discontinued except the games against the Masters and the Old Boys. The Masters' aged but virile side was defeated for the first time on record by 11 points to 8. A third fifteen has taken the field three times, and next season this new side will have a fuller share of the fixtures. Mr. J. B. Toft, very kindly came down from Buckingham in October to watch a practice game, and he gave us a most amusing and helpful talk afterwards.

All of the matches against our old "pre-war" opponents were handsomely won by the first and second teams, although Marlow, Henley and Windsor put up very whole-hearted opposition. Of the more recent fixtures, one of the games against Watford was won and one lost; the Watford pack rather overwhelmed our forwards in the second half at Watford early in the season. Careless handling was the main reason we could only draw, with Stowe 2nd XV, but the loss against Reading was a glorious defeat, as the team was unlucky with injuries and played the whole of the second half without Hodson and Syrett. Hodson's injury occurred after ten minute's play, and the whole side rose to the occasion and held the lead until the last five minutes of the game, only to lose by one point. Arborfield, St. Edward's 2nd XV and Leighton Park were beaten fairly decisively, and there were no more defeats after the middle of the season until a strong, fast and skilful Old Boys' side gave us a sound beating in the last game of all.

The team as a whole has improved on last season's form. The halves, M. G. Rees and B. J. Howard opened up the game well and showed enterprise as well as courage. Woodward himself was the main scoring weapon with his strong running and effective hand-off, and he was very well supported by D. Hodson in the early matches. Unfortunately Hodson's injury in the game against Reading kept him out of the side for the rest of the season. The rest of the $\frac{3}{4}$ line, a very young one, showed plenty of individual dash but combined poorly. Their tackling was very good ; D. M. Phillips deserves special mention for this, and only the Old Boys were able to score freely against them. The kicking improved but remained unimpressive. The pack, with Syrett leading it, played some good games, none better than the excellent display they gave against the Old Boys ; Syrett was nearly always magnificent, and P. J. Pawley, an expert in the line-out, was at his best when things were not going well. There was plenty of dash and fire—Clarke, Lamb and Loughran were often conspicuous—but too much individualism, brawn trying unsuccessfully to baffle brains. The forwards tackled well, but were less energetic in covering in defence. So much for touch line criticism ; the Captain is to be congratulated on his successful leadership of a very good side.

The second team was a good one, and could play an open and attractive game. Several individuals have real promise, and the general enthusiasm of the side was a pleasure to see. A cheerful noise in the bus and on the field was a sure sign that our 2nd XV was in action or on its way to or from it.

The Colts rather disappointed with their weak tackling behind the scrummage ; still the grounds were hard—too hard—until late in November. Sturgess at full-back was a notable exception. The forwards seemed a better pack than last year's with Cook, Hersey, Clinch and Matthews all doing well, and the whole team tried hard.

The Juniors were enormously keen and did very well ; not only those who played in the teams, but those other thirty or so boys who turned out in the evening after school whenever asked (and often without being asked !)

We should like to thank the many people, masters, referees, touch-judges and kitchen staff who have helped to make the season a pleasant one. And thanks also to our regular spectators of all ages and to the young boarders who put up the flags and help with the teas.

The final of the Senior House Match Knock-out Competition was a remarkable game. Fraser had a well-balanced side with an unusually good pack who played really well and established a good lead over Disraeli early in the game. But over-enthusiasm and carelessness in the second half led to three successive penalty kicks all put over by Woodward, who finally ran over and converted to give Disraeli victory by 17 points to 15. Arnison won the "wooden spoon" game against Youens.

Fraser won the Colts and the "Under 13" Cups with two good sides. Runners-up were Arnison and Youens.

The 1st XV at the end of the season was : G. B. Linfield, M. Hill, J. E. Woodward (Capt.), B. Woodbridge, D. M. Phillips ; B. J. Howard, M. G. Rees ; R. E. Syrett, D. W. Lamb, A. North ; J. M. King, D. J. Loughran, J. Read, P. J. Pawley (Vice-Capt.), A. A. Clarke.

All new members of the team were awarded their colours. D. Hodson (colours '45), left at the end of the Winter Term, and the following also played one or more games for the team :—Ashford, S. W., Fry, P. D., Hamlett, T. H. S., Eatwell, E. E., Kenyon, K., Hastings, M. W., Woodhams, D. G., Downs, A. E., Belsham, P. D.

The 2nd XV was changed a good deal during the season. The following sixteen boys have been awarded their second colours : Downs, A. B., Harris, N. C., Brydges, H. G., Hill, D., Woodhams, D. G., Belsham P. D., Lochhead, I. S., Hastings, M. W., Chapman, K. F., Hamlett, T. H. S., Fry, P. D., (Capt.), Bird, R. W., Kenyon, K., Jenkins, T. B., Eatwell, E. E. and Ashford, S. W. who played as full-back in the 1st XV for most of the Winter Term. The following played several games for the second team :—Pettitt, Weale, Honour, Groom, Punter. Pettitt and Weale were awarded their stockings.

The following played for the 3rd XV : Miller, (D.S.) (Capt.), Waters, Neale, Parker, Neish, Timms, Ball, (R.), Mawby, Brown, (I.G.), Keen, (M.), Cook, Hersey, Harris, (A. S.), Carrick, Montague, Page, Ward, Brydges, (H. G.), Punter, Groom, Honour, Bowler and Lewis.

The following played for the Colts : Richards, Bird, (M.A.), Neale, Crook, (K. J.), B. Woodbridge, Timms, (Capt.), Ball, (T.), Waters, Clinch, Hall, (P. S. C.), Harcourt, Hersey, Cook, Carrick, Read, (J.), Zander, Platt, Peters, Sturgess, Clarke, (M. M.), Townsend, Isaacs, Matthews, Cutler.

The following played for the Juniors : Smith, (A. J.), Martin, (K. W.), Wise, (J. R.), Silver, Bulpett, Thorpe, Kenyon, (A.), Evans, Free, Hall, (P. C. S.), Rider, Moore, Hall, (E.), Abdallah, Dimmock, Wheeler, Smith, (B. V.), Thomas, Lee, Orchard, Haines, Biggs, Bunce.

TABLE OF RESULTS.

1st XV.

Date	Opponents	Ground	Rslt.	Points.	
				For	Agst.
Oct. 11	Borlase School, Marlow	H	Won	34	3
" 18	Lord Williams' School, Thame	H	Won	62	0
" 22	Watford Grammar School	A	Lost	8	19
" 25	Aylesbury Grammar School	A	Won	43	3
" 29	St. Edward's Oxford 2nd XV.	H	Won	14	6
Nov. 8	Stowe School 2nd XV.	A	Drawn	3	3
" 12	Henley Grammar School	A	Won	21	6
" 15	Reading School	H	Lost	13	14
" 22	Watford Grammar School	H	Won	8	3
" 26	Army Apprentices' School, Arborfield	A	Won	14	8
Dec. 10	Leighton Park School	H	Won	17	3
" 16	Masters' XV.	H	Won	11	8
Jan. 24	Borlase School, Marlow	A	Won	10	3
" 31	Henley Grammar School	H	Won	24	3
Feb. 7	Windsor County School	H	Won	16	0
" 28	Old Boys	H	Lost	3	24

2nd XV.

Oct. 11	Borlase School, Marlow	A	Won	39	0
" 18	Old Boys' "B"	H	Drawn	6	6
" 22	Watford Grammar School	A	Lost	3	25
" 25	Old Boys' "B"	H	Won	17	14
" 29	Leighton Park School	H	Lost	0	15
Nov. 8	Stowe School 3rd XV.	H	Lost	9	22
" 15	Reading School	A	Won	8	3
" 22	Watford Grammar School	H	Won	9	3
" 26	Army Apprentices School, Arborfield	A	Won	17	3
Dec. 10	Leighton Park School	A	Lost	8	26
Jan. 24	Borlase School, Marlow	H	Won	49	0
Feb. 7	Windsor County School	A	Won	43	3
" 28	Old Boys' "B"	H	Lost	9	19

"A" XV.

Nov. 29	Aylesbury Grammar School	H	Won	13	0
Dec. 6	Lord Williams' School, Thame	A	Lost	6	10

3rd XV.

Nov. 15	Watford Grammar School	H	Lost	0	29
" 22	Watford Grammar School	A	Lost	0	33
Dec. 10	Leighton Park School	H	Lost	3	29

Colts XV.

Sept. 27	Watford Grammar School	H	Lost	9	15
Oct. 4	Henley Grammar School	A	Won	38	0
" 18	Windsor County School	H	Won	33	0
Nov. 8	Stowe School Under 15 "B"	H	Lost	3	12
Nov. 15	Reading School	H	Lost	3	19
" 22	Watford Grammar School	A	Lost	3	21
Dec. 6	Henley Grammar School	H	Won	6	0

Junior XV. (Under 14)

Sept.	27	Watford Grammar School*	...	...	H	Drawn	6	6
Oct.	11	Henley Grammar School	...	...	H	Won	31	8
..	18	Borlase School Marlow	...	...	A	Won	27	5
Nov.	15	Henley Grammar School	...	...	A	Lost	3	22
..	27	Watford Grammar School*	...	...	A	Lost	3	8
..	29	Borlase School, Marlow	...	...	H	Won	18	3

(* Age limit 13½ years).

ATHLETICS.

The success of the Cross-country team continued in the Easter Term with a decisive victory over eight other teams in the Bucks Junior Championship. This was due partly to excellent packing which gave us 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, by Kipping, Wood, Cartwright, Worrell and Buzzard, 10th, Smith, 18th, Vincent and 32nd, Tucker. The Southern Counties Championship also produced a creditable result. School Cross-country House Championships established three new records which promises well after a most successful season.

Jan. 24th—Bucks Junior Championship :

1. Royal Grammar School 18 points.
2. R.A.F. Halton 33 points.
3. Slough Grammar School 69 points.

Jan. 28th Culham College.

Home. Won. 22 points against 62 points.

Feb. 28th Southern Counties Junior Championship at Aylesford, Kent. Placed 5th out of 35 teams.

1. South London Harriers.
2. Reading Athletic Club.
3. Thames Valley Harriers.
4. Aylesford Paper Mill.
5. Royal Grammar School.

School Cross Country.

SENIOR.—1. Arnison 91. 2, Fraser 104. 3, Disraeli 174. 4, Youens 184. 1st Kipping F., new record 26 min. 49.5 secs. ; 2nd Syrett (F), 3rd Rose (F).

COLTS.—1, Disraeli 75. 2, Arnison 140. 3, Fraser 154. 4, Youens 202. 1st Wood (D), new record 20 mins. 1.8 sec. 2nd, Harman (Y). 3rd Perfect (A).

JUNIOR. 1, Youens 79. 2, Disraeli 113, 3, Arnison 161. 4, Fraser 242. 1st Long (Y) new record 15 min. 26.5 sec. 2nd, Hooper (Y). 3rd, Knock (D).

JUNIOR BUILDING. 1, Disraeli 104, 2, Youens, 142. 3, Fraser 146 4 Arnison 150. 1st Small (A). in 12 min. 35.5 sec. 2nd Cornish (D) 3rd Morbey (D).

THE BOXING DISPLAY.

This year the annual tournament took place in the School Hall, on Friday, March 19th. There were many entries and keenness and ability was far from lacking. The officials to whom we extend our grateful thanks, were : Referee—J. P. Cowan, Esq., Judges : C. Franks, Esq., and W. Rigby, Esq., Timekeeper : W. Cartwright, Esq., M.C. R. F. Emery, Esq. and M.O., Dr. J. G. Mullaly.

The House Challenge Cup was won by Fraser House, the Senior Cup by the House Captain, Syrett and the Junior Cup by Harman, of Youens.

Alderman Healey, who was kind enough to present the Cups, gave a short speech in which he congratulated the school on a very fine display. The referee's remarks undoubtedly provided considerable food for thought for the contestants. His expert advice will prove of considerable use to the novices who will have an opportunity of putting his precepts into practice next year.

The events decided at the display were as follows :

Paper Weight, 6 stone 4 lbs. and under.

Pemble (A) *v.* Smythe (A).

Pemble won this bout by the referees' casting vote. The contest was very close, both boxers being fast moving and each landing blows to the other's body and face. Smythe seemed to have better command of the use of the ring but Pemble was nevertheless able to land the blows which resulted in his victory.

Gnat Weight, 6 stone 10 lbs. and under.

Crook (D) *v.* Edwards (F).

This fight was indeed remarkable for the lack of blows struck. Throughout the bout only three effective blows landed, two upon Edwards and one on Crook. This, and the fact that Crook pursued Edwards, gained Crook the victory.

Midge Weight. 7 stone and under.

Smith (D) *v.* Fleet (Y).

Fleet attacked heavily in the first round and although Smith replied, it was with less effect. The pace for such a light weight was comparatively slow and the punching comparatively heavy. In the ensuing rounds Smith tried to attack but most of his blows were beaten off by Fleet. The decision was given to Fleet, doubtless through his boxing in the first round.

Mosquito Weight, 7 stone 7 lbs. and under.

Harman (Y) *v.* Zander (A).

In this fight Harman beat Zander who was last year's Junior Champion, and gained for himself this much coveted award. Harman's heavy blows to the face and body dazed Zander to such an extent that he was unable to make any very effective reply.

Bantam Weight, 8 stone 6 lbs. and under.

File (F) *v.* Brydges (F).

Although File was undoubtedly the cooler and more scientific boxer, Brydges gained the decision in this contest. Brydges tended to keep his head so far down that he could not see his opponent and relied on rushes to beat File on to the ropes. His attempts to land heavy punches met with notable lack of success. File preserved his guard and landed several telling blows.

Fly Weight, 8 stone and under.

Evans (A) *v.* Lee (F).

There was little to choose between the contestants in this bout. The punching in the opening round was slow and for the most part ineffective, but the concluding rounds gave rise to more spirited exchanges. Evans made use of a straight left to keep himself out of range of his opponent, but was not entirely successful. Lee was somewhat more mobile than Evans and it was his footwork which gained Lee the decision.

Feather Weight, 9 stone and under.

Rockell (Y) *v.* Smith (D).

In the midst of the rather drably arrayed boxers, a splash of colour was introduced by the brilliant red shorts worn by Rockell. His experience in the A.T.C. gave him a distinct advantage, but it was more by mischance than by Rockell's punching that Smith fell twice in the first round. The pace of the opening rounds was medium with plenty of movement and punches delivered by both boxers. The third round was extremely fast and owing to his aggressiveness Rockell won the fight.

Light Weight, 9 stone 9 lbs. and under.

Hobbs (D) *v.* Phillips (F).

A very marked contrast of style was evident in this contest. Hobbs, a boxer of considerable style and accomplishment was matched against Phillips who is well known as a fighter. Due to his rushes, which Hobbs had difficulty in repelling, Phillips overpowered Hobbs and won the bout.

Welter Weight, 10 stone 7 lbs. and under.

McCulloch (D) *v.* Keen (Y).

Keen used a very well-developed straight left followed by numerous styles of right-handed punches to put McCulloch in a

very difficult position. His stance, reminiscent of last year's champion, Chinn, proved almost completely impenetrable as far as McCulloch was concerned. His superior skill gave Keen the decision.

Middle Weight, 11 stone 6 lbs. and under.

Parker (A) *v.* Honour (F).

Honour's shock tactics combined with an apparently insensitive body led him to victory over Parker. His strong forward rushes pushed Parker to the ropes, but such was Parker's defence that Honour was unable to inflict any real damage when he had his opponent in a disadvantageous position.

Light Heavy Weight. 12 stone 7 lbs. and under.

Syrett (F) *v.* Loughran (D).

This contest was stopped at the end of the second round, owing to the fact that a heavy and well aimed blow from Syrett had damaged Loughran's nose and mouth to such an extent that he had difficulty in breathing. Both boxers who are very well built were slow in action but Syrett, owing to his greater experience was able to land more often and with more effect than his opponent, and gained for himself, not only victory over his adversary, but the senior boxing cup.

J. G.VI.

SCHOOL CONCERT.

The programme was most remarkable for the extended range of interests and the development of group work by the boys. As it was designed to show the work done at school during the year, soloists were not represented. A Chamber Music Group, D. Collins, J. Standing and T. Cowlett, played the first movement of a trio in E flat by Mozart, a commendable effort not intended for so large a hall. F. Tucker, who shows very pleasing progress in accuracy of tone and rhythm, played Handel's violin sonata in G minor with J. Standing. The School Orchestra opened the concert with an overture by Charles Woodhouse and contributed also the minuet and trio movements from the Surprise Symphony by Haydn and the Mozart Symphony in E flat and the March from "Carmen." The Sixth Form chorus sang, with Mr. Clifford, two nicely balanced traditional airs and, for encore, a rousing "Gaudeamus igitur." Mr. Clifford appeared again with his boys in the centre of the Flute Band, keeping time for them on the timpani while they tootled round him. This was one of the new features of the concert, unusually competent and extremely attractive, especially in The Flute Players, a quartet composed by Mr. Clifford and played without drums. The Junior choir demonstrated its admirable diction in two treble songs and some neat part singing with the Sixth Form choir

in a chorus from "Merrie England." B. Peatey and P. S. Collins, with D. Veale at the piano, sang in costume a comedy duet. This interlude was nicely produced. Both boys were in good voice; Collins' clear diction in this kind of work is most valuable. Of all the school groups the latest to be formed, the Madrigal Club, contributed what appealed to us as musically the most completely pleasurable. They sang three part songs representing the work done since their formation in January. It was a fine exhibition of the value of nicely blended, unaccompanied voices, the cheapest and most rewarding instruments to be had. The audience responded enthusiastically to this new experience in our school concerts.

We were glad to see again the High Wycombe String Orchestra, whose standard of achievement sets an example to our performers of what can be done by amateurs. They not only gave us a welcome opportunity to hear the first performance of the slow movement of Mr. Rainbow's Piano Concerto in C minor, but also enabled J. Standing to play trumpet tunes by Purcell and John Stanley on his clarinet. There is some element of daring in allowing the School Orchestra to appear in the same programme as the High Wycombe String Orchestra. From our point of view it is gratifying to find that the School stood the test much better this time. Everyone, instrumental and vocal, joined the Headmaster at the end of the concert in an exhilarating performance of "And the glory of the Lord" from the "Messiah."

This was no ordinary school concert in which the audience suffer agonies of apprehension for the soloists; there were no soloists. It was an exciting experience full of varied interest. For the first time for some years the Hall was comfortably filled; the stage managing of A. A. Clarke, who remarkably excluded all irrelevant noises, contributed much; above all the obvious enjoyment of the boys working together made the occasion a great success.

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION.

A most distinguished Old Boy of the School, Mr. Stanley Roper, C.V.O., M.A., Mus.B., organist and composer to the Chapel Royal, adjudicated the competition held at the end of the Easter Term. In his general remarks he recalled the absence of music in the School as he remembered it from 1895 when numbers were small and met in the old building near the Rye. His criticism bore directly and kindly upon particular points that everyone could appreciate. He liked especially the variety of instruments and voices. Those boys who expect to compete again found his explanation of the marking system very useful. The ensembles were good evidence of the effect

of varied musical activities during the year and reflected increasing enthusiasm in the Houses. Mr. Roper was delighted to be able to attend a competition at his old school and we were equally delighted to see how music keeps him young in spite of his much travelling up and down the country and about the world. The Headmaster thanked Mr. Roper and expressed his own pleasure also in both the improvement shown by many boys and in the courage and skill shown by those appearing for the first time.

RESULTS.		<i>Disraeli</i>	<i>Arnison</i>	<i>Youens</i>	<i>Fraser</i>
Dictation ....	....	45	39	29	32
Composition ....	....	14	19	15	11
Soloists ....	....	68	63	59	58
Ensemble ....	....	27	21	26	25
Total ....	....	154	142	129	126

The Frederick Bailey Shield goes to Disraeli.

J.T.C. NOTES.

The following cadets were successful in the Certificate "A" Examinations held this term.

Part 2.—R. Ball, M. J. Baud, P. D. Belsham, D. M. Dixon, R. Lang, W. A. Mallaburn, D. S. Miller, D. G. G. Parker, R. E. W. Roberts, P. Smith, D. R. Stansbury, F. C. Tucker, D. G. Veale, B. F. Ware, J. E. Woodward.

Part 1.—A. S. Baker, B. J. Bennell, M. A. Billsborough, A. F. D. Bowler, J. C. Carrick, P. J. Carter, H. A. Cartwright, J. J. L. Collier, R. R. Cotton, T. A. Cowlett, R. Dickenson, T. H. S. Hamlett, D. L. Harding, A. S. Harris, G. Harris, G. T. Harris, J. C. Harris, G. A. Hersey, R. J. Hill, H. D. Howard, P. G. Howard, E. J. Macfarlane, M. S. Mathews, J. R. Mellor, A. J. F. Miller, M. J. Montague, D. F. Pennell, G. B. Perkins, J. Read, E. J. Reeves, R. T. Sawyer, D. Smith, N. D. Stanners, R. E. Syrett, D. S. Timms, D. Thornton, J. Tournier, M. J. Tuckett, D. G. Varney, D. J. Wallington, J. J. B. Ware, C. J. Watkins, D. J. Wiltshire, D. F. T. Winter, M. Zander.

A.T.C. NOTES.

Spring term, 1948 proved to be a very successful one for the School Squadron. It was noteworthy for a considerable increase in recruiting, which has brought our strength up to nearly 80 ; it was also outstanding for the wide variety of activities in which the Squadron or individual cadets participated under A.T.C. arrangements.

It is most encouraging to note that more cadets have joined the Squadron this term than during any term since the end of the war. The value of cadet training cannot be too highly stressed, particularly for those who are liable to call-up under the National Service Act. In this connection it must be emphasised once again that entrance into the R.A.F. is now open only to A.T.C. cadets, and that holders of the Proficiency Certificate are accorded privileges and exemptions during their military training.

The standard required for Proficiency has been very considerably raised during the past year. In spite of this change which, unfortunately coincided with the curtailment of time allotted to A.T.C. instruction, we gained six Certificates in the February Examination. The successful candidates were Squires, Lamb, Hobbs, Pettet, Owen and Kipping.

Possession of the Certificate of Proficiency is one of the essential qualifications for selection for overseas flights in Transport Command aircraft. This scheme was inaugurated in January by R.A.F. Reserve Command, and F/Sgt. Bird and Sgt. Peatey have already flown, the former to Malta, Tripoli and Egypt, and the latter to Germany. Sgt. Mansfield, Cpl. Easton and Cpl. Vincent have been selected for flights during the summer.

The usual A.T.C. activities have continued unabated this term, with Sgt. Rockell, Cadets Owen, Hobbs (i) and (ii), Squires and others almost making Booker their home at weekends for flying and gliding. In addition the Squadron has competed in sporting events organised by A.T.C. Group H.Q. We entered teams for Table Tennis and Shooting. Rees and Hastings, played quite well in Group Rugby Trials; Rockell and Hobbs competed in the Group Boxing Championships, while Peatey has reached the Final stage of the Group Aircraft Recognition Championship.

Three of our cadets were among the 130 runners representing ten Southern Counties at the Group Cross Country Championship, held on the S.L.H. Course at Coulsdon. In the final result the Bucks team, consisting of these three cadets and three from other County Squadrons, finished third, our cadets put up a splendid performance, their individual placings being: Kipping third, Vincent and Litchfield equal tenth. If the other Squadrons in the County could have produced one runner of the calibre of these three, Bucks would have won the Championship Cup.

During the Easter holidays six cadets attended an N.C.O.s course at R.A.F. Halton. All did well, and enjoyed a week which was full of variety and interest.

Summer Camp has been arranged for a week at the end of July at R.A.F. Tangmere, Sussex. As the Squadron did not go to camp last year, I am hoping that so many cadets as possible will be with us at Tangmere. Annual camp is a most informative and instructive part of A.T.C. life ; it gives an insight into the work of the R.A.F. and affords opportunities for interesting and enjoyable aspects of training which, owing to its limited scope, the School at home cannot provide.

J.O.R.

25th HIGH WYCOMBE SCOUT TROOP.

The 25th High Wycombe Scout Troop was started in 1943, when a few boarders approached Mr. Johnson, their housemaster, who agreed it would be a good idea to form a troop if the boys would run it themselves. But the next term he became S.M. and with the help of the D.C. and Skip. Deane, who gave useful tips on the management of meetings, the troop grew more and more efficient. A patrol from the troop were runners-up in the Graefe Cup of that year and the troop won the District Sports. When three years later Mr. Johnson was obliged to resign a senior boy took over the troop for a while until the new housemaster, Mr. Howard consented to become the S.M. With his fresh enthusiasm the troop is regaining its old efficiency and it is gratifying to observe how many new recruits are eager to join. The troop now consists of some twenty boys formed into three patrols. A camp was held last year and hikes and week-end camps are planned for this year. The troop is looking forward to the County Rally and is preparing models and displays. By good fortune the scouts have been able to secure as their H.Q. the old Boarding House common room; this they have re-decorated and it is now a pleasant and habitable room in spite of its rather ramshackle external appearance.

J. B.

SCHOOL HOUSE.

The Boarding House is still thriving and spreading. During the past year an extra house has been added to the boarding side of the school and it is hoped that another house will be opened in September. Now we have Mr. Davies at "Uplyme" and Mr. Howard has nearly completed two years in the School House. The number of boarders has not increased but the extreme overcrowding necessary during the war years has come to an end.

In the School House the usual activities have their run. A stamp club was the main interest during the winter term and an

engineering club had a short but active career which included a visit to the Science Museum in London. Table tennis and billiards have always been popular. The House has its peculiar type of billiards. It scorns the easy method of playing on a perfectly flat surface and prefers (it has no option !) playing on a table which has so many hazards that it resembles a miniature golf course. This celebrated table, a real antique, is worth its weight in gold for the pleasure it gives to boys. Rigger and Badminton were also very popular during the winter term and inter-house fixtures were arranged.

For the seniors the biggest innovation was the introduction of dancing lessons. Once a week for the past two terms Miss Oakeshott has been teaching us—with infinite patience. We have made good progress and at the end of last term gave a social to which about 20 Technical School girls were invited. Among the boys at any rate, this was a success in every way. May there be many more ! It is certainly one of the sights of the House to see Lounge-lizard Dickenson speeding round the floor, Barrell floating along and Perkins—well it is one of the sights to see any of us dancing. The Senior Prefect this year is Groom who, with Neil Sainsbury and Linfield leads the House in most of its activities.

The Junior Dorm.

We, of course consider ourselves the most important section of the House—have we not Jo Lyons, that master of all trades—from running the black-market in stamps to atom bomb experiments, and two members of the Edwards clan (groan from the Housemaster) and Calver, the talking in his sleep champion, and McCreery who needs no introduction and in fact all the school's V.I.P.s. We are all united in condemning the shocking habit our prefect has of punishing the last one out of bed in the morning, the early hour at which we have to go to bed (so making it impossible for us to do our prep. as well as we wish), and the late hour at which other people go to bed.

The Middle Dorm.

This is the biggest dormitory in the House and therefore the hub of the place. All the important events in the School House centre round us. Mr. H— considers this is true about trouble and all we can say is that even the best boys occasionally do things which are breaking some (unnecessary) rule. It is perhaps true that Platt often causes a disturbance and that Baker and Hall are sometimes noisy and that Robey talks a great deal and that we all take part in a rag when we can, but after all, boys will be boys—and seldom such good ones as we are.

The Senior Dorm.

Who has longer hair than Phillips or Ware? Who can dance better than Barrell and Dickenson? Who can make more noise than Saunders and Cowlett? Who can be as quiet as Wheeler and Wise (when they choose)? Who can do maths like Tuckett and radio like McCulloch and bed-making like Perkins? The answer is "No-one." The Senior Dorm is Unique.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB.

Births.

R. A. BRYANT (1932-37). On April 16th, 1947, at High Wycombe to Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Bryant, a daughter.

W. E. SILSBY (1919-23). On January 2nd, 1948, at Princes Risborough, to Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Silsby, a son.

G. A. COLLINS (1922-27). On January 10th, 1948, in London, to Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Collins, a daughter.

F. E. J. BLOMFIELD (1929-33). On January 18th, 1948, at Calcutta, to Mr. and Mrs. F. E. J. Blomfield, a daughter.

A. E. JEFFRIES (1928-34). On January 29th, 1948, at Beaconsfield to Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Jeffries, a daughter (prematurely).

R. G. TYZACK (1916-22). On February 10th, 1948, at High Wycombe to Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Tyzack, a daughter.

K. R. D. MINES (1923-36). On February 17th, 1948, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Mines, a daughter.

G. H. STEVENS (1924-27). On February 24th, 1948, at Bournemouth, to Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Stevens, (35 High Street Swanage), a son.

P. M. M. SLATTER (1919-26). On March 30th, 1948, at Beaconsfield, to Mr. and Mrs. P. M. M. Slatter, a son.

Marriages.

ESSEX—LEWIS. On December 26th, 1947, at Freetown, Sierra Leone, F. W. Essex (1927-35) to Miss M. M. J. Lewis.

HOARE—SMITH. On January 10th, 1948, at Handcross, near Haywards Heath, C. L. Hoare (1931-38) to Miss P. J. D. Smith.

HARRIS—DIBB. On March 6th, 1948, at Halifax, A. R. Harris (1936-40) to Miss M. Dibb.

JONES—STEVENS. On March 29th, 1948, at High Wycombe D. J. O. Jones (1932-39) to Miss A. E. Stevens.

Deaths.

A. E. ADAMS (1905-06). In January, 1948, at Salisbury, S. Rhodesia, A. E. Adams, aged 60.

C. BASS (1934-38). On March 17th, 1941, Warrant Officer in the Royal Air Force. Killed in an air accident.

OLD BOYS' NOTES AND NEWS.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Geography Room on Saturday, February 28th, at 5 p.m. with the President, Mr. Arnison, in the chair.

After a discussion and suggestions it was carried that elections to the Committee should be made to cover as many generations as possible and in particular should include at least two Old Boys who had left during the last five years and a further two Old Boys from those who had left during the five years previous to that ; only one from each of these two periods to retire each year.

It was resolved that members of the Club be informed by post as early as possible each term of all School functions.

All interested in Free Masonry were asked to consult Mr. H. S. Groom after the Meeting when it is understood steps were discussed of the possibility of forming a School Lodge. Officers for 1948 were elected as follows :—

President : G. W. Arnison, Esq.

Vice-Presidents : Messrs. W. J. Bartle, H. G. Brand, W. H. Healey, P. C. Raffety, Col. L. L. C. Reynolds, Mr. E. R. Tucker.

Committee : J. Theed (1914-21), S. E. Hands (1915-20), L. B. Barnes (1924-30), F. G. Parrott (1928-34), H. H. Lee (1929-35), R. J. Rich (1934-37), J. P. Lord (1934-39), J. K. Prior (1934-40), B. V. Harley (1938-44), H. C. Hickman (1939-46).

Honorary Secretary and Treasurer : Mr. P. L. Jones.

Assistant Honorary Secretary and Treasurer : Mr. R. F. Emery

Honorary Auditor : Mr. A. E. Franklin Hole.

Annual Dinner.

It was found impossible, owing to the restrictions on numbers, to have the usual Dinner and so a Buffet Supper was given in the School Hall immediately after the General Meeting. In spite of the fact that the Old Boys' Rugger Club had three games on the school field in the afternoon, two of which were against School XV's, attendance at the supper was not too encouraging. It was quite an informal affair and the hundred or so present had plenty to eat and drink while they met and talked to "form" friends they had not seen for years.

Membership.

During 1947, twenty-four Old Boys became Life Members of the Club, while thirty-nine paid the Annual Subscriptions. Over 150 Magazines were sent to annual subscribers in the hope that their subscriptions would be forthcoming. There are very many still to

come and it is hoped no further reminder will be necessary and that Members will canvass Old Boys to join the Club and to send for publication items of news about any Old Boy whether a member of the Club or not.

MR. BARTLE (1901-35) is still active and cheerful, he employs a man two days a week not because he is a physical wreck but because he has too many irons in the fire, Local Government affairs, Housing, Highways and Finance Committees, and driving "sitting" cases to Hospital. Mr. Brand stayed with him last September and he also was kept busy picking apples. Mrs. Bartle paints as much and as well as ever and finds a ready market for all her paintings.

The REV. A. M. BERRY (1914-33) very much to his regret could not come to the Annual Dinner owing to the lack of petrol—must be the first he has missed. He is very fit and is proud of the fact that last August he motored 215 miles in one day for his holidays in Devonshire. He hoped to be in his new Vicarage before Christmas—it will not be nearly as spacious as the one that was burnt. He recently lost four ducks by theft and has taken the precaution to board his geese out with a neighbouring farmer.

A Salisbury, S. Rhodesia, paper reporting the death of A. E. ADAMS (1905-06) states that he came there in 1909. He took part in the campaign in German South East Africa and after that was over, returned to England, joined the Rifle Brigade and was seriously wounded in France. He then went to Portuguese East Africa but soon returned to Salisbury as an accountant. He joined the firm of W. C. Macdonald & Co., Ltd., in 1937 and was made a director in 1944. He was a fine athlete and while at the R.G.S. was Prefect and Captain of Cricket and Football.

B. W. BARNETT writes that he, Peter Ward and John Prior (all 1934-40) meet fairly regularly. He and Prior work at the same Head Office and lunch together every day.

G. A. BOLTON (1918-22) fully intended to come as usual to the Old Boys' Dinner but unfortunately an offending molar compelled a visit to the dentist with painful results.

The *Ceylon Daily News* of January 1st, 1948 contained a photograph of CAPT. W. T. BRINDLEY, O.B.E. (1910-15). He joined the Ceylon Police in 1920, was promoted Assistant Superintendent in 1922 and Superintendent in 1927. He acted as Inspector General in 1945 and his O.B.E. was awarded for services rendered without any political favour. His next visit to England is uncertain although his leave is due in November. He hopes to be home for Christmas.

R. A. BRYANT (1932-37) has changed the light blue of the R.A.F. uniform for the navy blue of the Bucks Constabulary with visions of eventually becoming a Chief Constable. He is learning the arduous duty of a "Constable on the Beat" and although he learnt while at school that Watling Street ran through Stony Stratford he was not then aware that it has the heaviest amount of traffic in the County with an accident nearly every day around Stony Stratford.

W. GODFREY (1941-45) was very pleased to see his little bit of news in the Magazine and to know that he has not been forgotten. As a teleprinter he finds life in Singapore full and interesting. He knows Fred Kirby is somewhere on the Island but they have not yet met. He is looking forward to the time when he can see another School Play which he thinks improves from year to year.

S. J. LANGSTON (1941-47), no longer considers himself a "Fresher" at Nottingham. He is very proud of his College and gives a glowing account of their successes at all kinds of athletics including Fencing at which they have beaten Cambridge and hope to beat Oxford.

G. E. MARTINGELL (1939-43) is with the R.A.F. at Salatar Singapore. His father writes that he is quite well and finds plenty of time for recreation. He can swim a quarter of a mile quite easily, he scored all the goals when his Station won the Soccer Cup, is in charge of four Hockey teams and as he was the opening bat for Gerrards Cross 1st XI. he ought to do quite well for his Station at cricket.

Unusual incidents attending the launching of the latest addition to the Beer fishing fleet, when the trawler "Chardor" built for C. G. MILES (1907-14) was pushed off. As the trawler entered the water one of her crew, who missed his footing, was also "launched." Engine trouble developed during her maiden voyage necessitating the trawler being got ashore under man power.

Any Old Boy visiting New York will receive a real welcome at 511 Fifth Avenue. New York 17, where V. A. BENNETT (1919-24) has just opened his offices under the name of V. A. Bennett Company Incorporated—Advertising.

M. L. OGDEN (1937-42) is such a regular contributor to the Magazine that he is fully justified in complaining about the lack of news from Old Boys especially of his time. He also complains that the five day week did not come in his day because he used to hate that Saturday morning so much. He had his first Christmas at home since 1941. Since he last wrote he has been through the Panama Canal, to Curacao and to Trinidad.

R. A. PALMER (1940-44) finds Marlow quiet after France, Italy and Egypt. When he wrote he was about to go to a R.A.F. Station near Lincoln to be responsible for the maintenance and servicing of ground receivers and direction finding equipment. He met P. R. Haley at Marlow looking brown and very fit from his visit to Palestine.

D. STAMMERS (1936-41) now demobilised is back with Wiggins Teape but has moved from the Counting House to the Statistical Department and lives permanently in London. Stammers is engaged but as his fiancee is a medical student he is not getting married just yet.

C. SUESSMAN (1939-45) is still working as an experimental engineer with the Wilkinson Sword Company while his brother F. SUESSMAN (1939-47) is on Embarkation Leave waiting to go to Germany with the R.A.F. ; he is also waiting for August 1949 when he hopes to be demobbed !

P. B. WHITE (1929-33) In his letter enclosed a newspaper cutting giving the records of Rugby clubs ; he could not find the Old Wycombiensians mentioned. A very keen player himself White has not been able to play since an injury in the beginning of last season. He is still, however, a member of the Wasps and thinks Woodward a great credit to R.G.S. Rugby.

In a long letter to Mr. Arnison from Ismalia, K. W. G. WOOD (1930-35) stated that when he left the Army in 1946 he was reluctant to return to his work with a Railway Company because he could no longer summon any interest to find out why Mrs. Smith's "Pram" got lost or why a certain freight train had been delayed three hours. Then came the opportunity of entering the Meteorological Service and Wood volunteered to go abroad and is now working for the "Met" Unit of the Middle East Forces. He has no regrets.

J. S. YOUNG (1941-47) is working at the Midland Bank Training Branch, Kingsway. Since he is in touch with Bradford, Crisp, Jeans, Tunmer and Woollett, perhaps he will encourage them to follow his suit and become Life Members.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIAN'S RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB.

The Rugby section, for many years a most active part of the Old Boys' Club, can look back on a very successful 1947-48 season.

The 1st XV, captained by G. F. Horley (1920-28) lost only 4 of its 26 matches scoring 480 points against 140.

The "A" XV, under the care of H. H. Lee (1929-35) and P. G. Stevens (1927-33) won 12 of their 22 matches and provided a steady flow of players for the 1st XV.

So great has been the number of new young players that a "B" XV, was formed and 14 matches were played. Mainly responsible for the success of this team has been G. H. Hunt (1923-30) who has rendered the club invaluable service by this work.

To crown an excellent season the Club won the Berkshire invitation Seven-a-side Tournament at Reading. Several members of the 1st team played for Oxfordshire during the season and R. F. Emery (1927-33) was awarded a County Cap.

Next season, to cater for the extra teams and to give a well-worn School Field a rest, the Club is moving to new pitches and changing rooms at West Wycombe. This will in no way sever the connection between the School and Old Boys' Rugby as some matches will still be played on the School Field. The use of the field and changing rooms at the School has been granted by the Governors and Headmaster since 1927 for which the Club is very grateful.

A full fixture list of the 1948/49 season has been arranged for three teams but it is hoped to run a fourth team also. Three games will be played during a tour of South Wales at Easter 1949. New members, both playing and non-playing, are always welcome and can contact the Chairman and Treasurer, S. E. Hands (1915-20), Tel. 307 or the Secretary, R. F. Emery, (1927-33), at the School, Tel. 1125.

Record.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	For	Against
1st. XV.	26	20	2	4	480	140
"A" XV.	22	12	—	10	216	187
"B" XV.	14	4	1	9	98	164