

THE
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THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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This issue edited by M. ZANDER

EDITORIAL.

Throughout the recent election, fought so valiantly, on issues that seem comparatively small when seen in relation to world problems, there was little or no mention of any Colonial policy. But surely this was a grave mistake. At present, with a state of cold war between the two main world forces of Communism and Western democracy, both sides are wrestling for the soul of the vast potential force of the coloured people. Asia is threatened by the overwhelming appeal of Communist doctrines to masses whose standard of living is so appalling that it is difficult even to imagine the present conditions. China fell easy prey to this revolution because of the feeling of utter contempt and hatred for the corrupt and inefficient Nationalist government. India is mortally threatened, and will inevitably succumb if the present deadlock with Pakistan is not soon resolved.

In Africa the situation is equally desperate. The British administration has done untold good, but it has been impossible to stem, or control, the upsurge of violent nationalism, which has found expression in the many recent riots. The native feels that he has been exploited, and that the whites have given insufficient attention to the problem of his education and living conditions. The problem is aggravated by the hatred of African for Indian, and by the anti-native outlook of states such as South Africa ; and in fact the situation is an ideal breeding ground for the insidious Communist propaganda and revolutionary doctrines.

The Western powers and the British Commonwealth may very soon find themselves surrounded on every side by nations who have broken away from their traditional rulers, and who have chosen to take the Communist short cut to success, which has proved fatal for all freedom-loving countries that have tried the experiment.

The challenge is tremendous, for it implies the strengthening of these backward peoples by a comprehensive programme of financial, military and moral aid. We must restore to the coloured masses of the world confidence and trust in our methods. Christianity must show the natives that it has the right answer to Communism, and that its way to freedom and democratic government is one undoubtedly fraught with difficulties, but the only one that can ultimately give the peoples a happy and free life.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Staff.

L. W. Piner, Esq., F.R.C.O., and G. M. Jones, Esq., B.Sc. (Wales), have now become full-time members of the Staff as Assistant Music Master and Senior Chemistry Master, respectively.

Mr. H. Room, from Oxford, and Mr. E. Ainsworth, from Newlands College, have joined the Staff for a part of this term, to practise teaching—the former Modern Languages, and the latter Physics and Physical Training.

General.

During the summer holidays the School arranged for two parties of about ten boys to go on an exchange visit, one to France and the other to Sweden.

Towards the end of the Winter Term the VIth Form heard a talk by Wing-Commander Rankin, who made his lecture on the Gold Coast unusually interesting through his use of films to illustrate his points.

In December Mr. R. Howard took a party of some 30 boys to see the Old Vic's production of "She Stoops to Conquer."

In November, 1949, about 20 boys saw and enjoyed the Wycombe Abbey's production of Bridie's "Tobias and the Angel."

During the Christmas holidays 25 boys attended the annual lectures of the C.E.W.C. at Central Hall, Westminster.

On February 21st, 1950, the 2nd, 3rd and 6th Forms heard Mr. Edgar Hunt give a concert of recorder music.

After a long-delayed start, the tennis courts have at last been erected, and a considerable number of boys take this opportunity to improve their game.

Another new feature of the School field is the recent appearance of a number of workmen, and with them, sticks and timber of all sizes and description. We understand that this miscellaneous collection is to be converted into a canteen, which will be greatly appreciated by all sections of the School.

In accordance with the usual alertness of the School in keeping pace with the events of the day, the VIth Form staged a mock election at the same time as the politicians were winning their seats or losing their tempers. The experiment was a great success, and the candidates showed remarkable talents when they displayed their oratorical powers. The Conservative candidate, D. R. Stansbury, was returned by a majority of a mere four votes over his nearest rival. Details will be found on a later page.

Congratulations to :

K. Kenyon, D. R. Stansbury, W. Ware for being awarded State Scholarships, and M. Zander and D. S. Miller for being awarded County Major Scholarships on the results of Higher School Certificate.

(The awards of several other boys have been deferred until the results of their Open Scholarships are known.)

D. S. Timms for winning the Bucks Junior Tennis Championship.

P. Sharpe for playing for the Bucks Cricket Colts.

The Cross-Country Team for winning the Bucks Junior Championships.

D. Wood and M. A. Thorpe for representing Bucks in the All-England Junior Athletics Championships in July, 1949.

R. Syrett (1942-7) for being chosen to represent the R.A.F. in the Services Tournament at Twickenham this Spring.

SPEECH DAY.

Thursday, July 21st, 1949.

Before the actual proceedings within the School Hall, Major-General The Rt. Hon. The Lord Burnham, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., J.D., D.L., inspected a guard of honour, under the command of Major Pattinson. Then before a packed audience of parents and friends, the Chairman of the Governors, P. C. Raffety, Esq., J.P., opened the prize-giving ceremony by welcoming the guest of honour, Lord Burnham, and the rest of the audience.

He referred to the first large-scale Ministry of Education Inspection for eighteen years, one that seemed to have been very satisfactory, though the official report was not yet to hand. The only major criticism was one of which we were well aware, that of the lack of suitable accommodation. There had been considerable praise for the Headmaster and his staff for the great increase in academic success during the last years, and this was amply borne out by the unprecedented achievement this last year, when eight boys of the School had won Open scholarships to the Universities.

Speaking of the modern tendency towards the standardisation of schools, Mr. Raffety asked the apostles of uniformity to keep their hands off the Grammar Schools and not to tinker with a price-less heritage. One heard, he said, of the old school tie, sometimes as a joke, sometimes in derision, and sometimes as a badge of snobbery.

It was none of these things. It was a symbol of something far deeper which every boy and girl should feel about his, or her, school ;

but this was impossible with the excessive standardisation now so widespread in the country. Every school worth its salt, Mr. Raffety concluded, must have scope for individuality and opportunities for development.

The Headmaster's report began with a tribute to the memory of Mrs. Oakeshott, who had been one of the School's Governors, and whose recent death was a great blow, both to the interests of the School and to all her many friends.

He then went on to report the great academic achievements of the year. Not only had 28 boys passed the Higher School Certificate, but 15 distinctions had been secured in subjects covering practically the whole range of the curriculum. In addition, four State and seven County Major Scholarships had been awarded, and a record number of eight boys had won Open scholarships at the Universities.

The Headmaster pointed out what the increase in advanced work meant to the name of the town and the School. About thirty boys a year were going into the world with University qualifications, and the number was still growing. "I feel," he said, "there is in fact no limit to the success that can be obtained by the human spirit, provided that sufficient ambition and confidence are displayed."

The Headmaster then referred to "the usual spate of School activities," which this year included the highly successful opera, "The Gondoliers," and good Rugby and Cricket seasons. Mention of the sporting side of the School had to include recognition of the services to the School of J. E. Woodward, who was Captain of Rugby and Cricket, held five athletics records, captained the English Schoolboys against Scotland and France, who won the All-England under 18 years 100 yards at Bath in 1948, and who had remained throughout possessed of the modesty and good sense which had given the greatest possible pleasure to his many friends.

The new C.C.F. had had an outstandingly successful General Inspection, and were specially complimented by not only taking a prominent part in the expedition to Malta, sponsored by the Inter-Services Cadet Committee, but also by providing the two officers who took charge of the party.

Some mention of the increasing boarding side was also essential. Next term three boarding houses would be filled, and this was a great contribution to the strength of the School, and also to the educational provision of the county.

Normally, the Headmaster continued, that would have been the end of the most successful report he had ever made, but he felt he had to mention the uneasiness that he, together with all other heads of boys' and girls' Grammar Schools, felt about the present educational crisis. In plain terms, the teachers' salaries were on a ridiculously low level compared with those of any of the other

cultured professions, and while this state of affairs continued the position of the highly qualified teacher was in great danger. If a decline of standards was to be avoided there would have to be a complete revaluation of the teachers' salary scales, and a proper distinction made between people who were teaching primary school children and those training sixth-formers. The Grammar Schools were in great danger, and only a strong, vocal, public opinion could put things right.

Lord Burnham in his address stressed the importance of mastering the art of work, at school, and of having the ability to educate oneself in later life. Scholarships to the Universities were not ends in themselves, but stepping stones to more learning. Referring to the fine tradition of the School, Lord Burnham expressed the opinion that Eton and Stowe, the two other Bucks Headmasters' Conference Schools, thought themselves in good company.

Tea was provided after the distribution of cups and prizes by Lord Burnham, and later there was a Commemoration Service at High Wycombe Parish Church, when the preacher was the Rev. W. Richardson, Chaplain of Oundle School.

The following were successful in the Oxford Higher School Certificate, July, 1949 :—

M. T. Allen, A. S. Baker, R. Ball, P. D. Belsham, E. Benjamin, D. R. Boreham, J. T. Hobbs, M. M. Jones, M. A. Mansfield, M. W. Mawby, E. J. Reeves, K. E. Rockell, J. J. B. Ware (Distinction in Pure Mathematics), D. F. T. Winter, A. Barr (Distinction in History), T. A. Cowlett, N. Filby, P. S. Groom, R. V. P. Hudson, M. Keen, K. Kenyon (Distinction in French and German), G. J. B. Landers, D. S. Miller (Distinction in French), N. J. Payne, R. E. W. Roberts, D. G. Sainsbury, D. R. Stansbury (Distinction in English), R. C. Terry, F. C. Tucker, D. G. Veale, F. J. Wingrove, M. Zander (Distinction in English and History), J. C. Carrick, D. M. Dixon, G. T. Harris (Distinction in Greek).

The following were successful in the Oxford School Certificate, July, 1949 :—

D. J. Biggs, G. J. Bristow, R. F. Carter, D. J. Chandler, M. A. Crowther, G. C. Dyer, C. M. J. C. Edwards, C. J. C. Goodchild, J. A. C. Griffiths, R. J. C. Handscombe, R. Hawes, R. C. Hoing, A. Kenyon, R. A. Kipping, P. Kirwan, B. A. Knock, A. Main, M. J. P. Moore, R. W. Morgan, R. T. New, D. P. J. C. O'Brien, H. S. Platt, K. T. Rutson, J. A. R. Silver, B. Sinnatt, M. J. Southam, R. R. Tapping, M. A. R. Thorpe, M. F. Tillion, M. G. Walker, D. J. White, A. M. Betts, M. D. Clarke, D. J. Crump, J. B. Fane, M. J. George, W. H. George, D. E. Gray, P. A. D. Green, P. C. S. Hall, F. Hayebourn, R. A. Hibberd, N. T. Honour, D. A. G. Keen, V. A. Paul, N. W. Perfect, J. R. Webster, B. Woodbridge, D. G. Woodhams, M. J. Banham, J. B. Birch, D. H. Bolton, M. J. Bryant, F. S. Dronfield, B. F. Graver, G. A. Hersey, J. W. Josling, D. P. Lemmings, D. N. C. Long, M. S. Matthews, D. R. Owen, C. F. Plummer, J. T. G. Slade, W. D. Stanners, K. C. Woods, H. D. Bishop, G. M. Burrows, M. J. Eaton, A. C. F. M. Emary, D. A. Jennings, D. R. Miles, R. H. Miller, M. G. Nash, K. S. Simmons, J. R. Stevens, J. Tournier.

December 1949 : N. W. Cutler.

The following boys entered the School in the Third Term of
1949 :—

Newell, R. A.	VI	Vickers, R. C.	IIA
Fraser, R. D.	VI	Walker, J.	IIA
Schoenke, W. W.	VUA	Williams, B. C.	IIA
Gray, J.	Vs	Arnold, D.	IIB
James, R. B.	Vs	Ball, K. D.	IIB
Williams, D. G. P.	IVX	Barratt, E. G.	IIB
Styles, D.	IVM	Brown, M. E.	IIB
Minter, C.	IVM	Chandler, D.	IIB
Birch, I.	IVM	Clark, R. D. S.	IIB
Dann, P.	IVs	Cutler, A. E.	IIB
Gordon, A. J.	IVs	Dutton, J.	IIB
Adams, P. W.	IVSH	Faulkner, K. G.	IIB
Baker, G. W.	IVSH	Garland, D. L.	IIB
Bennett, B.	IVSH	Gilbert, C. A.	IIB
Bryant, S. J. J.	IVSH	Greenwood, J. D.	IIB
Chatt, M. D.	IVSH	Heyers, V. G.	IIB
Deacon, A. J. R.	IVSH	Howell, D. L.	IIB
Fountain, K. E.	IVSH	Kelly, J. S.	IIB
Gallichan, A. L. S.	IVSH	Mendy, D. J.	IIB
Hester, R. E.	IVSH	North, P. W. H.	IIB
Hollins, B. M.	IVSH	Prior, R. W.	IIB
Osborne, J. P.	IVSH	Rear, P. E.	IIB
Powell, R. H.	IVSH	Robertson, A. B.	IIB
Eales, J.	IIIA	Sherwood, D. V.	IIB
Barwell, J. A.	IIA	Smethurst, D. L.	IIB
Bond, C. E.	IIA	Smithers, J.	IIB
Bond, R. F.	IIA	Stack, R. J. A.	IIB
Bond, T. J.	IIA	Smithson, H. P.	IIB
Chandler, A. J.	IIA	Ticehurst, J. G.	IIB
Cooper, F.	IIA	Turner, M. F.	IIB
Cox, J. A.	IIA	Williams, K.	IIB
Ferguson, R. J.	IIA	Wright, B. R.	IIB
Giles, A. F.	IIA	Admans, J. A.	IIC
Godley, D. L.	IIA	Babb, R.	IIC
Gosling, N. C.	IIA	Bailey, P. C.	IIC
Green, K. J.	IIA	Bedford, J. W.	IIC
Hemuss, T. J.	IIA	Biggs, K. F.	IIC
Hopkins, J. D.	IIA	Boehm, N. F.	IIC
Horne, E. M.	IIA	Brake, R. J.	IIC
Hussey, C. F.	IIA	Briden, J. C.	IIC
James, D. S.	IIA	Busby, F. M.	IIC
Jennings, D. T.	IIA	Chamberlain, P.	IIC
King, M. J.	IIA	Clements, R. P. L.	IIC
Lawrie, N. G.	IIA	Elias, D. T.	IIC
Lewendon, B. S.	IIA	Freeth, J. W. J.	IIC
Lewin, N. A.	IIA	Harding, J. W.	IIC
McGregor, A.	IIA	Hodsdon, M. J.	IIC
Rackstraw, C. A.	IIA	How, J. L.	IIC
Richardson, J. D.	IIA	Howlett, I. J.	IIC
Seymour, B. H.	IIA	Johnson, K. A.	IIC
Smith, M. J.	IIA	Jones, M. D.	IIC

Law, R. A.	IIc	Squires, M. E.	IIc
McLeod, R.	IIc	Vaughan-Rees, M. H.	IIc
Moore, J. T.	IIc	Williams, J. C.	IIc
Perkins, J.	IIc	Wise, D. K.	IIc
Slade, D. J.	IIc	Wood, L. V.	IIc

The following boys left in the Second Term, 1949 :—

Easton, M. J.	VI	Bishop, H. D.	VUX
Ketchell, M. G.	IIB	Bryant, M. J.	VI
Wheeler, D. A.	VI	Clinch, D. A.	VUC
Orchard, K. A.	Vs	Cooper, M. E.	VUM
Belsham, P. D.	VI	Engeham, C. R.	VUX
Fry, P. D.	VI	Harris, N. W.	VI
Gardner, J.	VI	Honour, N. T.	VUC
Veale, D. G.	VI	Jennings, D. A.	VUX
Peatey, B. C.	VI	Keen, M.	VI
Owen, D. P.	VI	Landers, G. J.	VI
Hobbs, J. T.	VI	Lewis, C. J.	VI
Hudson, R. U. P.	VI	McCulloch, R.	VUX
Kenyon, K.	VI	New, R. F. T.	Vx
Lang, R.	VI	Simmons, K. S.	VUM
Mawby, M. W.	VI	Spittles, R. G.	Vg
Rockell, K. E.	VI	Stone, R. H.	VUX
Wilks, D. J.	VI	Tournier, J.	VUX
Eaton, M. J.	VUX	Trott, D. L.	VI
Hersey, G. A.	VUM	Whitton, D. W.	VUM
Reeves, E. J.	VI	Biggs, D. J.	Vx
Terry, R. C.	VI	Chandler, D.	VI
Wingrove, F. J.	VI	Cromack, I.	Vg
Betts, A. H.	VUC	Hawes, R.	Vx
Dronfield, F. S.	VUM	Lee, D.	Vg
George, W. H.	VUC	Moore, M. J.	Vx
Graver, B. F.	VUM	Morgan, R. W.	Vx
Hibberd, R. A.	VUC	Nesbitt, B. J.	IVA
Hobbs, A. A.	VUM	Main, A.	Vx
Lemmings, D. P.	VUM	Nash, M. G.	VUX
Long, D. W. C.	VUM	Johns, J. D. E.	IVs
Pask, G.	VUC	McQuade, L.	VUC
Paul, V. A.	VUC	Pemble, J.	VUC
Stanners, N. D.	VUM	Lyons, B. T.	IVs
Tapping, R. R.	Vx	Brown, N. E. G.	IVs
Tyler, K. J.	VUM	Miles, D. R.	VUX
Woodhams, D. G.	VI	Caudrey, D. J.	VSH
Woodward, J. E.	VI	Hopwood, J. M.	
Miller, A. J. F.	VI	Malone, M.	IVSH
Aldridge, M. J.	VUM	Wright, K.	

The following boys left in the Third Term, 1949 :—

Dyer, G. C.	Vx	How, J. L.	IIc
Heyburn, F.	VI	Summerfield, B. C.	VI
Long, D. W. C.	VI	Legge, R. A.	IVA
Mansfield, M. A.	VI	Pask, G. A.	VUA

Woods, K. C.	VUG	Free, G. G.	Vs
Durham, M. E.	VUS	Hopkins, J. D.	IIA
Coats, R. G.	VUSH	Harman, R. D.	VI
Cooper, R. W.	IIIx	Harris, C.	VI
Rutson,	VIM	Miller, D. S.	VI
Halliday, D. C.	VUG	Smith, C. R.	VI
Simpson, B.	VI	Tucker, F. C.	VI
Southam, M. J.	VI	Bryant, M. J.	VI
Griffiths, J. A.	VI	Carter, R. F.	VI
Jackson, E. A.	VUS	Gray, D. E.	VI
Roadnight, T. G.	VUS	Burrows, A. M.	VI
Warrener, R. K.	VUS	Baldwin, E. A.	VI
Tilbury, R. L.	VUA	Woodward, M. V.	VUA
Etherington, A. B.	VUG	Robertson, S. D.	VUA
Irving, B. A.	Vs		

THE ELECTION.

Politically speaking, the most valuable event of the term was the election held by the VIth Form on Tuesday, February 21st, constitutional practice being followed in nearly every detail.

The campaign had opened ten days earlier, with lively scenes on Nomination Day. The four candidates who emerged triumphant from this first ordeal were D. R. Stansbury, Conservative ; R. E. W. Roberts, Liberal ; B. W. Bowler, Labour ; M. S. Matthews, Independent.

After this opening to the proceedings, expectations of a really heated battle were high. But the general atmosphere calmed down, and candidates and electorate settled down to some stern arguing. Each dinner-hour break, and even lesson-time, found small groups of boys waxing hot in debate, giving and taking punishment with equal energy. The Library was a mass of brightly coloured posters, asking, exhorting, or threatening the electors to vote for one of the parties.

No doubt the propaganda which outlined the respective merits of the various policies, and pointed out the numerous faults of all the other parties, played some part in swaying the "floating vote," but who can deny the genius of Stansbury's oratory, appealing equally to the ear and the emotions ; or the logic of Bowler's reasoning ? Roberts made his great effort towards the end, with a flood of Liberal posters and leaflets, including his *piece de resistance*—a telegram of greetings from Clement Davies—and these undoubtedly influenced a large number of the doubtfuls, and swelled his vote. Matthews based his appeal on the altogether admirable,



1. M. S. MATTHEWS (Independent). 2. D. R. STANSBURY (Conservative). 3. R. E. W. ROBERTS (Liberal). 4. THE SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE, in action. 5. B. W. BOWLER (Labour).

but quite impracticable plan that all members should be free to vote according conscience, rather than having to toe the party line, and this appealed to anarchists and cynics alike.

The spirit of the election was excellent throughout. A census of opinion seemed to show a considerable Conservative majority, but the fight went on to the very last minute, and an eye-of-poll meeting was attended by over fifty boys.

The next morning the printed voting forms were produced, the Organising Committee cleared the Library, and the scene was set for the final drama. There seemed to be a surprising upsurge of Liberal feeling at the last minute, and the issue appeared by no means certain. The counting of the votes revealed that the Conservative candidate, D. R. Stansbury, had obtained exactly four more votes than his nearest rival, R. E. W. Roberts, the figures being :—

D. R. Stansbury (Conservative)	41
R. E. W. Roberts (Liberal)	37
B. W. Bowler (Labour)	11
M. S. Matthews (Independent)	8

And thus ended the event which had, perhaps, produced more hard work and effective reasoning than the masters saw throughout the whole term.

EYE-WITNESS.

MALTA TRIP.

During the summer holidays a small party from the C.C.F. was lucky enough to be chosen to go on a trip to Malta, organised by the English Speaking Union, with the object of furthering understanding and friendship between the people of this country and those of Malta. There was also a very strong backing from the three Services, without whose help the trip would not have been economically possible.

The party was made up of Navy, Army and Air cadets from all parts of Great Britain, with Major Pattinson in charge, assisted by Squadron-Leader Roberts. Half of us were to go on H.M.S. *Sluys* and the others on H.M.S. *Cadiz*, and all from Wycombe went together on the former ship.

The crew treated us extremely well. The food was excellent, and everyone did his best to make us comfortable. We did a little work in the mornings, so as to keep us from boredom, and I think many a Wycombiensian would have enjoyed seeing Ted Woodward "bluebelling" some of the brass of the superstructure, or John Gardner painstakingly scraping off rust and old paint from some of the ironwork.

The two destroyers met each other and set course for Gibraltar. On the way they practised manoeuvring, and were constantly changing positions. Before we reached Malta we saw depth charges dropped, the Bofors and 4.5's fired, and every part of the ship's equipment in action. We were even allowed to steer the ship, which is not quite so easy as it looks.

Eventually, late one forenoon, there emerged from the dense cloud that so often conceals her, the Rock of Gibraltar. It was an inspiring sight, and one that none of us will forget. After a happy day spent sight-seeing in an old lorry that threatened to collapse and hurl us to death on the steep slopes and narrow bends, we set sail into the Mediterranean.

We found that it was now considerably hotter, and the ship stopped at least once a day to enable the crew to swim. Another novelty was the appearance of schools of porpoises, which swam alongside the ship for a distance, skimming in and out of the waves.

Early one morning, a brown smudge appeared on the horizon. It was Gozo, the sister island to Malta. Soon we were tied up in Sienna Creek, and the gaily-coloured dghaisas, or water taxis, swarmed around us. We were taken to H.M.S. *Ricasoli*, one of the ancient forts overlooking Grand Harbour, where the Navy were to quarter, and entertain, us for the next few days.

In off-duty hours Valetta, the capital, was explored. We found shopping great fun. There was Wembleys, where we sat eating fruit melbas, the Vernon Club for dancing, and good cheap food and drink. We also saw some of the ancient temples, and the more famous of the catacombs.

The Army took charge of us for awhile, and moved us to a transit camp on the other side of the island. The next bay to this was St. Paul's Bay, where there is a monument to commemorate the Apostle's shipwreck there nearly 2,000 years ago.

During our stay with the Army we were made very comfortable. It was a strange experience to sleep under sandfly nets, but they were necessary, for, as it was, two of the party had a touch of the fever that the bite of this insect causes. Army trucks took us to the various military establishments on the island. At the Royal Artillery station a cricket match was played against their team. We also saw some of the little radio-controlled target boats in action when we visited the R.A.S.C.

On the two Sundays that we were in Malta we were taken on picnics, first by the Navy, and then by an R.A.S.C. launch. We visited Comino and Gozo on these trips, and had great fun, especially with the life jackets, which enabled everyone to play about even in the deepest water.

Our last Service visit was to Kali aerodrome, where we had the chance to have a close look at some Gloster Meteors. This was of particular interest to our A.T.C. cadets, who asked a very perspiring officer a great number of technical questions.

At last, however, the time came for us to leave. We were taken to Luqa aerodrome, late one night, and the next morning we took off in a York transport for home. The noise of the engines made conversation almost impossible, but we could watch Sardinia and France appear, and disappear, below us. After about six hours Portland Bill, with part of the Home Fleet anchored nearby, came into view.

We landed at East Lyncham, Wiltshire, and were welcomed home by Mr. Cooke, the organiser of the trip, and Mr. Darval, a representative of the English-Speaking Union. Then we split up to return to our homes in all parts of the British Isles. Home at last after an exciting and unforgettable trip.

All those who were fortunate enough to go on the visit would like to take this opportunity of thanking both the organisers and the officers who took charge of the party, for making possible such a wonderful holiday of instruction and pleasure.

P. D. FRY.

A STREET ACCIDENT.

It was an oppressive day in London, and at Clerkenwell it was drizzling. "Just the sort of day for something awful to happen," thought Mrs. Brown, as she did young Ernie's bedroom. Ernie; he had always been her favourite son. Her heart softened as she looked at the cracked china dog on the mantelpiece, the 1940 calendar, and all those dear things of her dear Ernie. Thinking of these things, she slowly polished his wardrobe, but suddenly she dropped her duster and ran down into the street, for from outside there had come the screeching of brakes and a high-pitched scream! By the time she had got there—the bedroom was at the back of the house—all the housewives in the street were gathered round the scene. Mrs. Brown could see the ambulance, with the bell clanging its fateful message, coming towards the crowd. They parted to make way for the vehicle and Mrs. Brown was swept to the back. She struggled to the front just in time to see a still form on a stretcher being carried into the ambulance. "Well," she thought, "I'm very sorry for that person, but at least we shall have something to talk about. Why! the general election's been over for six months. I wonder who it is." The ambulance was now going. "Who is it?" she asked a neighbour, Mrs. Robinson. "Why, you should know," replied Mrs. Robinson. "It's your young Ernie!"

D. JAGO, IIIx.

VERSES ON THE BOARDING HOUSE.

(With acknowledgments to T. Gray.)

The school bell tolls the knell of parting day,
The Wycombe bus winds slowly o'er the lea,
The day boy homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the school to boarders and to me.

Now fades the glimmering school field on the right,
And all the air the noise of boarders holds,
Save where the prefects exercise their right
To see the juniors all in blanket folds.

Save from that yonder school clock tower
The chiming bell does to the moon complain
That boarders climbed into her secret bower,
Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Beneath that rugged roof that clouds do shade,
Where heaves the bed with many a sweating heap,
Each in his bed is for the night down laid,
The small rude boarders of the house do sleep.

And not until the incense-breathing morn
The swallow twittering from the wood-built shed,
The bell's shrill clarion, or the echoing horn,
Shall bring these boarders from their lowly beds.

M. J. GEORGE, VI.

"UNACKNOWLEDGED LEGISLATORS."

It is only because I believe that I have made a discovery that is of vital importance to the preservation of the human race that I have consented to publish the results of my research to the limited public of the WYCOMBIENSIAN, since it has already been rejected by the short-sighted editors of every responsible journal from *Comic Cuts* down to the *Times Lit. Supp.* Briefly, the result is this: the main reason for every trouble of the world to date has been poetry—poetry inspired and directed by the devil in person. This may be best proved by the incautious statement of the war-monger Shelley himself, who admitted that "poets are the trumpets which sing to battle; poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world." What a confession!

I am prepared to prove on the basis of this that every major war has been caused by the accursed blight of poetry, which works, using methods only recently successfully applied to directly political ends by the master fiction-writer Goebbels, on the innermost spirit of man, and corrupts them from the soul outwards.

Perhaps the most brilliant manifestation of the devil in human form was in the case of a certain Homer, who not only persuaded people of the impossible idea that he was blind, but even convinced responsible critics three thousand years later that he was a woman. As a result of his propaganda a petty tribal war became a glorious example of self-sacrifice, and encouraged even the intelligent Athenians to magnify their boundary squabbles into major wars. The English poets have kept up the tradition, for Spenser launched a 350-years war in Ireland, Shakespeare forced his tool, Burghley, to fight long wars with Spain, Milton precipitated and controlled a bloody civil war in England, and Dryden provoked the rebellion of Monmouth in 1685. After that date it is seldom that our poets openly display their infernal ends, but every now and again a Campbell tells you plainly that you should :

“ Your glorious standard launch again
To match another foe,”

and W. E. Henley, bloody but unbowed, gets accidentally caught in the trap he has laid for the souls of his unwary countrymen.

I appeal to you peace-loving peoples of the world : shall we allow this cancer to grow in our midst ? Is it not our duty to root out the evil while we are yet free in our actions ? For three thousand years we have harboured at the heart of our civilisation a viper which will slowly eat away at our entrails. Now that we know the real cause of our troubles, will any man's conscience allow him to permit for another moment the Antichrist of “ poetry ” to destroy unchecked the very fibre of our national life ?

A. McINTOSH, VI.

TRIOLET.

On Valentine's day
I hoped for a letter ;
I was feeling quite gay
On Valentine's day,
But no one would pay
To make me her debtor—
On Valentine's day
I had hoped for a letter !

A. McINTOSH, VI.

KEEPING CALM, OR SOME EVENTS IN AN ORDINARY SCHOOL DAY.

Since I am not properly awake in the morning until I am on the bus, and half-way to School, I cannot give you an accurate description of my early-morning home life. Every now and then I am conscious of stampeding across the cabbage patch to the garden gate, with rigger boots and case flying out behind me in an endeavour to catch that red-coated double-decker monstrosity called a bus. By the time I arrive in Wycombe I have woken up sufficiently to produce my season ticket, comment on the weather, and borrow a penny from my companion, in order to ascend the hill.

Schooldays are one long hectic rush from bus to bus, master to master, and from form to form. O, Masters!—grand in your fine equipages that rattle up to School—spare a thought for your pupils as they rush here and there, trudge to and fro, and generally endure the misery of going to School.

Enter the Library—doubtful privilege accorded to the Sixth. With a sinking feeling, I realise that the mock election is on and that I am supposed to be speaking for the Independent Anarchist, or some other misguided creature. I am lucky if I am not reading the lessons in Prayers, and even if I am not, I think I am, and get into a flap. Between the lessons, in which I dash between the Junior building, the boarding-house and the Library, I endeavour to see the Games Master, the Music Master and the Headmaster. My name was once given in for milk—but can I spare the time to go and lap that rich, creamy gift of the State? No, of course not. Break is no break, but rather free time to spend chasing the people I want to see. I might, while passing up and down the corridor, notice that I am down for choir practice, a rigger match, boxing, the chess tournament, and to take a punishment drill. All these are in a day's work, but I mustn't grumble.

Passing over school dinners as quickly as possible, for more than one reason, I warble away in the Music Room, pretending to be Gigli, or Caruso, or someone. This at least gives me an opportunity of sitting down for a brief moment and snatching a "breather" in between bars. Choir practice finishes when the bell for afternoon school rings—no peace for the wicked.

After first period it is games, which means chasing after a greasy ball, getting your ear bitten by a husky forward, your shin hacked by a temperamental three-quarter, and your neck squeezed by a vicious full-back. The showers after the game are, naturally, cold.

The bus you catch down the hill arrives in town a minute after your bus has left for home, so you fly up the High Street, past Lyons,

and finally catch it by the lace of your rigger boot at Frogmoor. And that, readers, is a day at School. I wonder, as I journey home with aching bones and confused brain why I filled in that State Scholarship Form.

R. E. W. ROBERTS, VI.

"INNOCENTS ABROAD."

I forget who just suggested a cycling holiday in France—because that bright, but imprudent, individual has wisely forgotten the fact himself. At any rate, it was decided that six of us, whom I shall call A, B, C, D, E, and myself should go forth in the spirit of Livingstone and Drake, and travel, so it seemed, with nearly as much equipment.

The machines which were destined to carry, or be carried by, us were two tandems and two lightweight cycles, all totally unsuitable for French roads. We also took far too much clothing, food and bedding, etc. The idea was to cycle gaily along, enjoying the beauties of the countryside, and then to have great fun camping for the night. This was all very well in theory, but in practice we found that there was less enjoyment than effort to be endured.

On an August Sunday morning we set off at 8 a.m. for Newhaven, our spirits not yet dampened by the pouring rain—the first for over a week—and obviously just for our benefit. Of the events of that terrible day I will say little except that the tandem ridden by A and B gave a great deal of trouble, and that it was a very tired party that made camp that night on the cliffs overlooking the Channel.

On arrival at Dieppe we took the wrong road out of the town. This followed hard upon a picturesque dockside scene of a porter and yours truly arguing heatedly over the unloading of our cycles, each in our own language, and neither of us understanding a word that the other said. But perhaps the less said of that incident the better.

We camped that night at a little seaside village, where the Canadians had landed in 1943. C decided to try and "mend" the troublesome tandem, and with typical efficiency proceeded to lose most of the ball-bearings from the lock wheel, mainly because the rest of us, in tramping around absent-mindedly, kicked them all over the place. We were cheerful that night, feeling that at last we had started our holiday. This was the life—camping in the open—a healthy, inspiring way of living, providing it stays fine.

I awoke at 6 a.m. to find it pouring with rain. A and B's tent, like their tandem, had decided to let them down, and they found themselves soaking wet. But their spirits were so subdued that they just lay there—waiting, I suppose, for the end to come. E and I

were not much luckier. Our tent held two comfortably, so C and D decided to leave their tent (for, it being wet, they were only spoiling their kit) and come and lie all over our clothes to keep us company. Poor E found himself half in his own tent and half out—and it was still raining. We ate a cold breakfast that morning, as the frying pan had filled with water as soon as we attempted to cook some bacon. The net result of the downpour was that we had to spend the rest of the day drying out.

On the Wednesday morning we set out again quite cheerfully, but before we had gone 15 miles, the tandem that C had “mended” broke down. A and B decided to walk to the nearest railway station, and to finish the journey by train. Arriving at Orleans at 1 a.m., they agreed to walk the mere 25 miles to our friend’s house, and arrived 2 p.m. the next afternoon, literally on their hands and knees.

Meanwhile C’s back wheel decided to buckle—well, why shouldn’t it; everything else had gone wrong? It was only with the aid of a lift—all four of us, plus machines—that we reached Rouen that night. Here the bike was repaired, and next morning we pushed on again. All went well until my three-speed thought it didn’t like the company, broke, and promptly disappeared. It was then that I became slightly annoyed, and proceeded to inform the rest of this fact—but, of course, it did no good whatsoever.

We pushed on in top gear, reaching Dreux with the help of another lift. After a meal, we made a night dash for Chartres, where we stopped and lay down for the night, with only our capes below and a blanket above us.

We awoke early next morning, but apart from some large mosquito bites, bruised backs from lying on stones all night, and feeling very tired and hungry, everything was just perfect. Yet we had great luck that morning; a lorry took us forty miles to Orleans, and at last we were within striking distance of our goal.

A bathe was suggested in the Loire—all eighteen inches of it. But at least it was refreshing. E and I sprinted ahead, and arrived safely, but unfortunately C’s bike crocked again, and it was some time before they “made it.” So bad luck had dogged us to the last.

The rest of the story is a tale of luxury—a car ride to Paris, a sight-seeing tour (our shorts and my rugger cap causing much amusement) and the boat-train home. Our luck had not been so bad after all.

I write this little article as a warning to those who contemplate following in our footsteps. There is plenty of fun to be had, but one has to suffer, in order to enjoy it. One can learn much of the French—their language and customs, of feeling independent, of life in the open, and perhaps most important of all, that there is more real enjoyment to be got out of something that involves some effort.

If you want luxuries, go on a luxury tour. If you want to really travel, and to gain something from it, then go as we did. Sometimes you are on top of the world, and at others in the depths of despair, but when it is all over you will look back, as I do, and say to yourself—"It may have been tough, but I really enjoyed it."

P. D. FRY.

SOCIETY NOTES.

The oppressive boredom of the dinner-hour is lessened occasionally by the activities of the various societies. The most long-established and influential of these is undoubtedly the Music Society. When I visited it A. Reynolds was giving a gramophone recital of Grieg's "Peer Gynt" to about twenty Sixth-formers, which is a great improvement on last year's attendance.

In contrast with the educated few who gather at Uplyme on a Thursday afternoon, the Twentieth Century Opinion Society caters for the mob who like to talk but have little to talk about. When I visited them they were discussing the best ways to dispose of dead bodies. One learned gentleman suggested pickling and another wished to be thrown into the sea. R. E. W. Roberts concluded the meeting by taking a vote and proved that the Society overwhelmingly favours cremation, despite numerous minority opinions. At the end of this term they hope to hold a mass debate with visitors from ten South Bucks schools, which provides an excuse for introducing a subscription and an opportunity to address a larger audience.

The History Society has been more prominent this term, although its activities tend to be limited to boarders and to boys who live in the town. This term a trip has been arranged to the Public Records Office in place of the traditional visit to Hughenden Manor, whilst several lectures and discussions have been held in the dinner-hour. Last term four leading members, Phillips, Newell, Birch and Saunders, recounted their holiday experiences abroad. This proved amusing, although hardly historical, and the Society is now equipped to avoid any customs barrier, however strict.

Despite rumours to the contrary, the Science Society is still active, and is even arranging a trip round the gasworks in March. Last term they discussed the possibility of life on the planets at a meeting held in the Physics Lab. Three experts, M. M. Jones, D. R. Webster and J. B. Ware, addressed the assembled scientists, and then the meeting was thrown open to general discussion. After several digressions, they asked "What is life?" and, since they found no answer, the meeting was concluded.

My last visit was to the Chess Club, which is enjoying considerable popularity throughout the School at this moment. B. G. Walker, the team captain, was supervising the games which were in progress on desks and window-sills all over the room. Although the team has not achieved any outstanding success, the Club is sufficiently active for the Open Competition to attract sixty entries. It is only to be hoped that the present large membership will mean team successes in the future, when the juniors are old enough to play for the School.

—
D.R.S., VI.

“ IOLANTHE.”

The School's latest production of Gilbert and Sullivan proved as popular as the others, and everyone is already wondering what the next will be. Play enthusiasts had hoped that we might return to play acting but, since the operas have proved so successful, it seems a pity to stop doing them. They have the great advantage that nearly a hundred people take part or help behind the scenes. Plays ought to be done, however, and the solution to the problem seems to be that they should be performed at the end of another term.

“ Iolanthe ” was marked by an attractive setting by Mr. Grant, the scene by the stream being incredibly real and delightful to look at. One of the minor pleasures in watching these productions is looking at the new sets which are essential for each one, just as, when we did Shakespeare, we watched the old sets being shuffled and regrouped like a gigantic jig-saw puzzle.

Since this was the third opera, we could watch our favourite “ stars ” and enjoy their performances, not this time with surprise that they could do it at all, but with pleasure at how well they did it. The entry of the fairies on the Arcadian landscape was enchanting, the leading fairies, Saddler, Collier and Keeling, helping to make this the prettiest scene of all. The chorus looked very attractive—perhaps a little buxom here and there—and sang very well indeed. Their Queen, stoutly played by Hobson, was suitably severe, without losing that softness of heart that made her pardon her erring subject (after only twenty-five years' punishment) and later to be taken with the charm of Private Willis. Iolanthe rose dramatically from her watery exile ; Mann played with more confidence than he showed last year and his voice, though not very powerful, was melodious.

Veale as an Arcadian shepherdess sang and acted as charmingly as ever. He was always completely natural and quite at home on the stage. “ Her ” wooer was not so happy ; McIntosh was, I think, miscast as the shepherd, but he tried hard in a part for which he was really not suited.

The best performance was undoubtedly given by the Peers. The two Earls, Cowlett and Perfect, were excellent, singing with clarity and vigour, and acting with infectious enthusiasm. Cowlett has improved almost beyond recognition, acting and singing with astonishing confidence. Why, too, a Peer when off duty, gave an amusing character sketch as Private Willis. Roberts, as Lord Chancellor, gave the same outstanding performance as in previous productions, having just the appearance and voice for the part; his trio with the two Earls was a triumph.

The chorus of Peers seemed to me quite the best male chorus we have yet had. Their "dignified and stately" entrance will long be remembered for their lusty singing and imposing appearance. It was amusing to see that a few of last year's *condatine* had reached the Upper House.

Many people helped behind the scenes and they all deserve thanks for their work, and praise for the success of their production, particularly, of course, Mr. Hills, the Producer, and Mr. Rainbow, the Musical Director. Were it not for their hard work and untiring energy it would have been quite impossible to have put on such an opera.

R.H.

RUGBY RETROSPECT 1949-50.

1st XV.

School Matches : Played 14 ; Won 7 ; Lost 7.

Other Matches : Played 5 ; Won 2 ; Lost 3.

The Captain of the School XV, H. D. Howard, is to be congratulated on his leadership of a good side, whose best quality was the determination of its play, and its weakest, a lack of constructive three-quarter play. It must be said that frequent injuries, and lack of weight and size were a contributory cause of this weakness; but the fact remains that rarely have the backs been given better chances by the forwards and scrum-half than they have been this season, and the results have been somewhat meagre. On the other hand, the side has always tried to play an open attacking game when the ground permitted, and sometimes when it did not. Looking back on the season as a whole, there has been much more to encourage than to disappoint. The pack has been good all through the season, and has pulled several games out of the fire by working up really heavy pressure in the later stages of the match.

Among the games which will linger most pleasantly in the memory are a fine open one at Balliol, in which the tackling of both sides was spectacular, and grand fighting wins over Leighton Park School and St. Edward's 2nd XV. In the latter game we were 11 points down twenty-five minutes from "no side" and struggled

home to victory by 14 pts. to 11 in a storming finish. The game against Marlow was another desperately close affair. Our other wins were against St. Marylebone G.S., Stowe 2nd XV, Reading School, and Henley G.S. We lost to distinctly better sides in Windsor C.S., Watford G.S. and Southfield School, and more closely-fought games against Abingdon, Tiffin and Newbury Schools, all of them good sides.

The Old Boys paid us the compliment of bringing their strongest side, which the School held well in the first half, actually leading at half-time : but in the second half a fine display of running and handling by the Old Boys brought them a substantial win. We had a pleasant game with a side brought by P. D. Fry (whom we must thank for his enthusiastic help with the games this season), and a full account of the match against the Masters is given elsewhere in these notes.

H. D. Howard, at stand-off half, not only managed the side very well, but he played some excellent games himself, handling brilliantly almost always, and, less consistently, showing his familiar skill at creating openings. He was unfortunately unable to accept an invitation to play for Berkshire Schoolboys. B. Woodbridge, who had to deputise for the Captain on three occasions, did the job to everyone's satisfaction ; but in the centre, though he scored several good tries and dropped goals, he has only shown us tantalising glimpses of his real ability. I. C. H. Waters, at scrum-half, has shown consistently good form, and B. E. Evans has made a promising start as a full-back. M. Hill's return to the School for one more year was a most pleasant surprise, and his play on the right wing has been as sound and as whole-hearted as ever. Of the other backs, D. M. Phillips was held back by injuries, but eventually got back to his old form or something a little better ; and E. A. Baldwin, R. E. W. Roberts and D. J. Thomas have all done a lot of good work when called on.

J. Read has led the pack sensibly and set a fine example in attack and defence. The standard of forward play has obviously improved, with much more honest showing and combination than in recent years, and better control of the ball in foot rushes ; though it must be admitted that the art of dribbling the ball has yet to be mastered—we have lessons here to learn from Newbury and Watford. The other forwards certainly deserve individual mention, P. C. S. Hall for his good hooking, A. Barr, M. J. C. Tuckett and D. G. Smith for all-round forward play, P. S. Groom and R. Hood for consistent corner-flagging and tackling in defence. A. Kenyon and N. W. Cutler have also fitted in well and done a fair share of the work of a very useful and dogged pack.

The 1st XV as it appeared in the photograph was as follows (first colours are marked with an asterisk, second colours with an

obelisk) : B. E. Evans* ; M. H. M. Hill*, B. Woodbridge* (Vice-Capt.), E. A. Baldwin*, D. M. Phillips* ; H. D. Howard* (Capt.), I. H. C. Waters* ; A. Barr*, P. C. S. Hall, M. J. C. Tuckett*, D. G. Smith*, P. S. Groom*, J. Read*, R. Hood*, A. Kenyon†, and R. E. W. Roberts†.

Others who played for the 1st XV were : J. A. R. Silver, F. A. Nealt†, I. G. B. James, D. J. Thomas†, M. W. Hastings†, J. C. Carrick†, M. S. Matthews†, H. S. Platt†, N. W. Cutler†, A. M. Harcourt†, and R. G. Clapton.

2nd XV.

Played 15 ; Won 7 ; Lost 8.

The high-lights of the season were the win at home against Thame 1st XV and the end-of-season victory over Newbury 2nd XV ; and there can be no doubt that had not the 1st XV had to call so often on the key men in the 2nd team to fill gaps caused by injuries, this would have been a " best-ever " side. As it was, the team suffered the fate of most reserve sides and was not allowed to settle down. Outstanding players were J. C. Carrick, D. J. Thomas, R. E. W. Roberts (usually in the 1st XV), and R. Ball among the backs ; N. W. Cutler, A. Kenyon (both often in the 1st XV), and A. M. Harcourt were the best of a good pack of forwards. Forward play generally was good and sensible, and the backs, on the few occasions they were at full strength, made a very effective line. T. R. Bulpett, was a late discovery at full-back. J. C. Carrick was an efficient Captain.

The team as it appeared in the photograph was : J. A. R. Silver ; M. A. Bird, D. S. Timms, J. C. Carrick†, F. A. Nealt† ; D. J. Thomas†, R. Ball† ; M. W. Hastings†, A. M. Harcourt†, R. W. Snow†, W. A. Mallaburn†, H. S. Platt†, R. C. File†, N. W. Cutler†, M. S. Matthews†, and A. E. Cox.

Others who played for the 2nd XV were : T. R. Bulpett, W. W. Schoenke, J. R. Stevens, R. S. Sturgess, R. J. R. Isaac, D. G. Sainsbury, B. Baker, J. K. Messenger, B. W. Bowler, R. H. Wynands, D. F. E. Hill, E. Hall, and T. A. Long.

3rd XV.

Played 11 ; Won 6 ; Lost 5.

After four losses at the beginning of the season, this team settled down to a run of successes earned more by an excellent team spirit than by individual brilliance.

The team as it appeared in the photograph was : R. C. W. Robey ; A. S. Baker, R. H. Wynands, D. M. Dixon, D. G. Sainsbury, R. J. R. Isaac ; R. S. Sturgess, R. Dickinson, J. K. Messenger, T. R. Peters, B. Baker, D. R. Boreham, D. F. E. Hill, J. R. Stevens, B. W. Bowler, T. G. Roadnight.

Others who played for the 3rd XV were D. S. Miller, B. W. Haines, H. A. Cartwright, C. M. Edwards, A. C. Emary, M. A. R. Thorpe, J. H. Thomas, T. W. Abdallah and P. T. Humphreys.

Colts (under 15).

Played 8 ; Won 7 ; Drawn 1.

The splendid record of this side is largely due to the exceptional attacking strength of the three-quarters and to the good service given them by the halves. The combined play behind the scrum has altogether been most promising, with Clapton, Thorpe, Hooper and Abdallah, the Captain and scrum-half, outstanding. Clapton played an excellent game for the 1st XV against Newbury at the end of the season. Long has also shown great promise whenever available from his cross-country running, and Burgess and Edwards need only to learn how to tackle low and they should have a bright future. The forwards have not been a good pack, though they have been energetic and lusty. Hall was an honourable exception, and was deservedly invited to play for Oxfordshire Colts in the Christmas holidays. He has also played several times for the 2nd XV.

The team as it appeared in the photograph was : J. H. Thomas ; M. A. R. Thorpe, R. G. Clapton, R. Burgess, H. Hooper ; B. J. Edwards, T. W. Abdallah (Capt.) ; M. J. L. Rider, H. G. Lane, N. G. Jameson, P. T. Humphrey, P. C. White, R. J. Bunce, E. Hall, A. C. Blinco ; and P. J. King and J. Weaver.

Others who played for the team were : T. A. Long, A. J. Redrup, G. P. Creed, R. Chambers, J. R. Wise, P. D. Ongley and A. K. Monks.

Juniors.

The Under 14 team won three out of their four matches and drew the other. The three-quarters played well, especially against Reading and Tiffin Schools, but they owed much of their success to a hard-working and steady pack. There is still need for the forwards to learn the value of a quick heel from the loose when they have been checked.

The Under 13½ lost both their games against Watford G.S., who had a particularly good side. The most pleasing feature of this side's play was a refusal to give up the game as lost, even when badly outplayed and far behind on points.

The new boys (average age 12) played two very plucky games against a rather bigger side from Thorpe House Preparatory School.

Boys who played for the Under 14 were : F. E. J. Hawkins, J. L. Dunn, B. Sinnatt, T. E. Uphill, R. A. J. Small, P. J. Webb, P. L. Reynolds, R. Burrows, G. F. Regan, T. C. Olsen, P. G. Hearn, M. J. Garratt, R. C. Jones, L. C. Payne, B. G. Wheeler, J. Pickard, G. R. Davis, G. D. B. Jones, A. J. C. Wright, C. H. Kimber, and J. P. Osborne.

Boys who played for the Under 13½ only were : B. E. Crook, J. S. Dunningham, J. D. Dixon, B. H. Cornish, G. R. Orchard, A. J. Gordon, F. J. R. Hobson, R. J. E. Pearce, N. E. Smith, T. G. Baker, A. F. Abercrombie, B. C. Burrows, and P. M. Collett.

Boys who played for the New Boys' team were : J. Dutton, P. E. Rear, E. C. Bond, J. A. Barwell, N. C. Gosling, J. Smithers, N. F. Boehm, A. McGregor, E. M. Horne, J. S. Kelly, T. J. Bond, R. C. Vickers, J. A. Cox, M. D. Jones, R. W. Prior, and M. E. Squires.

We have to thank a large number of masters for giving up their afternoons to referee and take teams away, our volunteer touch-judges, our loyal spectators, and Mrs. Mansbridge and her ladies for their excellent catering. Nor must we forget Mr. Beeson's excellent work which has resulted in a marked improvement to the pitches.

We were all sorry to hear that John Woodward has been out of the game since quite early in the season with an injury to his back. He travelled as a reserve in the first England trial. We congratulate him on this honour, and also Ron. Syrett on playing for the R.A.F. in the triangular Inter-Services tournament. Five Old Boys, J. E. Woodward, R. F. Emery, T. E. Goldsmith, A. Abbott and R. W. Harding, have played for the newly-formed Bucks County side.

House Matches, 1950.

The Senior House Cup was won by Fraser, who won what turned out to be a "final" against Arnison by a try and two penalty goals to two penalty goals. The game was fiercely contested, though, but for wild handling behind the scrum, Fraser would have won more easily.

The Colts Final was won very easily by Fraser against Youens. Disraeli, beaten by Fraser in the first round, was probably the next strongest side.

The Junior Final was won by Arnison in a hard game against Disraeli.

School v. The Masters' XV.

School 6 pts. ; Masters 0.

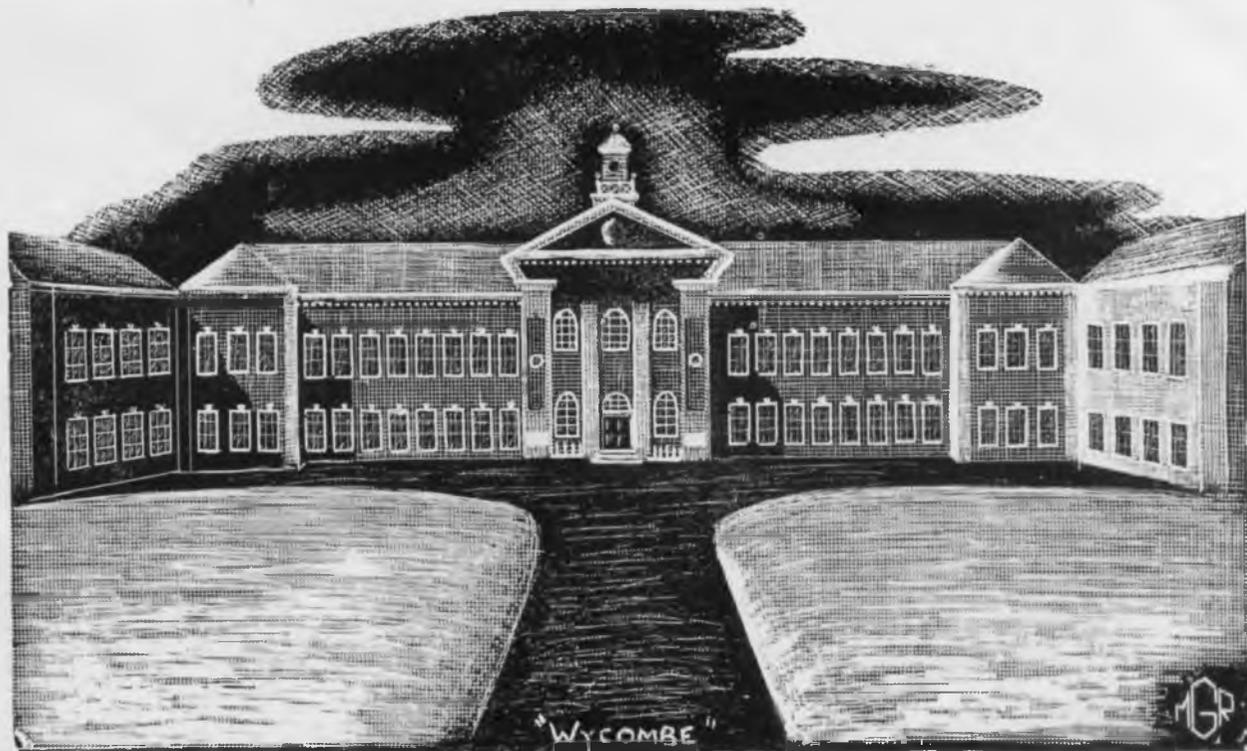
After one postponement and much rumour and counter-rumour, induced by the hope of glory and the memory of their ancestors, and supported by the promise that it should be for the last time, the Masters fielded a side against the School on December 19th. Two young and lusty Old Boys substituted for two aged and decrepit old Masters, who were sick with influenza, or the like. The Headmaster refereed. The only obvious weakness of the side before the kick-off was an excess of anticipatory excuses—old age, sprained muscles, bruised heels, asthma, lack of practice and ignorance of the rules. Other weaknesses became apparent during the course of the game.

The School won the toss, and rather ungenerously made the Masters play against a stiff wind. After only a few minutes M. Hill scored a good try on the right wing, while the Masters' defence was caught in a muddle. This was the only score of the game except for a penalty goal splendidly kicked by B. Evans, the School full-back, later in the same half. For the rest the Masters defended surprisingly well, and even launched a few attacks. Mr. Coventry, a front-row forward, who had last year played a courteous but unorthodox game at full-back, grabbed the ball from the scrum-half and had a near-miss at dropping a goal. Mr. Edwards once flashed for the line like an elderly king-fisher, and came very near to scoring. On other occasions orthodox running and passing made ground, but nothing more.

Mr. Rees, at stand-off, was handicapped by a badly bruised shoulder, but he showed a hint of his great powers with some of the best kicking seen on the field for a long time. Mr. Sheppard, at full-back, found touch time and time again with long powerful kicks. The School three-quarters had plenty of the ball, but could not get past determined tackling, and their short punts ahead were not accurate enough to serve their purpose.

Common Room gossip had anticipated a very rough passage for the Masters' pack, but they did unexpectedly well, and were still going strong at the end of the game. They used their weight and height in the line-out and scrums, and were vigorous in the loose as well. Mr. Young, under very great pressure from forwards intent on blotting him out for several seasons, struggled prodigiously, and got the ball out just often enough to arouse hopes in the hearts of those few among the spectators who supported the side of authority. Nor did ruthless youth go unscathed at his or others' hands.

I fear that this is likely to have been the last time, at any rate until we receive strong reinforcements, that we shall be able to turn out a Masters' side. The toll of injuries to men long since out of



training is too heavy. Looking back with great pleasure both on the pre-war games (when we were young and used to win by a handsome enough margin), and on these four or five post-war games, in which we have suffered three not dishonourable defeats, I think that everybody will regret this mass hanging up of boots, and not least those younger boys who have had the comparatively rare privilege of watching the biter bitten for an hour or so each year.

C.M.H.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED.

		1st XV.			Points	
Date	Opponents	Ground	Rslt.	For	Agst.	
Sept. 24	Saracens' Gipsy XV ...	H	Lost	0	14	
Oct. 1	Windsor County School ...	A	Lost	3	17	
" 8	St. Marylebone G.S. ...	A	Won	11	6	
" 15	Henley G.S. ...	H	Won	26	3	
" 19	Watford G.S. ...	A	Lost	3	25	
" 26	Borlase School, Marlow ...	H	Won	8	6	
Nov. 5	Stowe School, 2nd XV ...	A	Won	6	3	
" 9	Tiffin Boys' School ...	H	Lost	5	8	
" 12	Reading School ...	H	Won	9	0	
" 19	Watford G.S. ...	H	Lost	0	10	
" 23	St. Edward's School, 2nd XV ...	H	Won	14	11	
" 26	Abingdon School ...	A	Lost	0	9	
Dec. 3	Southfield School ...	A	Lost	3	18	
" 7	Leighton Park School ...	H	Won	17	8	
" 10	Old Boys ...	H	Lost	8	25	
" 19	Masters' XV ...	H	Won	6	0	
Jan. 11	P. D. Fry's XV ...	H	Won	9	8	
Feb. 4	Balliol College "A" ...	A	Lost	3	9	
" 18	Newbury G.S. ...	H	Lost	0	5	
		"A" XV.				
Feb. 11	Arborfield Apprentices "A" ...	A	Won	19	0	
		2nd XV				
Oct. 1	Old Wycombiensians Extra "A" ...	A	Lost	16	18	
" 8	St. Marylebone G.S. ...	H	Won	12	6	
" 15	Aylesbury G.S. 1st XV ...	A	Lost	3	28	
" 19	Watford G.S. ...	H	Won	32	0	
" 27	Thame School 1st XV ...	H	Won	11	8	
Nov. 5	Stowe School 3rd XV ...	A	Lost	5	12	
" 9	Tiffin Boys' School ...	A	Lost	13	14	
" 12	Reading School ...	A	Lost	0	15	
" 19	Watford G.S. ...	A	Lost	0	8	
" 26	Abingdon School ...	H	Won	8	0	
Dec. 3	Southfield School ...	A	Won	27	8	
" 7	Leighton Park School ...	A	Won	8	0	
" 10	Old Boys ...	H	Lost	6	17	
Feb. 4	Thame School 1st XV ...	A	Lost	8	12	
" 18	Newbury G.S. ...	H	Won	6	0	

Date	Opponents	Ground	Rslt.	Points		
				For	Agst.	
3rd XV						
Oct. 1	Windsor County School 2nd XV	...	A	Lost	0	6
" 8	Reading School	...	H	Lost	0	9
" 15	Old Wycombiensians "B"	...	H	Lost	9	26
" 19	Watford G.S.	...	A	Lost	3	11
" 26	Borlase School, Marlow	...	H	Won	6	5
Nov. 5	Borlase School, Marlow	...	A	Won	9	5
" 9	Tiffin Boys' School	...	A	Won	11	0
" 26	Old Wycombiensians "B"	...	H	Lost	0	15
Dec. 7	Leighton Park School	...	H	Won	26	0
Feb. 4	Reading School	...	H	Won	6	5
" 18	Slough Technical School	...	H	Won	19	0

Colts XV (under 15).

Oct. 1	Henley G.S.	...	A	Won	41	3
" 8	St. Marylebone G.S.	...	A	Won	58	0
" 15	Watford G.S.	...	H	Won	11	10
" 22	Tiffin Boys' School	...	H	Won	20	0
Nov. 5	Stowe School	...	H	Won	8	5
" 12	Reading School	...	H	Drawn	6	6
" 19	Watford G.S.	...	A	Won	14	3
Dec. 3	Windsor County School	...	A	Won	16	0

Junior XV (under 14).

Oct. 1	Borlase School, Marlow	...	A	Won	13	6
" 22	Tiffin Boys' School	...	H	Won	29	0
Nov. 12	Reading School	...	A	Won	18	6
" 19	Henley G.S.	...	H	Drawn	3	3

Junior XV (under 13½).

Oct. 15	Watford G.S.	...	H	Lost	3	26
Dec. 10	Watford G.S.	...	A	Lost	0	50

(Junior XV (under 12)).

Feb. 9	Thorpe House Prep. School	...	A	Lost	6	22
" 16	Thorpe House Prep. School	...	H	Lost	0	9

RESULTS.

Senior "League."

Fraser beat Disraeli	...	...	...	...	20 pts to 3
Fraser beat Youens	...	...	...	...	14 pts to 3
Fraser beat Arnison	...	...	...	...	9 pts to 6
Arnison beat Youens	...	...	...	...	12 pts to 3
Arnison beat Disraeli	...	...	...	...	16 pts to 5
Youens beat Disraeli	...	...	...	...	6 pts to 3

Colts.

<i>First Round</i> :	Fraser beat Disraeli	...	...	...	20 pts to 6
	Youens beat Arnison	...	...	...	20 pts to 0
<i>Final</i> :	Fraser beat Youens	...	...	...	27 pts to 3
<i>Wooden Spoon</i> :	Disraeli beat Arnison	...	...	...	39 pts to 0

Juniors.

First Round :	Arnison beat Youens	...	...	...	...	17 pts to 3
	Disraeli beat Fraser	...	...	...	...	9 pts to 3
Final :	Arnison beat Disraeli	...	...	...	...	8 pts to 3
Wooden Spoon :	Youens beat Fraser	...	...	...	...	6 pts to 5

BASKETBALL.

A Basketball League was formed early in the term when it was found that the game, played in P.T. lessons and dinner-hours by Fifth Forms, had captured the interest of the Upper Fifth and Sixth Formers as well. The League has proved to be an exciting innovation in the organised physical activities of the School. It is hoped in the near future to organise a "B" League to accommodate more teams for after school games. At present matches are played during the dinner period.

A School team is being formed to carry out a number of fixtures with outside teams—the Technical School, youth organisations and the Services.

P. D. Fry has been an extremely hard-working Secretary, and W. W. Schoenke has been a major influence in coaching players in the finer points of the game.

BASKETBALL LEAGUE TABLE (up to Tuesday, February 28th).

Team	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Total
Morons	4	4	0	0	79	32	8
Barbarians	4	4	0	0	67	29	8
Vs	4	3	0	1	67	45	6
V Upper Shell.	4	2	0	2	49	50	4
VA	4	1	0	3	50	67	2
Uplyme	4	1	0	3	18	26	2
Vx	4	1	0	3	31	69	2
Vandals	4	0	0	4	21	64	0
W.A.R.							

CRICKET PROSPECTS, 1950.

As this magazine will be published just before the start of the 1950 season, it was thought that a short note on the hopes and fears for the new season would be in order. Forecasting is usually a dangerous procedure ; however, we will make an attempt in the hope that these words will not be used in evidence against us.

The 1st XI is fortunate in having the services of seven " old colours," all capable cricketers who did good service in the 1949 season. This means that competition for the four new places should be keen, and members of the 1949 2nd XI and Colts XI will need

all the early practice that they can obtain. The net practice in the Easter holidays often brings new "discoveries," and it is hoped that this will be well attended.

The fixture list is full and shows a great increase in Colts and Junior Colts games. When the demand is great enough, fixtures for a 3rd XI will be made. However, the spirit shown in the majority of games for the VIth and Five Uppers last season was so poor that it may be quite a time before a 3rd XI is formed.

A word to the Junior School. Success at cricket can be obtained only after long and arduous work in the nets. First-class coaches state that five years are needed to learn the basic rules of cricket. You have at least five years ahead of you. The School is well equipped and the Staff is only too anxious to coach you. Make the most of your opportunities now, so that you will not, like so many of the Seniors, bemoan your lack of proficiency in your last years at the School. A 3rd XI is made up of keen but not outstanding cricketers. At the moment the top end of the School contains too many people who are not outstanding and, unfortunately, not keen.

A final word to all members of the teams for 1950—when playing at home do not forget the roller, for it is the main factor in the making of a good wicket.

H.W.J.

CROSS-COUNTRY.

The Cross-Country Team had another successful season, and with an improved fixture list, including matches against Oxford University "A" and Reading University 2nd, the standard of running was consistently good. The course record was broken twice, R. D. Harman lowering the time to 19 mins. 23 secs., only to see his record broken a week later by Oxford University Captain, J. H. Scott-Wilson in 13 mins. 55.6 secs.

For the third successive year the School won the Bucks Junior County Championship, when T. Long came in first and J. Dean was third. The outstanding win of the season was our defeat of Oxford University's "A" team by four points, after we had lost the first match by a mere two points. Other successes included wins against R.A.F. (Benson), Culham College and Reading University. The four of the fifteen matches which were lost were those against A.A.S. Arborfield, Oxford University "A," Phoenix Harriers A.C. and the Vale of Aylesbury A.C.

We shall be sorry to lose several members of this year's team, but judging by the performances of boys lower down in the School, there should be no lack of available material for equally successful future seasons.

H. CARTWRIGHT (Captain).

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB.

Births.

R. J. ANNING (1931-36). On September 4th, 1949, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Anning, twin daughters.

J. R. BUNCE (1927-32). On September 22nd, 1949, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bunce, a daughter.

S. A. GOULBORN (1928-34). On September 9th, 1949, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Goulborn, a daughter.

A. R. HARRIS (1936-41). On September 22nd, 1949, at Rinteln, Germany, to Capt. and Mrs. A. R. Harris, a daughter.

A. E. JEFFRIES (1928-34). On October 19th, 1949, at Bourne End, to Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Jeffries, a daughter.

D. J. D. JONES (1932-39). On November 18th, 1949, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. D. J. D. Jones, a daughter.

N. NORMAN (1930-36). On June 29th, 1949, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. N. Norman, a son.

P. E. M. SLATTER (1922-28). On December 23rd, 1949, at Oxford, to Mr. and Mrs. P. E. M. Slatter, a son.

P. F. WILLIAMS (1925-30). On October 9th, 1949, at Dorking, to Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Williams, a daughter.

D. WOOSTER (1926-29). On September 12th, 1949, at Beaconsfield, to Mr. and Mrs. D. Wooster, a son.

R. FODEN (1933-39). On June 27th, 1949, at Finchley, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Foden, a daughter.

L. K. FOX (1930-36). On March 29th, 1949, at Westcliff-on-Sea, to Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Fox, a daughter.

Marriages.

BUNKHALL—MUSSENDEN. On February 26th, 1949, at Fairford. E. W. Bunkhall (1934-40) to Miss M. A. Mussenden.

PEDDER—KELLY. On July 28th, 1949, at Moreton-in-the-Marsh. I. M. Pedder, D.F.C. (1936-42), to Miss J. Kelly.

MCQUEEN—JANES. On September 17th, 1949, at High Wycombe. B. E. H. McQueen (1938-43) to Miss P. D. Janes.

SALTER—SHUTE. On January 1st, 1949, at Gillingham. R. L. Salter (1936-43) to Miss R. H. M. Shute.

YOUNGMAN—PEARCE. On July 30th, 1949, at Wooburn Green. A. W. Youngman (1938-42) to Miss L. P. Pearce.

STEVENS—HOLLOWAY. On June 25th, 1949, at London. D. W. Stevens (1933-40) to Miss S. E. Holloway.

DENNIS—BRUSTMEYER. On December 31st, 1949, at Chesham. J. L. Dennis (1943-46) to Miss V. A. Brustmeyer.

BEDWELL—MILLS. On September 24th, 1949, at Hughenden. H. J. Bedwell (1925-30) to Miss M. Miles.

SEYMOUR—BAYLISS. On September 17th, 1949, at High Wycombe. B. B. Seymour (1928-35) to Miss R. M. Bayliss.

Death.

D. CARR (1921-27). In November, 1949, at Reading. Douglas Carr, aged 39.

We deeply regret to record the death of Police Inspector Douglas Carr who, in November last, died suddenly at his home in Reading. Carr entered the Royal Grammar School in 1921 at the age of eleven, and left at the end of six years and two terms in 1927. Before leaving he had become one of the most prominent pupils of his generation. He was a School Prefect, an under Officer in the O.T.C., and played for the School at both Soccer and Rugger (in his time both codes were played). He was twice awarded Governors' Certificates and also won the Silver Star of the Royal Drawing Society. The School Certificate and Certificate "A" he took in his stride. But perhaps he will be best remembered for his acting ability. In 1927 he took the part of Petruchio in a shortened form of the "Taming of the Shrew" and made a great success of the part. In the following year he was assigned the difficult part of King Lear and in it he added considerably to the reputation he earned as Petruchio. Not long after leaving School he joined the Reading Borough Police Force, later he was transferred to the C.I.D. and eventually returned to Reading as Inspector, in charge of the road traffic department, and Secretary of the Road Safety Committee. He was a popular officer with all members of the Force and did much voluntary work in connection with the various Clubs and Funds. He was married in 1937 and leaves a widow and three children. We offer our very deep sympathy to all his family.

W. L. AVERY (1921-27) in December last passed the Final Examination of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

W. T. BRINDLEY (1910-15), when this number appears, will have returned to Ceylon, after six months' leave in England and France. We offer him our very hearty congratulations on having reached the highest position in the Ceylon Police. He is now Inspector-General of Police and probably the last Englishman to hold this responsible post. Now that Ceylon has Dominion status, the British personnel in the Police are being replaced by native officers, who have almost all been trained under Brindley's supervision.

M. F. J. ASHFORD (1939-42), writing from the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, is afraid he will be out of the country and unable to attend the O.B.'s Dinner. Ashford is now Lieut. (E.), R.N.

J. M. CANTY has enjoyed every minute of his four months with the Royal Marines and is looking forward to the gunnery course at Portsmouth. He plays Rugby and Hockey.

ALLEN DODGSON (1913-18) says he leads a very gentle and quiet life. His elder daughter surprised herself, and her parents, by getting five distinctions in the School Certificate Examination and is now all out for the Higher.

R. FODEN (1923-29), sending news of the birth of a daughter, states that according to the Gray Book she is *exactly* 37 years younger than her father. It is not quite clear how he thereby hopes to save at least one present.

I. LOCHHEAD (1940-47) is doing his National Service with the Royal Artillery, and was in Egypt in December. He has enjoyed many new and interesting experiences.

M. A. LOCHHEAD (1939-45) is a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, and has been engaged in activities against the bandits in Malaya during the last months. He has taken part in some very lively skirmishes.

C. A. ORSLER (1922-27) has moved from Essex to Derbyshire and his present address is "Ellerslie," Haddon Road, Bakewell. He is in the heart of the Derbyshire Peak District and has never seen a more beautiful countryside. His garden runs down to the Wye, with its trout, wild duck, moorhens, kingfishers and dippers. As a Financial Officer and Accountant, Orsler finds the local people easy to work with.

R. L. PLATT (1930-33) finds the hours of duty so long, and time off so short, owing to the shortage of manpower, that he does not promise to attend the Annual Reunion.

J. N. ROBINSON (1928-33), in his regular letter, states he is still at Trieste, where they had an early winter after a warm summer. He cannot report much progress with his Italian, but finds that by adding an "O" to the equivalent French word he gets on quite well. In spite of the alluring ladies, Robinson is still single, which he thinks is just as well, seeing that the devaluation of the £ has cut the rate of exchange and therefore his weekly pay by some 25%. The unusual brevity of his letter suggests Robinson is finding some difficulty in remaining single. He hopes to be home on leave early in 1950.

P. W. SKUES (1929-33), according to his father who flew over to see him, is very favourably conditioned in New York with his wife and daughter. He is a Marine Underwriter to a large firm and it is hoped he will meet another O.B. in New York, namely, Bennett, of Victor A. Bennett and Co. Inc., Fifth Avenue.

D. W. STEVENS (1933-40) now lives at Thornton Heath, but so far has not seen any heath. He sets out every morning to the B.B.C. Music Department to sit behind a desk and answers four telephones all at once. He enjoys the work and finds plenty of scope planning musical programmes. While lecturing on mediaeval music at Birmingham University he met J. F. STANNERS. He is now engaged in editing the first of three volumes of a collection of early Tudor music in connection with the 1951 Festival of Britain, under the general title of *Musica Britannica*.

R. N. STONE (1938-42) finds life at Durham University quite attractive, and he likes the North. He found his 1st Year Honours Physics something of a strain after so many years loss of study, but hard work got him through. He meets Wilkes at lunchtime, but not often otherwise, because Wilkes is at Durham Castle and Stone is six miles out. CATLING, who is studying engineering at Newcastle, turns up two or three times a term, and Stone also calls on Mr. Bicknell whenever he can.

The following information about O.B.'s who entered the School after the war, is due to what he calls a small amount of research into their whereabouts and perambulations by J. A. BLAND (1939-45) in collaboration with R. S. LARKIN and H. HICKMAN of more or less the same years.

Larkin, after getting a 1st in his B.Sc. degree (Mechanical Engineering), hopes after his O.C.T.U., to enter the Airfield Construction branch. Hickman also obtained an Honours degree in Engineering; both he and Larkin worked hard in their spare time helping to build the new Headquarters of the O.B. Rugby Club, and now consider themselves to be skilled bricklayers. At College with Larkin were J. STEVENSON and R. F. WHITE. Stevenson, after a year with Shell Mex, is studying Chemistry and Geology, while White is trying to make up for the three years he lost with the R.A.F. in Egypt, and by all accounts is succeeding very well. G. OXLEY, after two years with Ecco, is studying Physics and Chemistry at King's, London. H. G. BASS and BLAND, who were together for nearly two years as radar mechanics in the R.A.F., are both at Cambridge, Bass studying Mechanical Science, and Bland Natural Science. GINGER and ROITH are with Bass at Caius, but Bland is the only O.B. at Selwyn. Also at Cambridge are THIRKLE, FREDERICKS, BELBIN and WICKENS II. New arrivals expected at Cambridge are OXLEY II (Pembroke), SUESSMAN II (Jesus) and STANDING (Trinity Hall). S. RADFORD is out of the Army and in Canada studying at an Agricultural College. SPOONER has another two years at medicine and hopes to go to the tropics. GIBSON is working for the Coal Board at Leeds prior to taking a Fuel Technology Course at the University. C. T. FLETCHER, who has turned out to be a great hitch-hiker visiting Scotland and Italy, is still at Christchurch studying Classics. Of the COLLINS twins, Peter is at Manchester doing Natural Science, and reaping a good crop of Firsts, while J. S. is at Birmingham and has been awarded a University Prize for a History essay. CHINN, out of the R.A.F., where he excelled in Boxing, Swimming, Running and Rugby, is hoping to go to Oxford, and so is DUCKERING, who also did well on the athletic side in the Army and is now one of the best forwards in the O.B. 1st XV. Duckering met GANN out East. BRIGGS is studying Geography and Economics at University College, London. OATES, now demobilised, is in the Borough Surveyor's Office. R. BIRD is on a radar course in Cornwall and hopes to go to London to study Civil Engineering. J. ASHBY, it is rumoured, has gone to South Africa to work in a gold mine!