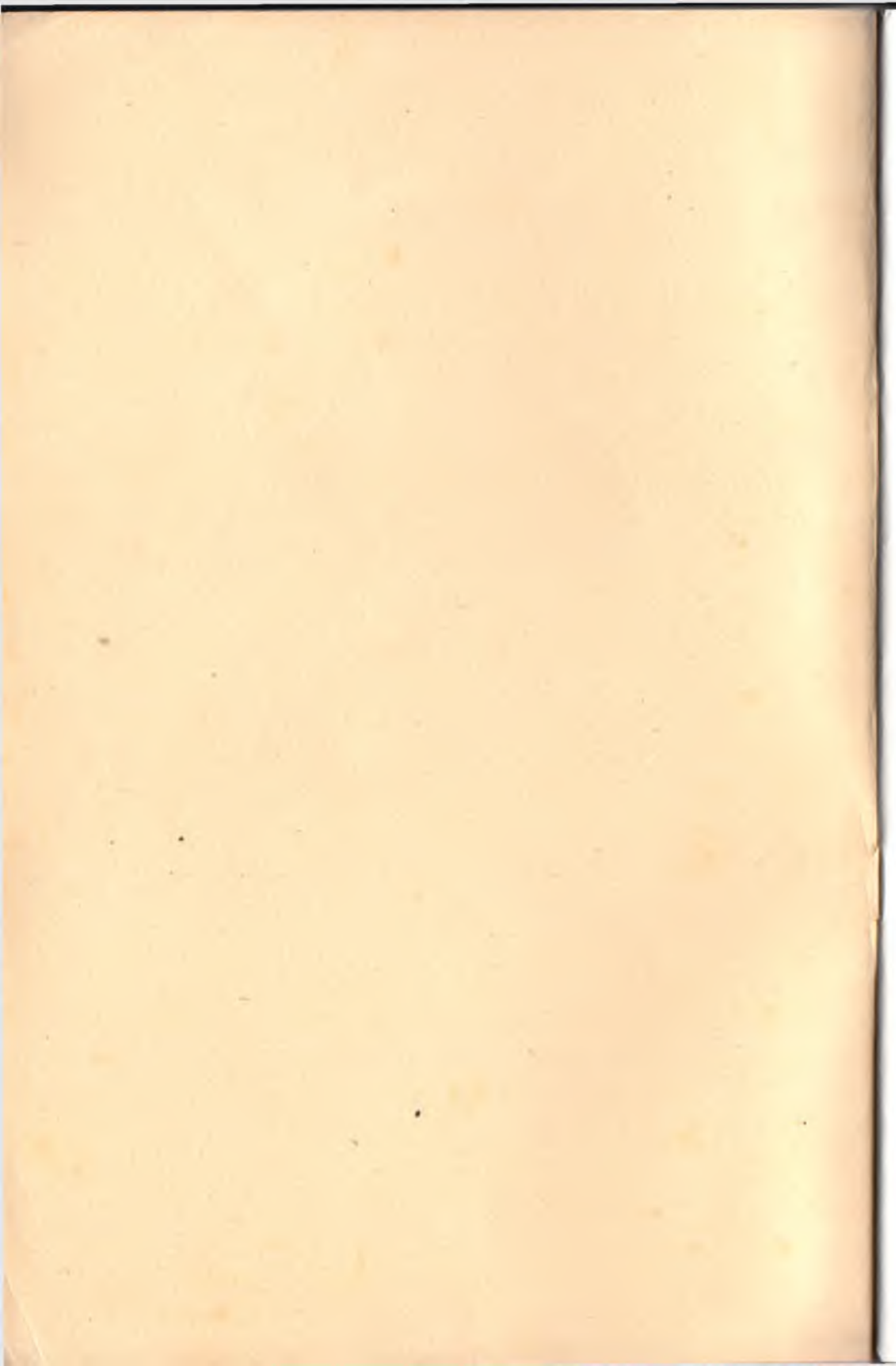


THE
WYCOMBIENSIAN



Vol. XI. No. 7

April, 1951



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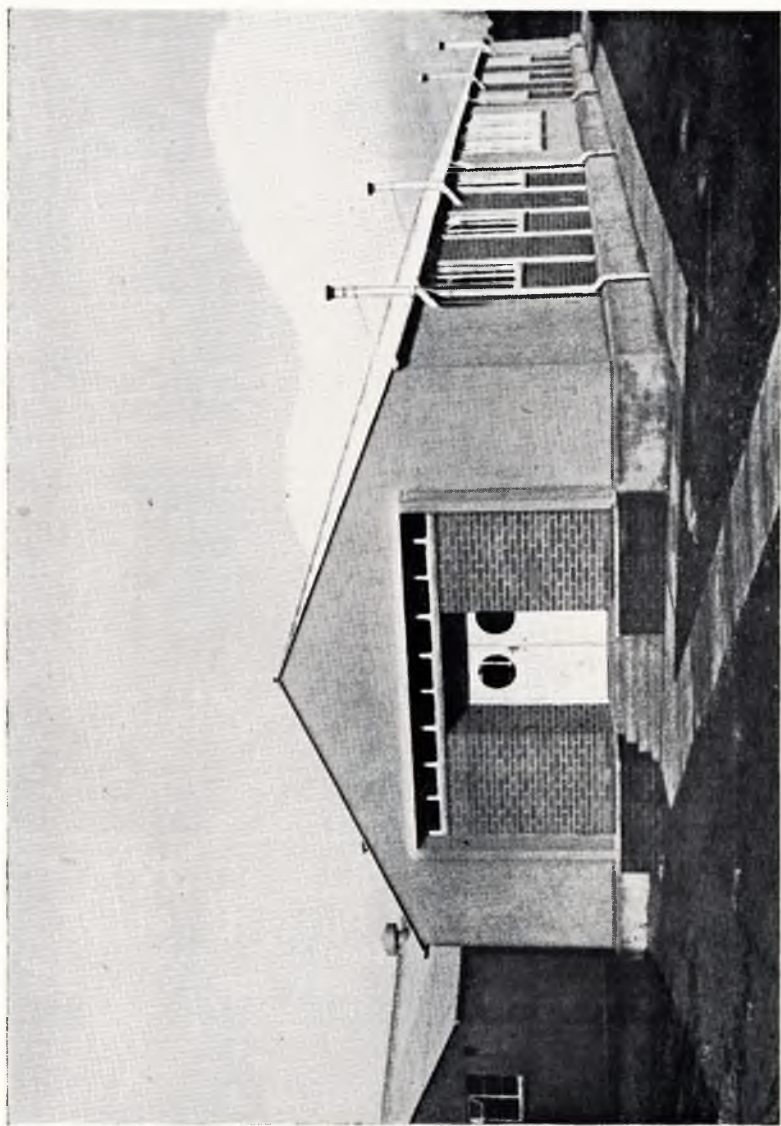
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THE NEW SCHOOL DINING-HALL

THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(The Wycombe Royal Grammar School Magazine)

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EDITORIAL

"School-days," we are told by the sages, "are the happiest days of your life . . ." and although we, who are still at school, cannot agree authoritatively with that maxim, as we have known no other way of life, we do nevertheless, in our later days at the School, realize the tremendous privileges and benefits it bestows on us. Never again, in later life, are we likely to be in close daily contact with so many friends and acquaintances with such a consistent level of education.

Never again are we likely to have as much care and trouble taken with us, whatever we may be told about "Life in the Modern Army," and never again are we likely to live in such a carefree atmosphere, where hypocrisy, cynicism, and all dissembling and cheating are at such a comparatively low ebb.

We do not, of course, wish to be protected and sheltered by even such a benevolent and kindly *benefactrice* as this all our lives, for it is when we take our stand alone in the world that we are prepared and strengthened in these early days. It is a good thing, though, to realize what advantages we can have and enjoy while there is still time to make the most of them—for once the opportunity is gone, it is lost for ever.

So remember, all you smaller fry of the 2nd and 3rd forms, that although your school-days may not seem particularly happy when you are fumbling over your Latin translation, they can be the most enjoyable, and are certainly the most care free, of your life. Remember also that, if you strive hard to live up to the tradition of the School—YOUR School, which, after all, has seen your counterparts for over 400 years—you will gain something more than mere scholastic success—that indefinable something which is the heritage of every public-school-boy, which the French put succinctly as *esprit de corps*, and for which we have in English no adequate translation.

SCHOOL NOTES

Staff.

At the close of last year we were very sorry to have to say goodbye to two of our Masters, Mr. W. G. Jones and Mr. J. Edwards, who have returned home to Wales, Mr. Jones to become Headmaster of Machynlleth G.S. and Mr. Edwards to teach at Nantyglo G.S. The School as a whole feels the loss of these Masters deeply. Mr. Edwards, who has been with us since 1945, was for a short time Arnison House Master. He was universally popular and greatly respected by all his pupils. Mr. W. G. Jones, who was doing valuable work as Senior Chemistry Master, will also be remembered for his beautiful descriptions of Wales, and magnificent descant singing in Morning Prayers. To both Mr. Edwards and Mr. Jones we extend our thanks for their services in the past, and our best wishes for the future.

Since the last issue of the Magazine we have welcomed four new members to the Staff. M. Martinie has been with us for two terms as French Assistant. Mr. Sladden, M.A. (Oxon.), has joined us on his retirement from Eton, to be Senior Chemistry Master. Mr. Perfect, B.A. (Oxon.), and Mr. Runswick, B.A. (Cantab.), join the Staff as Assistant English Masters.

General.

On Thursday, 26th October, 1950, the Army Section of the C.C.F. was inspected by Brigadier Taverner.

A String Quartet gave a Concert to boys in the Sixth Form and those taking School Certificate Music, on Friday, 17th November, 1950.

Towards the end of the 1950 Autumn Term Mr. John Haire, M.A., M.P., came to the School under the auspices of the Twentieth Century Opinion Society, to talk to the Sixth Form on "The Foreign Policy of the Government."

Performances of "The Mikado" took place in the School Hall during the week beginning 11th December, 1950.

The Autumn Term visit of the Dramatic Society was to the Globe Theatre to see "Ring Round the Moon." Mr. Howard organised the party.

The School Carol Service was held in the Hall on December 20th, 1950.

During the Christmas holidays a party of 25 boys from the School attended the Annual C.E.W.C. Conference at the Central Hall, Westminster.

On Friday, 9th February, 1951, Mr. Hett took a party from the History Society to the National Gallery.

Mrs. Regina Klemperer visited the School on Monday, 12th February, 1951, and sang a selection of German songs to senior German students.

The new School Canteen, which has been in use throughout the Spring Term, was officially opened on Friday, 19th January, by Mrs. Tucker. The high standard of the meals provided and the arrangements made for dealing with the extremely large number of boys (nearly 400) who take them are much appreciated by the School. Mrs. Freeman has been appointed Supervisor.

Congratulations to :

N. E. Filby for his State Scholarship in Modern Languages at Jesus College, Oxford.

D. F. T. Winter for his Open Scholarship in Mathematics at Jesus College, Cambridge.

M. Zander for his Open Exhibition in English at Jesus College, Cambridge.

M. M. Jones for his Open Exhibition in Natural Sciences at Jesus College, Cambridge.

M. E. Rankin for his Flying Scholarship.

UPLYME HOUSE

As we have seen in the last edition of the Magazine, we said goodbye to several of our senior boys. Besides having to create two new prefects, we had to take a new batch of School House "angels." Five juniors then came to Uplyme to enjoy its delights and pleasant surroundings, and the number of boys at the House rose to 20—so far a record. At Christmas, however, we lost Thirlway, who perhaps will soon be designing Britain's latest fashion in houses, and Kelly, who has joined the rank and file of the day boys; in their place, however, we have received two day boys—Warner and Sallows.

This term Uplyme has been besieged by swarms of plumbers, builders' mates, assistant builders' mates and the like, who are engaged in building the Junior School. The only too familiar call of "Tea Up" can be heard at any time, followed by the noise of falling tools, and then the patter of feet as the men pick their way through the debris. Nevertheless, the School is progressing. The huts have been transformed from the remains of an atomic attack into passable classrooms. The famous "leaning hut" has been taken down and reassembled at the end of the School field, where it will be used as a rifle range. We hope that when the School is opened the juniors will treat the sacred bounds of Uplyme with respect.

This year we have not been very active at inter-house sport—in fact none of the Boarding Houses (perhaps because everyone is working hard) have. We turn out the House for B.H. games on a Monday, and on Tuesday evening we have our Gym. Club. We therefore have no athletic successes to report as in the last Magazine. We can boast, however, of four rugby colours—two more than our nearest rivals. This season it has been very pleasing to see so many boarders playing for the 1st XV—at one time there were eight from the three boarding houses.

To all the old Boarders from Uplyme, whether they be preparing to save the world from utter destruction, or enjoying a civilized existence, we send our very best wishes, and we look forward to seeing you again one day.

—————
I. H. C. WATERS.

SCHOOL HOUSE

The time for the periodical report on the activities of the House has come round again, and there is, as usual, much to record. The Guy Fawkes night celebrations were held successfully, despite the weather. The annual Christmas party took place in a high-spirited atmosphere of satisfaction at the end of a long term, although the organisers, knowing how high spirits are inclined to become at such parties, waived the customary treasure hunt in deference to the new paint-work. The dinner was followed by a show, consisting of sketches put on by groups of boys. However, it will not be allowed to occur again, and next year the polished dramatics of yore will be resumed.

The old custom of weekly House games has been revived, and in spite of moans from some sections of the House, and medical excuses from others, there has been much keen rigger played during the season. We now have representatives in all the School teams from the 1st XV down to the Junior Colts, including two 1st colours, Platt and Clapton. Birch, Burt, Colver, Fournout, Horne, Edginton, Sainsbury and Crowther, P., have all played with varying regularity for School teams.

We were, like the rest of the nation, affected by influenza, and at least half the House suffered in some degree. The influx of juniors is rapidly being beaten into shape, and those with innate malingering propensities have, by various methods, sometimes unorthodox, been cured of their home-bred *malades imaginaires*.

We regret the loss of Michael George, who, in only one term, established himself as an efficient and well-liked prefect; we hear that he is now doing well in the X-ray industry. At Easter our very popular Matron, Miss Holmes, is leaving us for South Africa; we shall all miss very much her cheerful presence around the House, and we wish her all good fortune in the future. Miss Lemon, who

has been feeding us with un failing and unvarying regularity for the past few years, is also departing. She must be proud to know that neither the tantalising smells that drift into the dormitory windows, nor the rumours that come to ears, have caused anyone to become day-boys.

Now we are looking forward to the Summer Term and another meeting with old friends at the Boarders' Reunion. J. BIRCH.

TYLER'S WOOD

Since the last edition of the School Magazine the house has had, on the whole, an enjoyable time. Christmas is now a pleasant memory. Our snow fights were few and far between because of the lack of snow, but all will remember Guy Fawkes's night, when it rained. We managed, however, to get the fire going and to burn "Guy Fawkes" amidst a splendid display of wet fireworks, lit on the swampy lawn. The house is looking forward to the summer, when we hope to see the results of much patient winter cricket coaching by Mr. Johnson in such stars as Brian Edwards, Peter Elliott, Jeremy Edwards and Richard Bristow.

We should like to congratulate "Tim" Abdullah and "Charley" Edwards on gaining their 2nd XV colours, and also Norman Pulley on captaining the 3rd XV with his usual enthusiasm. Peter King "hooked" with vigour with "Ace" Emary, in the 2nd XV. In all, eleven members of the house have played regularly for one or other of the School teams. Felix Johnston and Colin Minter are the tough cross-country runners of the house.

Richard Saunders, our ex-head prefect and other cross-country man, is now at Sheffield University. Anthony Emary and Charles Stewart have left the house—the latter to become a day-boy. The table tennis cup presented to the house by Saunders is keenly contested for. Chess also has played its part in the activities of the house. Ali Hussein shows great determination in his studies, and our nine School-Certificate candidates are following his example and doing their best . . . we wish them all the best of luck.

D. M. PHILLIPS.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY LECTURES

The lectures in current affairs organized by the C.E.W.C. have by now become a regular feature of the Christmas holidays for many of the more enlightened members of our Sixth Form, who, with one or two of their less fortunate brethren from the upper corridor, make the pilgrimage to their Westminster shrine for four days running in January. After several minor incidents arising from the natural inability of some of those participating to find their way

successfully between any two given points, most of the twenty-five members of our party assembled at the Central Hall on Tuesday, January 2nd, to run the daily gauntlet of the attractive, but sadly pro-Kremlin girls who waylaid the unwary with Young Communist League pamphlets, giving the "truth" about the Korean situation, American slave-labour camps, and conditions in the countries "liberated" by our Soviet.

This year the general theme of the lectures and discussions was that of aid to the under-developed areas of the world. Of the various speakers engaged, each spoke on a different facet of this all-embracing theme; their subjects ranged from the three comparatively detailed expositions on Science, Health and Education in these areas, to a consideration of the much wider problems set forth in Mr. Macmillan's talk on the "British Colonial Empire," and of Mr. Evan Smith's introduction to the subject.

The various sides of the question were, however, effectively moulded together both in Senor Salvador de Madariaga's opening address and in the final "Symposium," when the reports of the discussion groups held on the afternoons of Tuesday and Wednesday were presented.

————— D. D. KIRBY, VI.

SHORTENHILLS FILM COURSE, October 1950

As this was the third course at Shortenhills in which this school had taken part, the demand for places was far greater than the supply. In the end, six boys who had no examinations immediately threatening were chosen, and they had good reason to rejoice in their luck. As before, the course consisted of a week at the "camp" near Chalfont St. Giles, with lectures in the morning and afternoon, and some kind of entertainment in the evening. This time, however, we were lodged in spacious huts rather than tents, and the programme was varied considerably. As Mr. Kingsbury, the Visual Aids Officer to the County, said, there are few counties which could run this kind of course. Several of our speakers, Mr. Henry Geddes, who talked on Film Production, Miss Lotte Reiniger, the famous creator of shadow and animation films, and the memoirs of our lively Brains Trust, came from the nearby Crown Film Unit in Beaconsfield, and the week was crowned by a visit there on the Thursday afternoon. To us the film studio is no longer a legendary place where beautiful stars sweep by in fur coats: we now know how hard film people work to deceive us, how the cyclorama and the back-projection create an illusion of space; how lighting, cutting, editing and, from personal experience, shooting, are done; we have worked cameras, directed, sub-directed and acted in scenes—and we have come away exhilarated if slightly disillusioned.

Of course, we did more than listen to talks. Almost every evening we had films, from documentaries of the Post Office to early Charlie Chaplin's, from "The Great Train Robbery" of 1903 to "Great Expectations." A fairly comprehensive, if somewhat technical, library was provided, and we even had an abortive session of discussion. The Brains Trust I have mentioned was followed by an impromptu and unexpectedly successful dance, and I can think of at least one member of the first year Sixth who was so encouraged by his first attempts on the floor that he is now taking lessons in the gentle art. Accommodation and food were very satisfactory, and what is perhaps the most important aspect of these courses, the social life and inter-school contact was unflagging: only too unflagging in the case of the inevitable full-time background Light Programme fans. The only excuse I can have for not being more enthusiastic is that I am not particularly anxious to increase competition to go to the next course.

A. McINTOSH, VI.

C.C.F. (ARMY SECTION)

The overall strength of the contingent is about 400, of which the Army Section accounts for about 300.

After a cadet has passed Certificate "A," Part I, he has the choice of transferring to the Naval or Air Section, joining the Signals Platoon or staying in the Army Section.

Wherever he goes he may take Certificate "A," Part II, which gives him absolute right, by agreement with the Army Council, to choose which branch of the Army he wishes to enter. There are, of course, the provisions of medical fitness and existence of a sufficient number of vacancies in the corps chosen. In addition to this, holders of Certificate "A," Part II, are posted to a special squad, where they are watched for suitability for a commission.

It was emphasized recently at both the Southern Command and War Office Conferences that the main object of the C.C.F. is training in Leadership, and it is interesting to note that in this connection 70 per cent. of the Sandhurst commissions and 50 per cent. of other commissions are ex-C.C.F. Cadets. In this connection the senior cadets of the School contingent are gaining valuable practice in leadership by instructing the junior cadets. Those cadets not suitable for leadership are well advised to seek technical qualifications through courses of which there are many specially organised for cadets.

We should like to congratulate those ex-members of the contingent who have recently obtained their commissions or who have been selected for training for their commissions.

G. Landers and R. E. W. Roberts, very recently with us as Senior N.C.O.'s, have been successful with a commission and the War Office Selection Board respectively.

We should be glad to see or hear from any other ex-cadets recently successful in this way. R.P.

C.C.F. (NAVAL SECTION)

The section has now settled down, after a period of transfer and retransfer, to a strength of twenty-two cadets.

We are lucky to have among our number a ready-made Petty Officer and one or two Cadet A.B.'s from the local Sea Cadet Section, and several ex-Sea Scouts. Petty Officer Shewring is an ever-present help in time of need. All cadets now have Certificate A, Part I, behind them, and many have taken Certificate A, Part II, this March. Preparation for the First Naval Examination is in its final stages. It is hoped that all the section will be sporting at least one stripe on the left sleeve before the end of term.

We are looking forward to summer camp, and expect a full-strength turn-out.

C.C.F. (R.A.F. SECTION)

The winter and the beginning of the Spring Term have been a period of steady progress despite the epidemics which on many occasions have left several "blank files" in our flights on parade. Between now and July we are hoping to see the results of this good work in a record number of successes in the Proficiency Examinations.

R.A.F., Halton, has returned once again into our cadet life. During December twenty-five cadets spent a pleasant day on the station, visiting the Apprentices' Training School in the morning and flying in the afternoon. Later in the month twelve cadets underwent a most valuable week's Course in Airmanship and Navigation. The results of the test at the end of the course were very satisfactory on the whole, and those cadets who scored high marks obviously derived great benefit from the course.

F/Sgt. Rankin is to be congratulated on triumphing over the bitterness of the weather and completing his Flying Scholarship training: he has now been awarded his civilian pilot's "A" licence. Cpl. Bates has also been selected for a scholarship, and will start his course at Easter. These Flying Scholarships are open to cadets who are over 16½ years of age, and are physically fit and really enthusiastic.

We are now looking forward to two major events—the Group Cross-Country Championships, in which we are entering a team to represent Oxon/Bucks Wing, and our Easter camp at Cranwell. We have reason to believe that both events will be unqualified successes.

We end these notes on the vexed question of uniforms. May we make an appeal to parents to see that all items of equipment on loan to cadets are returned as soon as cadets leave the School? We would also like to see each of our cadets wearing black shoes with his uniform on parade. Only if a cadet is smart and properly dressed can he feel the pride which he ought to feel in the Service to which he belongs. We look for a great improvement in this matter of uniforms in the near future.

THE MIKADO

In the rugged northern school where we were educated years ago, we did not trouble to exclaim

“So, pardon us,
So, pardon us,

If we decline to dance and sing”:

we just declined. Lamentable, of course, but perhaps human; and part of the pleasure we had in watching some fifty boys acting the “Mikado” so well last term was in the feeling that this was something we should never have dared to do ourselves. Instead, by an unpardonable license,

“Our oracles were dumm,
No voice or hideous humm

Ran through the arched roof in words deceiving.”

What songs our bolder spirits did murder, they murdered, like Clytemnestra axing her husband, in the bathroom.

To act in the “Mikado” either as an individual or, only a little safer, as a member of one of the choruses, has required much more than moral courage; or the audience would have had more to complain about than the hardness of the School chairs. Curiously enough, the boys sit on these chairs all day long without audible complaint. Masters stand. We came to the show wondering if the boys could possibly put across an opera with so many key parts and almost all the songs unnervingly famous—as though every actor in the cast must try not to revolt the audience with his outrageous rendering of “To be or not to be . . .” or “Friends, Romans, Countrymen . . .” One does not, of course, demand a Sir Henry Lytton or a Dame Bertha Lewis, but there are degrees of inferiority. Much, but not all, may be forgiven the amateur before his name be taken by the Lord High Executioner.

It has taken four years of training and the production of three progressively more difficult operas to prepare the way for the “Mikado,” besides much enthusiasm and readiness among the boys to “have a go” and to give up a large slice of their out-of-school time for several months. The final result can only have satisfied the producers and the cast as it delighted their kindly disposed, but

not uncritical, audiences : for most of the singing was indeed "highly delightful," and where a voice lacked range or power, spirited acting made good the deficiency. For that matter, there are parts in Gilbert and Sullivan which call for an actor rather than for a singer. We have already half confessed that our knowledge of music is not open to public examination : but one would have had to be tone-deaf not to have admired the splendid quality of B. C. Stevens' singing in Nanki-Poo's part or of T. B. Baldwin's as Yum-Yum ; and stone-deaf as well not to have liked M. S. Matthews as the Mikado himself, for the clarity and expression of his words in song and speech alike were magnificent : so was his acting. Perhaps the very young should not have been admitted : there was at least one little girl in the audience who was scared "more than somewhat."

D. J. Crump sang Ko-Ko's songs very well, and he grew more lively in his acting after the first performances despite the handicap of a nasty chill. A. Kenyon was the other way round, he acted Poo-Bah with a considerable sense of humour and he sang, if not like a professional, at least unashamedly. We should describe Pish-Tush (P. B. G. Gillard) as somewhere in between, more tuneful than Poo-Bah and more abandoned than Ko-Ko.

Every night the Three Little Maids from School were greeted with delighted applause by all except that pantechnicon of unpuncturable pomposity, Poo-Bah. The acoustics of our hall are freakish to an extreme, but Baldwin's well-trained voice reached the worst of the silent zones, and A. J. Saddler's singing of Pitti-Sing's part was clear and lively. D. J. Slade, too, sang nicely, and all three of them acted well and with real spirit. The hardest part to sing must be the horribly difficult role of Katisha ; hard that is for a boy, and harder still for a boy whose fine voice is on the point of breaking. F. J. R. Hobson won our warm admiration by the way he tackled this job : he could, without any fault of his own, have lowered the level of the performance, and he didn't. Instead, he acted much better than before and he sang to the limit of his capacity. The merciless kicking he inflicted on the influenza-stricken Ko-Ko should teach the ex-tailor not to lie on the ball.

To revert for a moment to our uninteresting childhood, our earliest memories of Gilbert and Sullivan (when we were taken protestingly to see the "Gondoliers" and were sick in the pit-stalls—chocolates and boredom) are memories of hating the singing and of mild interest in the bits where the actors condescended to talk like human beings and disclose the working of the plot. There is a lot of talking in the "Mikado," and with several honourable exceptions, the talking was not up to the standard of the singing in our performances. This is the only adverse criticism we can reasonably make, but it would be indulgent not to make it.

And what of the choruses? They are like the forwards in a rigger team—in fact some of their members *are*: they do all the work, while the actors score the tries. But as rugby was invented for forwards, so comic opera was invented for the chorus, never for the actors. “What, never? Well, hardly ever.” How absurd: but the great success the School has had with the “Mikado” was very largely due to the united and well-trained performance of these elegant school girls and dignified gentlemen of Japan. They sang splendidly throughout, and they acted well too; as they had done before, you will remember, in the “Pirates” and the “Gondoliers” and “Iolanthe.” But the “Mikado” gave them less chance to romp and riot and flutter about. Grace and dignity are required, and those are much more difficult accomplishments, as fans are harder to wield than truncheons. It may be mere fancy, but even the best of some exceptionally good singers seemed to improve by singing in duet, trio or madrigal, or with the chorus, and it is a real musical climax as well as a dramatic one when, at the end of each act, chorus and actors join forces and fill the hall with so magnificent a volume of sound.

Aristotle (Poetics) decreed *ex cathedra* that scenery and costume were the least of the essentials of a play.

“And I expect you’ll all agree
That he was right to so decree.”

As a matter of fact, he was talking about Greek Tragedy, but his book on Comedy has unfortunately not survived. Yet how much of the charm of the opera would have been dissipated if our artists had not painted scenery which admirably set off the colourful Japanese costumes without overpowering them. The orchestra, too, the choreograph, and a host of seen and unseen helpers, besides two vertical guardsmen and a pair of miniature coolies, must be thanked as heartily as their good work was appreciated.

Aristotle made some further observations on the need for unity in a play. He was, of course, right again; for

“We know him well,
He cannot tell
Untrue or groundless tales.”

A performance has to hang together, and succeed or fall as a whole. It would be faint praise indeed to say that there were some excellent performances in an opera: you may always count on *that*. We wish, on the contrary, to congratulate the School on the opera as a whole, an excellent performance. Patience, please.

C.M.H.

“MESSIAH”

In spite of the School's previous musical achievements, it was difficult not to be apprehensive of our first venture in Oratorio. At Christmas, the sheer comedy of Gilbert and Sullivan was bound to awaken a response in the audience, but here we were invited to listen to a serious work of very high musical standard. Any nervousness, however, was removed even before the Overture by the quite delightful programme, which incorporated eighteenth-century typography and yet avoided preciosity.

This was to prove characteristic of the whole performance, for here was a faithful interpretation of Handel's music, which did full justice to both its pathos and its extreme virility. But one difficulty was not quite overcome. It may seem hyper-critical to censure the orchestra, since the difficulties in which a school is here involved are obvious, but certainly it was here that any weakness lay. There was a certain lack of balance, and the tone, particularly of the violins, was not of the highest quality. It must be said in their defence that they did seem to be left rather too much to their own devices. This is the only serious criticism we could make.

We were fortunate indeed to have the services of such outstanding soloists. Dorothy Hopkins (contralto), Bamford Cooper (tenor) and Robert Davies (bass) all sang with great sensitivity; in particular, the tone, phrasing and interpretation of Robert Davies were admirable. No wonder, then, that T. Baldwin was a little nervous at first, when he joined them as treble. But he need not have been, for his voice was beautifully clear and full of feeling.

It may seem ungenerous to the soloists to praise the choir even more highly, yet, if the elation felt throughout the performance belonged to any one section, it was surely to them. Perhaps they lacked the finesse of professional choirs, but over them they had one great advantage—vitality. Here were some hundred-and-fifty boys, singing with thorough sincerity, and responding to their conductor in a way that is rarely found. Their every note was formed and controlled by the baton. This alone made it a most exhilarating performance. But more, it was a pleasure merely to hear boys singing, with their clarity of tone, especially noticeable in the high register, and their superb diction.

Yet it was the co-ordination of all these groups, soloists, choir and orchestra that made the excellence of this performance. All praise, of course, must go to Mr. Rainbow, not merely for the industry and care involved, but for the brilliance of the entire production. We did not even wonder at the difficulty of his task, it seemed so easily achieved. It is astonishing to find such musical sensitivity in a school-hall, even though it be that of Wycombe; how much more astonishing that there was no need to lower our critical standards in its appreciation. That, surely, would normally be sufficient praise in itself.

A.L.R.

AN IMPRESSIONIST SPEAKS

Stockholm is a beautiful city at night. The many coloured lights play on the surface of the waterways, giving out an air of enchantment. The Youth Hostel, said to be the finest in Europe, is situated by an island near the centre of Stockholm, in a converted boat. Accommodation is difficult to find, and one meets many types of people in the boat. While I was there the mascots were two old gentlemen who, passing themselves off as a painter and a poet respectively, used to "borrow" things. Prices are high, but the food is good, especially the sweets. If you want to earn money, "situations vacant" consist of washing dishes.

Stockholm has warm weather during the summer months, but Madrid has an excessive heat; so much so that they water the streets frequently. In the early afternoon it is possible to walk around a nearly silent city. It is siesta time. One of the characteristics of the city is the national lottery ticket sellers, and men trying to sell gold watches at low prices. Both plague you, and the latter, in despair, will ask, "How much you give?" The best answer is not "nothing," but "a peseta," worth about 3d. They shrug their shoulders, spit on the ground, and walk off in disgust. Madrid is an impressive city, with magnificent buildings and broad streets. The Prado (art gallery) is full of fine painting by Velasquez, Goya, and many other distinguished artists. You cannot cross the ancient streets without permission of a policeman, and it is regarded as bad taste for a man to wear shorts. It is forbidden to kiss girls in the streets. Sadly I advise married men to stay at home.

Tangier, though further south than Madrid, is not quite so hot. It is situated on the coast at the top of North Africa, in an international zone—one sees evidence of this by taking a stroll along the beach. The Promenade, packed with "super de luxe" American cars, which act as taxis, is an interesting sight. Palm trees shelter the beggars and sightseers from the sun. In the evening people in their hundreds walk to and fro enjoying the cool sea breeze. The Medina is also packed with people. The narrow passageways are mysterious but not particularly dangerous. One can get lost. It is possible even to feel the atmosphere of the East. Lurking shadows in front of you and the stink of rotten fish capture this atmosphere. Arab girls who flit past you in flaming garments with mouths and other parts hidden, make up for this loss in attraction by the liquid and indefinable depths in their eyes.

Like Tangier, Casablanca is divided into the old and new parts. It has six or seven beaches, not one as good as that of Tangier. Casablanca is a mushroom city with huge buildings being erected on the outskirts. The Post Office, a new building, and the banks are very fine. In the modern quarter, as in Paris, the cafes, with

their wicker chairs and tables, play an important part in the life of the city. Near to the Place de Paris one can buy cool drinks of different flavours for 10 francs a glass. Also near the Place de Paris are the intricate passageways of the Medina, bustling with life in the evening. Arabs, Negroes and Europeans all have the chance of being cheated by the wily shopkeepers. One sees all around amusing incidents of men bargaining over goods. The Arabs love an argument and their tea. There is a definite romance, or perhaps squalidness, about the Medina at Casablanca, but whatever its charms, you cannot look from a hill and watch the reflections of the lights on the water, as in Stockholm.

D. M. PHILLIPS, VI.

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY OR REMINISCENCES OF A SUMMER HOLIDAY

The train thundered on across the vast French plain, probably doing 70 miles an hour, but making little impression on the seemingly endless miles of flat, open country. Nothing relieved the monotony, except an occasional broad river, flowing imperceptibly towards the Atlantic or the Medirreanean, like some sleepy python dozing in the noonday heat. Then Dijon, a clattering railway junction, where the train remained panting a few minutes, only to resume its long trek across the dusty plain.

At long last, the two escarpments which had run parallel with us two-thirds of the way from Paris—that of the Massif Central on the right and of the Jura-Vosges bloc on the left, slowly but surely drew nearer to one another. We were approaching the foothills of the Alps! Soon we were running in an ever-narrowing valley with steep rocky sides. Water cascaded from hidden springs in the rock, recalling photographs of the Kaieliur fall in British Guiana, or Tennyson's "slowly-dropping veil of thinnest lawn." Suddenly a flash of peacock blue, and the waters of the Lac du Bourget shimmered in the afternoon sun.

On and on we sped, always climbing, now speeding along with a wall of rough grey rock three or four hundred yards away on one side and gently smiling valleys far below on the other. Slowly we drew into the small station of Annecy: then, surprisingly, drew out the same way as we had come! Soon, however, the track branched, and I realised that we were only making a detour owing to the fold of the mountains, and not returning to Paris!

Afternoon had changed to early evening, and the mountains began to look sombre and rather forbidding: they seemed to frown broodingly on the swiftly-darkening scene. Then St. Gervais, where we had to transfer ourselves and our luggage to the mountain railway. The sun was setting, and, although invisible to us, bathed the snowy summits around us in the most delicate of pink. How

high they seemed—I felt as though I had made a mistake, and come to the Himalayas.

Safely settled in the wooden seats of this rather ramshackle-looking rack-and-pinion contraption, we moved slowly up a steep incline. We had climbed before, but now we seemed to be scaling the face of the mountain. Already St. Gervais lay two or three hundred feet below. Darkness enveloped us, as we bored through a long black tunnel. Along apparent precipices, with torrents bubbling and foaming far below, and snow-capped peaks rising precipitously around us, we went. Soon it would be too dark to see.

Then . . . something unbelievably beautiful and terrifying in its serenity, its colossal size and its towering altitude—Mont Blanc itself—Child of the Snows—the very incarnation of glory and strength inextricably mingled. If it had been the Sphinx or the Taj Mahal itself, it could not have evoked a feeling of more intense wonder and admiration. Mont Blanc—the highest mountain this side of the Caucasus—a giant to dwarf the Matterhorn and reduce Snowdon to the size of a molehill.

I knew I was going to enjoy this holiday perhaps more than any before.

N. E. FILBY, VI.

SCHOOL VERSE

'TIS END OF TERM

Arduous homework is no more,
Lessons now are such a bore,
Everyone is slacking, for
'Tis end of term . . .

Filling in with tens and noughts,
Are masters, writing term reports,
Odious remarks are in their thoughts,
'Tis end of term . . .

With holidays foremost in one's mind,
Attention for work is hard to find,
Masters, though, are now more kind,
'Tis end of term . . .

Lusty cheers from masters all
(And one small boy in front of hall),
Then the big rush out of school,
'Tis end of term.

T. REAR, Vx.

HASTIE'S FIELD

The cliffs of primrose-stars, red sandstone-hung,
Bow to the stream beneath the flowering sky :
Peaceful the chattering water on the stones :
Mown by the wind, the saw-grass moans and sighs.
Not so the deep pool at the lower bridge—
Even the kingfisher, a sapphire bolt
Leaving the castle ruins, as a gem
Falls from the miner's mouth, cannot disturb
The ice-calm coral of the water . . .

ANDREW MCINTOSH, VI.

THE POPLARS

(With acknowledgements to Cowper)

The poplars are felled, farewell to the shade
And the whispering sound of the cool colonnade ;
The winds play no longer, and sing in the leaves,
Nor schoolfield's flat grassland their image receives.
Three years have elapsed since I first took a view
Of this sportive field and the ridge where they grew ;
And now on allotments behold they are laid
And the tree is my firewood that once lent me shade.
My scholarly years are all hasting away
And I must, ere long, stand as lowly as they,
With bereted head, and rifle in hand,
Ere another such grove shall arise in the land.

P. CROWTHER, Vx.

O, MASTER !

(With acknowledgements to Whitman)

O, Master ! my master ! our fearful prep is done,
My pen has weathered every line, the prize we sought is won.
The time is near, the bells I hear, the staff are all exulting,
All eyes gaze on my steady way, to the study, grim and daring . . .

But O heart ! heart ! heart !
O, the bleeding stripes of red !
Where, on my rear, the slipper lies
Fallen hot and red !

G. R. DAVIES, IVx.

“ — OH, HORROR ! ”

Rumours that a recording machine may shortly be purchased for the School have recently given rise to a number of startling developments in the life of our community. That the machine is harmless and comparatively reliable has already been demonstrated to a small but select gathering in the music room, when a prefect renowned for his antipathy towards such new-fangled contraptions as escalators and telephones was induced without difficulty to speak into it. It has in fact great possibilities for good. Enterprising Sixth-formers have plans already well in hand for the secretion of the machine in the staff room during the lunch hour. It is felt in high quarters that a little persuasion may well convince the unfortunates whose voices are thus recorded to defray—from their bridge winnings—at least the cost of the recording-tape, lest their post-prandial peccadilloes be played back to the little darlings in the junior part of the School. The fact that the voice recorded bears no resemblance to the original is in itself an advantage, since it provides a sporting chance for those in danger of being blackmailed. The organizing committee is, however, understood to be taking steps to ensure that their representatives do not call upon members of the public covered by a sufficient alibi. A great deal of trouble might be further avoided by judicious recording of the grace said before School lunch, or the senior prefect's speech to evil-doers at the weekly meeting of prefects. In this age of progress, who are we to lag behind the Kremlin in our use of the achievements of science for the betterment of our small community ?

If after all it is decided not to buy this machine, we understand a considerable sum towards a Library model has been offered from the proceeds of the last Sixth Form sweepstake.

D. D. KIRBY, VI.

THE DOG-FIGHT

At the given signal the 'planes are brought out of their temporary hangars in readiness for the flight. The leader takes off into the wind and one by one the rest of the squadron follows him into the air. The spectators on the ground below watch them climbing steeply, until at ceiling height they level off and wing their way westward towards enemy territory.

But what is this ? Another squadron of enemy fighters climbs steeply to intercept them and amid the cheers and shouts of the onlookers a dog-fight ensues. They roll and dive at each other, are forced down, launched again from their home bases. This continues for some time, until suddenly absolute silence falls on the onlookers . . .

Paper aeroplanes vanish into desks as the Master walks into the classroom and the Form settles down to work again.

A. R. DALE, Vx.

MAP-READING

It has been a source of continual amazement to me that anyone can seriously hold the view that maps are impersonal and dull. A good map is one of the highest forms of art ; it combines social realism—for where else will you find the sewage farms and Army camps which characterise our countryside so faithfully depicted with extravagant romanticism ? where will you find the rival of Asparagus Island, or Fortune's Frolic, near Haverfordwest ? what man-made picture could ever vie with the clean sweep of the North Circular Road or Crawley bypass ? when has Rouault excelled the speckled monstrosity of a half-inch map of the mountains round Loch Linnhe and Loch Arkaig ?

“ And yet the fool

Proclaims that art is not.

Not art ? on O.S. ? when the days are fine ?

Nay, but I have a sign !

'Tis very sure Picasso walks on mine ! ”

And yet perhaps those who have only known road maps, or cyclists' maps, may be excused, for the true perfection, the Venus of Milo, as it were, is only known in the one-inch Ordnance Survey. Here, truly, is the glory of the “ rolling English road,” with “ under 14 feet of metalling ” ; here are those mysterious semaphorists who represent windpumps ; here those delicate contours which cast a derisive note of fantasy on the futility of the civilisation of, say, the Rhondda Valley. Looking backwards, we may regret the cardboard towers of Matthew Paris or Richard Gough, the molehill mountains of Saxton and Oliver, the voluptuous dolphins and elaborate cartouches of the eighteenth century, or the delightful hachuring of the early years of this century ; but the modern map, by guiding the imagination rather than usurping its functions, provides a worthy exercise for the aesthetic sense.

Such subtle refinements as the National Grid, Trigonometrical Points, battle sites, lightships, vehicular ferries, or glasshouses, may be only for the initiate, but the simpler points are open to all. A map does not bludgeon you into acceptance of its artistic principles : if you know the country it provides the finest of *aides-memoires* ; if not, it will tempt the most obstinate stay-at-home. A map may be “ a representation on paper of part of the earth's surface ”—it is also a possible source of unflinching delight.

A. MCINTOSH, VI.

HOW TO BE A "CHRISTMAS CASUAL"

by a Christmas Casualty

"Oh, whacko! We can have the last week of term off, to work at the Post Office."

This is where the trouble begins. At some ridiculous hour in the morning, you crawl out of bed and mount your bicycle or horse, or if you are a prefect you climb into your sedan-chair. With any luck you should get to the Post Office at half-past seven. Since you never have any luck, you arrive at about eight o'clock.

Walking briskly over to a likely-looking table, you meet three happy-looking officials, known respectively, if not respectfully, as "Spudhead," "Dracula" and "The Laughing Hangman."

Spudhead says, "E's 'alf an hour late; we'll sign 'im on for ten o'clock, just to show 'im."

You endeavour to smile, but find it impossible when someone stops the circulation in your fore-arm with a very tight armlet which must be worn "all the time."

By this time you have been captured by a particularly busy postman, who loads you up with two heavy mailbags, and says, "Deliver those." You feel much brighter when the great moment arrives. You are ready to deliver your first letter.

Now I am not of a particularly mechanical turn of mind. If called upon to do so, I can sometimes lock a door or wind my watch, but I am completely beaten by some letter boxes.

In these days of austerity, the only thing to liven up the drab life of the householder is the amusing little game of torturing the postman.

By exerting a considerable force, the letter is pushed through, but your fingers will not come out again. It is now that the householder plays his trump-card, by flinging open the door and dislocating all your fingers. He pretends to help you by wrenching your hand from his man-trap. Seeing that your hand is rather mangled, he says, "I hope I have not hurt you."

"That's all right. I don't use that hand very much, anyway," you reply as amicably as possible.

You have now delivered one letter. You still have thousands of letters left. You are worn out, and in need of medical attention. You are still forcing a smile.

The question now is how to get rid of the rest of your letters. If you are lucky enough to cross a river, then the answer is obvious. If not, then you look for the nearest post-box. You stroll past and innocently slip a bundle of letters into it. After walking up and down several times, you find that you are left with two empty mailbags and two very tired feet.

Fortunately, it does not take long to become an experienced postman. You find that you can force the largest calendar through the smallest letter-box. And by the end of the week you can get rid of your mail in an hour and then drink coffee and have your dinner all in the Post Office's time. In the afternoon you can go to the pictures and sign off after the show.

G. W. BRADLEY, VI.

THE GEOMETRY OF CAPS

Here is an angular problem which does not appear to have been solved by any of the redoubtable geometers of ancient Greece, or their modern disciples.

No geometrical theorem or trigonometrical ratio, nor yet mensuration or calculus, can be brought to bear on this baffling problem. The only solution that all our modern magic can offer is the primitive one of "trial and error."

The problem, in the chilling language of the examination question, is :—

(a) At what angle should school caps be worn :—

(i) In front elevation.

(ii) In side elevation.

(b) If the chord of the arc formed by the cap does not cut the head of the wearer, and is in the vertical plane, state the forces which retain it in position.

Observations over a single day will be sufficient to convince the brightest mathematical stars that the problem is—in their language—a surd, an absurd, and at the same time an exasperating reality. No two angles of wear correspond, even the "straight and level" ones will vary according to the fit—or lack of it, and whether a visit to the barber has been postponed. Some are worn in such a manner as to appear to confound all the laws of gravity, and others as though the wearer strives to conceal all features above the tip of the nose.

The followers of Euclid, Pythagoras, Ptolemy and Newton are cordially invited to "have a go" at this problem—with all available measuring instruments, and supported by any psychological aid they can muster. I can only promise a streak of elusiveness which defies definition and which, I am sure, will resist even the most scientific attack, and we shall continue to see them worn at all conceivable angles—even beyond the vertical.

Q.E.D.

B. REED, IVx.

SCHOOL SOCIETIES

Perhaps the most encouraging feature of the activities of our unprecedented number of lively School societies has been the growth of inter-society co-operation. A great deal of linked membership,

if not control, has always ruled out direct competition, but never before have we had the grand joint meetings of the last term.

First, then, comes the series of lectures on the History of Science arranged by the Science and History Societies. Five meetings of talks, long and short, technical, learned and popular, closed with a highly popular Brains Trust of masters from both sides of the fence, and on top of it. Of course, these societies have been active in other fields. The Science Society has organised visits to the Vauxhall Works at Luton, the I.C.I. paint works at Slough, the Wycombe Water Works, and the E.M.I. factory at Hayes : members have been universally enthusiastic, and the difficulty has been to find room for them all on these visits. The History Society has been greatly cheered by a vote of 27—1 against the motion that "history is bunk" in a joint debate with the T.C.O.S. Other activities have been a talk on town planning by R. H. Thirlway, a programme of reviews of new books in the History library, and a visit, on February 9th, to the National Gallery in London. An ambitious programme is planned for the rest of the term.

The Twentieth Century Opinion Society, despite its name, has decided that the Conservative Party is worthy of confidence, but this has been redeemed by the decisions that history is not bunk, and that the United Nations does not constitute a threat to world peace. We have retained our active membership of the South Bucks inter-school debating society, and our control of its treasury ; we have held an excellent debate with the High School, deciding by 28—18 that Christianity is not the only hope for the world today.

The Dramatic Society has been passing through what might have been its fallow term, but in fact has been very active. A coachload of members went to see "Ring Round the Moon" at the Globe, and the playreading circle has read Shaw's "The Doctor's Dilemma." We are now engaged on deciding our production at the end of the Summer Term, and we are reading "The Government Inspector," by Gogol.

Those old favourites, the Music Society and Chess Club, have, of course, been active. The Music Society organized a visit to the Oxford University Opera Club's production of "Les Troyens" as well as carrying on its weekly record programmes to record audiences. The Chess Club is now highly organized and has its annual tournament well under way.

Quid plus dicam? What other school could produce so fine an array? If there is one criticism I could make, it is that the rank-and-file members tend to lay the burden too much on the committee, and then grumble at the result. But, perhaps, as an inveterate committee-man, I am biased.

A. R. McINTOSH, VI.

YOUTH SPEAKS OUT

The formation of the Junior Literary Debating Society for boys in their first and second years at the School was looked upon by the Twentieth Century Opinion Society with mixed feelings of pleasure and apprehension. Pleasure at the thought that at last something was being done to interest the Junior School in a society of this sort, which promised well for T.C.O.S. when the juniors of today become the seniors of tomorrow, and apprehension at the realisation in the hearts of the reactionary and somewhat self-satisfied committee, that the junior society would be very keen to make comparison with its elder and more conservative brother.

Thus it was that three T.C.O.S. members decided to attend the first debate of the Junior Society, to learn as much as they could about it. The subject of the debate was that "The life of a day-boy is preferable to that of a boarder." Andrews (IIIC), proposing the motion, stressed the home comforts and greater personal freedom that they day-boy enjoyed, which, he suggested, were lacking in boarding school life. In opposing the motion, Smethurst (IIIA) denied that the boarder suffered a loss of personal freedom. This provoked Turner (IIIA), who was seconding the motion, to say that he was quite sure that all that Andrews had said was correct. He would, however, disagree with his friend when he suggested that it was an advantage enjoyed by day-boys to be helped with their "prep." As Turner pointed out, "prep." should be done on your own. The last speaker, seconding Smethurst, was Klemperer (IIA). He stressed the fact that boarding school life taught you to fend for yourself and made the closing remark, "It's all very just in the Boarding House."

At this point the debate was thrown open to the house. Opinions on both sides were freely voiced, but it was soon clear that the Boarders would win.

The death-stroke to the hopes of the Day-boys was struck by Stack (IIIB), one of their number, who said he would far rather be a boarder. James (IIIB) also spoke well in favour of boarding life. A great cause of dispute was whether or not Day-boys cleaned their own shoes. Nash (IIC) said that he did, and so the Boarders said that they made their own beds as well. It is with shame that we record that no day-boy had a reply to this.

The vote was taken at this point and, as expected, showed that the House favoured boarding life. The meeting was then closed, and the three visitors from the T.C.O.S. saw that the senior society could no longer lean back complacently on its couch of unchallenged monopoly, but would have sit up and take notice of this up-and-coming pretender. They realised that this Junior Debating Society has a great future ahead of it, and applauded the foresight of those masters responsible for its conception.

M. J. BANHAM, VI.

RUGBY RETROSPECT

The 1950-51 season has been a particularly pleasant one, apart from the unusually wet playing conditions. The 1st XV soon showed themselves a well-balanced and enthusiastic side, and among the other teams the junior side achieved a very high standard of play. The senior house matches were so evenly contested that a knock-out replay between three of the Houses had to be arranged. A number of boys have played for Bucks and other county schoolboy sides, and many seniors have taken advantage of the hospitality of the Old Wycombiensians' Rugby Club during the School's "closed season." The Old Wycombiensians have invited the Headmaster to nominate a member of the staff to serve on the club committee; and it is hoped that both clubs will benefit from keeping closer touch with each other. The new Rugby Union instructional film was shown at the School early in the Christmas term.

1st XV

School Matches : Played 12, Won 10, Lost 2.

Other Matches : Played 4, Won 1, Drawn 1, Lost 2.

This very satisfactory record has been achieved by combined effort and all-round ability rather than by the individual brilliance of star performers. The hard-working pack has been lively in the loose and well aware of the advantage to be reaped from quick heeling when checked; the line-out work, dribbling and handling have been fairly good, and the tackling a delight to watch. The two halves were an experienced and efficient pair, though H. D. Howard the captain, has lost much of his dash and speed off the mark: he went some way to offsetting this deficiency with his splendid handling and accurate kicking. His partner, I. H. C. Waters, has been magnificent in attack and defence all through the season. Improved play in the centre by B. Woodbridge, and the less experienced R. Clapton has at once tightened up the defence and added thrust to the attack. In consequence, the two wings, D. G. Phillips and F. A. Neal, have had a fair share of the ball. Both have run well, and Phillips has worried most sides' defence with his speed, elusiveness and quickness in pouncing on the loose ball. Woodbridge has also been quick to snap up odd chances. B. Evans has learned a lot since last season and saved the side anxiety and much wasted energy by his coolness and competence. His place-kicking has been quite good.

Among the forwards, the whole front row, E. Hall, P. C. S. Hall and R. C. W. Robey stood out for fine aggressive rugby and good scrummaging. D. G. Smith and H. S. Platt, though both clumsy packers, shoved honestly and worked hard in the line-out

and the loose. A. M. Harcourt in the lock worked untiringly, though trouble with an ear spoiled his scrummaging and forced him to stand down for several matches. A. Kenyon, at his best, was a most aggressive open loose forward, and he had some notable field days. He worked up a fair understanding with Howard at stand-off, but has plenty yet to learn about positioning and combination in this key position. J. C. Carrick, on the blind side, was a fast light-weight who, when he learned to tackle more skilfully, became an effective loose forward. E. Hall ended up as leader of this pack after various experiments, and did the job fairly well. T. W. Abdallah and the much injured M. S. Matthews played several good games in the 1st XV pack, and D. Thomas played at left centre for some weeks until he lost confidence in himself : none the less, he has everything, including the courage, necessary to turn him into a first-class centre threequarter or perhaps stand-off half.

The most noticeable weaknesses of the side were the failure to finish off attacks due to some player (most often a forward !) not giving the necessary scoring pass : this certainly happened far too often : and there was a lack of really good ball control in the dribbling. The centres would have been helped by a faster start to the attacking movements. The merits of the side have been mentioned already, but I must add the greatly improved backing up and quicker covering up of mistakes.

Well directed by Howard, and on occasions by Woodbridge, the team has played some fine games. Stowe 2nd XV is the only school side to have beaten us decisively ; their fine pack was admirably led and gave their backs excellent opportunities. The loss by a point at Reading was not an unfair result, though there was little enough in it. Reading were more enterprising in their methods, but their defence in the centre was twice successfully penetrated. Alas, our forwards were caught napping in the line-out with fatal results. Carrick deputised very well for Howard in this game. Against Windsor at home and Watford away our pack got well on top of the situation, and at Watford Phillips scored four tries in a row. The three-quarters played a good game against Tiffin School at Kingston. Abingdon School proved an altogether tougher proposition at Wycombe : Phillips scored early from an orthodox passing movement following a beautifully quick heel, and again in the second half in a less convincing way. Apart from this, it was a desperate and even battle with little to choose between the sides, except that Howard handled better than his opposite number. The light Southfield side was well beaten at Wycombe, and owing to bad weather this ended the term's football.

In the Spring Term, the team combined well and backed up intensively against Arborfield Army Apprentices to win fairly easily. The following week they visited Balliol College and excelled them-

selves by beating a strong side, consisting, we were told, of the regular back division but a rather scratch pack. Most of the game on a wet pitch was played in the Balliol half, and keen marking broke up most of the few attacks which the College pack allowed their threequarters to make. There were many close shaves for the College, and a penalty kick was missed from fairly close range. This was one of the two penalties awarded in a game remarkably free from infringements. Evans redeemed his mistake with a beautifully judged last-minute-of-the-game tackle when an equaliser from Balliol seemed a certainty.

The team, all members of which have been awarded their 1st XV colours, was : B. Evans ; D. M. Phillips, R. Clapton, B. Woodbridge (Vice-Capt.), F. A. Neal ; H. D. Howard (Captain), I. H. C. Waters ; E. Hall, P. C. S. Hall, R. C. W. Robey, D. G. Smith, H. S. Platt, J. C. Carrick, A. M. Harcourt, A. Kenyon.

D. J. Thomas, T. W. Abdallah and M. S. Matthews played in several matches ; and R. E. Hester, P. T. Humphrey and C. M. Edwards in one each.

2nd XV

Played 11, Won 7, Lost 4.

The second team gradually made progress as a side and had a good record, though they were as usual much hampered by having to provide reserves for the 1st XV ; and there were minor injuries and illness to contend with as well. T. R. Bulpett was a full-back distinctly unlucky not to get a place in the School 1st XV, and Thomas had a spell in the 1st team as a centre. The other backs had speed and energy, but lacked experience and the ability to combine. The pack was energetic but showed a marked weakness in their scrummaging, especially in the loose. Abdallah and P. T. Humphrey stood out as more than promising, B. C. Stevens hooked well, and the captain R. C. File and B. W. Bowler, a second row forward, put in a lot of stout work.

The team as it appeared in the photograph was as follows (* indicates second colours) : T. R. Bulpett* ; Ludlam*, M. A. Bird*, D. J. Thomas*, M. Bridges and B. K. Debenham ; H. Hooper, R. C. File* (Captain) ; T. R. Peters, B. C. Stevens*, J. B. Birch ; C. M. Edwards*, G. J. Bristow ; A. C. Emary, B. W. Bowler*, P. T. Humphrey* and P. J. King.

R. J. Bunce and J. M. Hanna were off most of the season with illness and injury. B. Edwards played one or two very promising games ; and others who appeared were D. F. E. Hill, K. W. A. Chater, D. E. Davis, N. G. Jameson, T. A. Long, G. W. Bradley, R. E. Hester, J. P. Osborne, N. S. Pulley and J. Fournout.

(T. W. Abdallah* was in the 1st XV photograph.)

3rd XV

Played 8, Won 2, Lost 6.

The third team was rather weaker than we had hoped ; but it served its dual purpose of providing entertainment and match experience to boys who, many of them, will later be playing in the 1st XV or in club football. The senior house matches showed what good progress some of these boys have made during the season. N. S. Pulley was an energetic captain.

The following appeared in the team photograph : B. W. Mayo ; R. A. Bird, D. R. Owen, G. W. Bradley, K. W. A. Chater ; B. Edwards, N. S. Pulley (Captain) ; D. E. Davis, P. W. Elliott, D. F. E. Hill, C. G. Emmins, D. H. Bolton, R. Wing, P. C. White, N. G. Jameson and M. F. Tillion.

Others to play were J. C. Colver, R. C. Dawe, A. J. Elburn, K. W. Martin, J. W. Pursey, P. S. Reader, M. J. Shewring and J. R. Wise.

The Colts (under 16) Team

Played 8, Won 1, Lost 7.

This team had a disappointing season, though several of their games were lost by a narrow enough margin. Outstanding were the giant R. E. Hester in the centre and P. J. Osborne at scrum-half. R. Burgess, the Captain, was promising at stand-off. The weakness of the side lay in the truly lamentable scrummaging, or rather the absence of it. There was often not a head down in the mauls, so that it would require a physicist to calculate the total waste of physical energy. G. F. Regan, M. J. Garratt and B. G. Wheeler deserve mention for more genuine forward play, and T. Baker was a very plucky full-back.

The team as it appeared in the photograph was : T. Baker ; P. J. Webb, B. K. Johnson, R. E. Hester, J. D. Dixon and R. A. J. Small ; R. Burgess (Captain), P. J. Osborne ; T. E. Hawes, G. F. Regan, I. C. Birch ; H. G. Lane, M. J. Garratt ; B. G. Wheeler, P. G. Burt, G. D. B. Jones and B. E. Crook.

Others to play were : D. Burrows, J. W. Pursey, B. Sinnatt, L. C. Payne, F. J. R. Hobson, W. R. Weston, R. Samsbury and P. P. Crowther.

The Junior (under 14 and under 13½) Teams

Played 8, Won 7, Drawn 1.

In contrast, these junior sides were the best I have seen at the School. The forwards were quick to form a solid scrum and knew the importance of the first man up getting his foot over the ball. One never finds good loose scrummagers slow or lazy in the open, and this pack was delightfully aggressive with R. A. Mann out-

standing. The threequarters handled and tackled well, and one or two of them could kick well into the bargain. G. Snapes was a particularly efficient centre. The Captain and stand-off half, F. E. J. Hawkins, played extremely well, and what mistakes he made were due to an excess of ingenuity rather than to the lack of it. Some of the youngest boys were among the most promising, and the team as a whole showed a good mixture of brawn with brain.

The first year new boys have learned the game well, and beat Thorpe House at Gerrards Cross in their one fixture. The new Four "Shell" (late-entry) has, as usual, produced some talent.

The following played for the under 14 and under 13½ sides :
 A. F. Abercrombie, J. A. Barwell, T. J. Bond, R. Burrows, B. H. Cornish, M. C. Cutler, G. R. Davis, J. D. Dunningham, D. T. Elias, K. C. Faulkner, D. J. Gittins, A. J. Gordon, F. E. J. Hawkins (Captain), E. M. Horne, K. C. Jones, M. D. Jones, R. C. Jones, J. S. Kelly, R. A. Mann, T. C. Olsen, G. R. Orchard, J. Smithers, G. Snapes, E. M. Squires, A. J. C. Wright.

C.M.H.

SUMMARY OF MATCH RESULTS

		1st XV					Points	
Date	Opponents	Ground	Result	For	Agst.			
Sept. 23	Saracens Gipsy XV ... ..	...	H	Lost	6	14	
„ 30	Windsor C.S. ... ..	...	H	Won	22	0	
Oct. 7	St. Marylebone G.S. ... ..	...	H	Won	14	3	
„ 14	Henley G.S. ... ..	...	A	Won	17	10	
„ 18	Watford G.S. ... ..	...	H	Won	9	5	
„ 25	Borlase School, Marlow ... ..	...	A	Won	11	0	
„ 28	Stowe School 2nd XV ... ..	...	H	Lost	6	18	
Nov. 8	Tiffin School ... ..	...	A	Won	16	6	
„ 11	Reading School ... ..	...	A	Lost	10	11	
„ 18	Watford G.S. ... ..	...	A	Won	20	3	
„ 25	Abingdon School ... ..	...	H	Won	6	0	
Dec. 2	Southfield ... ..	...	H	Won	22	6	
„ 9	P. D. Fry's XV ... ..	...	H	Drawn	5	5	
„ 27	Army Apprentices, Arborfield ... ..	...	H	Won	19	0	
Feb. 3	Balliol College ... ..	...	A	Won	6	3	
„ 24	Old Boys ... ..	...	H	Lost	0	6	

(The fixtures with St. Edward's School, Leighton Park School, and Newbury G.S. had to be scratched because of bad weather.)

SUMMARY OF MATCH RESULTS

Date	Opponents	Ground	Result	For	Agst. Points
2nd XV					
Oct. 7	St. Marylebone G.S. ...	...	A Won	13	3
.. 14	Aylesbury G.S. 1st XV ...	...	H Lost	6	31
.. 18	Watford G.S. ...	...	A Won	13	6
.. 21	Dunstable G.S. ...	...	H Won	11	6
.. 28	Stowe School 3rd XV ...	...	H Lost	0	18
Nov. 8	Tiffin School ...	...	H Won	24	3
.. 11	Reading School ...	...	H Lost	0	25
.. 18	Watford G.S. ...	...	H Won	8	3
.. 25	Abingdon School ...	...	A Lost	0	11
Dec. 2	Southfield School ...	...	H Won	11	3
Jan. 27	Army Apprentices, Arborfield ...	...	H Won	8	3

(The fixtures with Leighton Park School, Thame School and Newbury G.S. had to be scratched because of bad weather.)

3rd XV					
Sept. 30	Windsor C.S. 2nd XV ...	...	A Lost	3	11
Oct. 7	Reading School ...	...	A Lost	3	28
.. 14	O.W.'s "B" XV ...	...	H Lost	0	31
.. 18	Watford G.S. ...	...	H Lost	6	31
.. 25	Borlase School, Marlow, 2nd XV ...	...	H Won	15	11
Nov. 8	Tiffin School ...	...	H Lost	6	19
.. 18	Watford G.S. ...	...	A Lost	0	8
Dec. 2	Borlase School, Marlow, 2nd XV ...	...	A Won	6	5

Colts (under 15)					
Sept. 30	Windsor C.S. ...	...	H Lost	0	9
Oct. 7	St. Marylebone G.S. ...	...	H Won	18	0
.. 14	Watford G.S. ...	...	A Lost	3	33
.. 28	Stowe School ...	...	A Lost	9	10
Nov. 11	Reading School ...	...	A Lost	9	14
.. 18	Watford G.S. ...	...	H Lost	0	6
.. 25	Henley G.S. ...	...	H Lost	0	6
Dec. 9	Tiffin School ...	...	H Lost	3	9

Junior XV (Under 14 and under 13½)					
Sept. 30	Borlase School, Marlow ...	...	H Won	36	0
Oct. 7	Windsor C.S. ...	...	A Won	3	0
.. 14	Watford G.S. ...	...	A Won	8	3
.. 21	Dunstable School ...	...	H Won	20	0
Nov. 11	Reading School ...	...	H Won	17	0
.. 18	Henley G.S. ...	...	A Won	5	0
Dec. 2	Watford G.S. ...	...	H Drawn	0	0
.. 9	Tiffin School ...	...	H Won	27	0

New Boys' (First Year) XV					
Feb. 1	Thorpe House Preparatory School ...	...	A Won	8	6

House Matches

The mild 'flu epidemic interfered with the teams during the "league" matches, but Arnison, Fraser and Youens all had strong sides out, and each won two games and lost the third. In the play-off, Fraser had the luck to draw a bye into the final, while Arnison managed to beat Youens by a penalty goal to nil. This reversed the result of their previous game, in which Youens had deservedly won by a goal to nothing ; but they spoiled their chances by persistent and stupid infringements and thoughtless forward play. None the less, their threequarters made some fine runs, wet and muddy as the pitch was, and we saw some really exciting play. In the final Fraser were able to field a stronger side than they had in their previous game against Arnison and won comfortably. Waters controlled his impulsive forwards well, and Carrick at stand-off opened the game up excellently despite the wet conditions.

SENIOR RUGBY CUP (Winner : Fraser)

Arnison beat Disraeli 27—5.
Arnison beat Fraser 9—3.
Fraser beat Youens 9—0.
Fraser beat Disraeli 43—5.
Youens beat Disraeli 47—3.
Youens beat Arnison 5—0.

Knock-out Play-off

1st Round : Arnison beat Youens 3—0.
Final : Fraser beat Arnison 19—0.

JUNIOR (COLTS) RUGBY CUP (Winners : Fraser)

Fraser beat Youens 20—0.
Fraser beat Disraeli 8—3.
Fraser beat Arnison 18—0.
Arnison beat Disraeli 25—9.
Arnison beat Youens 8—3.
Youens beat Disraeli 8—6.

JUNIORS (UNDER 13) (Winners : Arnison)

Arnison beat Disraeli 36—0.
Arnison beat Youens 39—0.
Arnison beat Fraser 31—0.
Disraeli beat Fraser 18—0.
Disraeli beat Youens 3—0.
Youens beat Fraser 12—9.

CROSS-COUNTRY

This year, despite a considerably strengthened fixture list, the School team has had another very successful season. The standard of running has been consistently high throughout and only twice has the School failed to return the first man home.

The new fixtures included matches against Jesus College, Oxford, and Reading Athletic Club, both of which were won by the School by a substantial margin. Last season's defeats at the hands of A.A.S., Arborfield, Vale of Aylesbury A.C. and Wycombe Phoenix Harriers were all avenged. In a new fixture at Slough, against Strode School, Bishop's Halt School and Slough G.S., the School gained six of the first eight places to win by 45 points.

This year the School team was unable to defend the Bucks County Junior Championship title, which had been won for the previous three years, owing to a change in the age-limit, which made all but one of the team ineligible. However, the team has been entered for several important championship races and will, it is to be hoped, achieve success in these.

The standard of running further down the School has been good, although both the Colts and Junior teams found opposition against Watford G.S. a little too good, otherwise they were both unbeaten.

The prospects for next season do not seem so bright at the moment as four School colours will be leaving in the summer, but, if some of the up and coming talent in the middle and upper School justifies itself, next season should see cross-country again the School's most successful winter sport.

R. GARRATT, VI.

SUMMARY OF MATCHES

Oct.	4	R.A.F., Benson	... ..	A	Won	28-65
"	11	Jesus College, Oxford	... ..	A	Won	31-59
"	21	Keble College, Oxford, and Culham College, Oxford	... ..	A	Won	45-48-92
"	25	Bishop's Halt School, Strode School, and Slough G.S.	... ..	A	Won	26-71-112-117
"	28	A.A.S., Arborfield	... ..	H	Won	55-83
Nov.	1	William Ellis School (Hampstead)	... ..	H	Won	30-55
"	15	R.A.F., Benson	... ..	H	Won	28-62
"	18	Reading A.C. (Juniors)	... ..	H	Won	26-65
"	22	Slough G.S....	... ..	H	Won	21-71
"	25	Wycombe Phoenix Harriers and Vale of Aylesbury A.C.	... ..	A	Won	48-49-81
"	29	Watford G.S.	... ..	H	Won	30-48
Jan.	24	Culham College	... ..	A	Won	39-41
"	27	Vale of Aylesbury A.C.	... ..	A	Won	35½-44½
Feb.	3	Watford G.S.	... ..	A	Lost	
"	17	Ranelagh Schools Championship	... ..	A		2nd of 20
"	24	Southern Counties Championship	... ..	A		Tied 1st of 40
Mar.	3	A.T.C. Southern Area	... ..	A		1st

CRICKET CLUB 1951

For the first time on record the two winter terms have not seen a complete stoppage in the activities of the club. Throughout the two terms, on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, the Gymnasium has resounded to the noise of bat on ball, appeals from the wicket-keeper and, occasionally, the sound of falling glass. Sunday morning has often produced the sight of a certain cricket coach perched on a ladder replacing a pane of glass that had suffered during the previous session. The indoor cricket periods have been as entertaining as they have been instructive. It has not been a case of begging boys to turn up, but rather of turning some away because of the lack of time available. The course has been framed to improve the batting technique and at the same time give a new outlook on batting—that of attack. We shall see if any success has been obtained when the 1951 season begins. For those who are not familiar with the indoor method, which has the blessing of the first-class County coaches, a short description is given :—The bat is about 2 inches in width and the ball is of the tennis variety. This is thrown with varying velocity and spins for a distance of 18 yards. The maximum speed obtainable is greater than that experienced on an ordinary wicket. Hooking short rising balls off the body is extremely pleasant until the sound of falling glass tells its own tale.

The start of the season will be crowned by the addition to the equipment of a large score-box giving the individual totals run by run. This machine has been made in the workshop during the winter.

We are more than ready for the new season. All that is needed is good weather and a good attacking spirit to make a record-breaking term.

—
H.W.J.

BOXING—1951 Championships

The preliminary bouts produced many fine exhibitions of boxing, and on 7th March the Finals took place. The referee, Mr. A. G. Rhodes, of the County P.E. Staff, complimented the finalists on a very good performance, especially Hawkins and Phillips, whom he nominated as Junior and Senior Champions respectively. Special awards were made to two Second-formers, Austen and D. M. Williams, for outstanding displays in the eliminating contests.

Full results will be printed in the next issue.

JUNIOR CHAMPION : Hawkins (A).

SENIOR CHAMPION : Phillips (F).

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS : 1st—Arnison, 69 points.

2nd } Disraeli, 58 points.

 } Fraser, 58 points.

 } Youens, 36 points.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Births

- R. A. ALDRIDGE (1929-34). On October 1st, 1950, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. A. Aldridge, a son.
- L. G. BAKER (1914-18). On January 6th, 1951, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Baker, a daughter.
- J. H. F. CAREY (1931-35). On January 26th, 1951, at Hempsted, Gloucester, to Mr. and Mrs. (*nee* Betty Winter-Taylor) Carey, a son.
- J. F. C. CLARKE (1932-38). On December 21st, 1948, at Crowthorne, to Mr. and Mrs. J. F. C. Clarke, a son.
- G. L. DAVIS (1921-26). On February 12th, 1951, at Aylesbury, to Mr. and Mrs. (*nee* Laura Parrott) G. L. Davis, a son.
- A. L. IRWIN (1923-31). On October 16th, 1950, at Kings Lynn, to Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Irwin, a son.
- A. HARMAN (1925-30). On July 17th, 1950, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. (*nee* Peaty) Harman, a son.
- W. A. STEVENS (1931-37). On December 30th, 1950, at Aylesbury, to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Stevens, a son.
- J. F. STANNERS (1933-40). On September 17th, 1950, at Birmingham, to Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Stanners, a son.
- P. B. WHITE (1929-33). On December 17th, 1950, at Greenford, Middlesex, to Mr. and Mrs. P. B. White, a son.
- H. C. WINTER-TAYLOR (1930-37). On January 22nd, 1951, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Winter-Taylor, a daughter.

Marriages

- GRACE—PAGE. On September 20th, 1950, at High Wycombe, N. R. Grace (1930-37) to Miss E. E. Page.
- SLATTER—HARRISON. On October 3rd, 1950, at Cardiff, D. A. Slatter (1930-33) to Miss A. S. Harrison.
- STAMMERS—TOZER. On September 2nd, 1950, in London, D. J. Stammers (1936-41) to Dr. Rita D. C. Tozer.

Deaths

- J. C. C. AFFLECK (1884-91). On January 15th, 1951, at Hereford, John Colin Campbell Affleck, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Affleck.
- H. J. W. DIXON (1915-21). On August 22nd, 1950, at the R.A.F. Hospital, St. Athan, Glam., Henry John William Dixon, aged 45 years.
- G. D. LEAR (1913-18). On August 30th, 1950, at Beaconsfield, Gerald Drew Lear, aged 48 years.

Annual General Meeting

The reason for holding an A.G.M. is to give members a chance to choose their officers and committee, to make complaints, to offer advice and suggestions, and to check the accounts. These can only be satisfactorily done at a full meeting and in order to encourage a better attendance the Committee has decided to hold the next meeting on Saturday, July 21st, 1951, when the Old Boys play the School at cricket, beginning at 11.30 a.m. As a further inducement, if sufficient support is forthcoming, it is proposed to have a supper after the meeting. More particulars will be sent later, but will members please make a note of the date and spread it round.

Annual Reunion

The Dinner was held once more at the Tavistock Restaurant, Charing Cross Road, on Saturday, February 17th, 1951. The number present was 148, and twenty or more were prevented from coming by illness, accidents and "calling-up" notices.

The President of the Club, Mr. Tucker, presided, supported at the top table by Mr. Arnison, Rev. A. M. Berry, Mr. R. Matthews and Mr. H. G. Brand, and Senior Old Boys. The Headmaster responded to the toast of the School, proposed by the Rev. A. M. Berry. G. C. Rayner proposed the Old Boys' Club, to which H. W. Johnson responded.

The entertainment as usual was entirely by Old Boys. Dennis Stevens, who has made a name for himself in the Third Programme, played two violin solos, accompanied by L. K. Fox. These were followed by a musical competition in which all joined and was between two parties, those who entered the School before 1933 being called the "A" Boys and those who entered after that date the "T" Boys. The choirs were given the option of singing two verses from one of three compositions. The "A" Boys led by R. F. Emery sang "Nellie Dean" unaccompanied, while the "T"

Boys led by L. A. Dickson sang "Clementine," with H. W. Johnson at the piano. The singing was as lusty as the conducting was vigorous. Marks were given, amongst other things, for deportment, volume and harmony. The competition between the two teams was so keen that the adjudicator could not arrive at a definite decision, and to avoid possible arguments, hastily called for musical cheers for the President and ex-President.

During the dinner it was decided by a large majority that the 1952 Reunion should be held again in London and that a date nearer to the Easter holidays be reserved.

The whole object of the Reunion is to get together once a year, in a congenial atmosphere, as many Old Wycombiensians as possible. This time tickets were issued on the sale or return basis with good results, and it is hoped many more will volunteer to canvas and sell tickets in Beaconsfield, Amersham and other such centres which must be overcrowded with Old R.G.S. Boys who do not realise what an enjoyable function it always is. Those who turn up really get more than their money's worth, as shown by the following details: dinner 8/6, gratuities 1/- per head, table decorations £3 3s. 0d., which alone amount nearly to the 10/- charged, without allowing for the impressive menu cards and the postage of hundreds of letters. Old Boarders are very well catered for by J. K. Prior, who deserves far better results from the efforts he and a few of his friends make to round up the much dispersed possibles.

When Mr. Arnison retired in 1933 any ideas he may have had of leading a less active life were soon shattered. His personality and reputation were such that Authorities and Societies clamoured for his advice and services. He found himself once more fully occupied and, as long as his health held, perfectly happy. In 1950, however, after a serious illness, and to the regret of all who knew him, he decided to look for greater leisure in another district and moved to 1 Caledon Road, Parkstone, Dorset (phone: Parkstone 2804), where there will be a ready welcome for any O.B. who happens to be in the vicinity.

It is certain, Mr. Arnison's interest in the R.G.S. will never flag, and he will be disappointed if still more O.B.'s do not turn up to test his marvellous memory, at those functions to which he has been so faithful and which owe their origin to his efforts. It is also certain that Mrs. Arnison and he have all the best wishes not only of those who have connections with the School but also of all who have had the pleasure of making their acquaintance.

The latest news (February 17th, 1951) is that, although health has been recovered, leisure is still elusive, and so far he has not been able to read his average of two and a half books a week.

A. W. BRADLEY (1938-43) writes that he is now getting established as a producer. He is at present at New Brighton, where he has a pleasant hard-working company; young enough not to be cynical and disillusioned. He enjoyed the experience of hearing Lupino Lane as one of his stars and Bradley hopes to produce a new translation of "Antigone" in a small London theatre for the Festival of Britain. He was sorry not to be able to entertain the O.B.'s, but hopes that next time he will have the time and the money to do so.

G. A. BOLTING (1918-22) was kept away from the Dinner by a cold, but he promises not to let that happen again.

J. F. C. CLARKE (1932-38), in his first letter since he left school, writes that he is back at Broadmoor after five years in the R.A.F. He came from India with N. Thorne. Contrary to the usual tales, Clarke maintains that the clerical staff at Broadmoor are kept very busy, often working as much as fifteen hours overtime a week. He was promoted to the Executive Officer Class in 1947 and is very happy with his wife and son, and spends his spare time in the large garden of his new home.

L/CPL. J. M. CANTY (1944-45), of the Royal Marines, owing to the extra six months National Service, is afraid he will not be able to join those O.B.'s from Amersham with whom he had such an enjoyable re-union in 1949.

C. T. FLETCHER (1940-46) has finished at Oxford and has started on a career in Local Government Finance, where he has to get further qualifications in Economics, Accountancy and Law, and he hopes soon to be settled on the upward path.

C. A. GRIFFITHS (1919-21) regrets that owing to his heavy Sunday Services he would find a Saturday evening in London rather too much. Although he is getting more and more a North Oxfordshire inhabitant, he retains his interest in South Bucks and is disappointed when O.W.'s Rugby results are not reported in the press.

W. T. GRIMSDALE (1920-25) hopes that when he comes home on long leave next August he will meet many O.B.'s, especially Boarders of the 1920-25 vintage. Life in Hong Kong is very full, and as far as he knows he is the only O.B. there. Many recent leavers, however, visit Hong Kong during their National Service, and all would be welcomed if they called on Grimsdale at his home.

G. HASTINGS (1917-25) has been elected Chairman of the Show and Breed Secretaries Association. He will leave the Association in Festival of Britain year, when Show and Breed societies will welcome thousands of overseas visitors. He has been on the Executive since 1938. Before his appointment, from over 500 applicants, as Secretary of the Three Counties Agricultural Society in 1946, Hastings was Secretary of Thame Show.

K. B. ILES (1932-37), after suffering from severe shell shock while serving in Egypt, found for some years after that his memory was not too reliable. He is now, however, fully recovered and is a happily married man with a daughter of four. He hopes to meet many Old Boarders at the Annual Dinner.

J. H. JACKSON (1898-1904) has retired from teaching and now lives at Blair Athol, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire.

D. J. LOUGHRAN (1942-48), in letters to D. M. Phillips at the School, describes his journey to Singapore, when for a time he had a lazy time, even staying in bed till 10 a.m. While there he managed to get into a Rugby XV; things were not so comfortable in Bentong, a small village surrounded by jungle, when all went armed even to the two cinemas, where films were shown in English, Malay and Chinese. In spite of fierce bandit activities, the Devons kept out of ambushes, and when they returned home Loughran was transferred to the Wilts and found himself in Hong Kong playing both codes of football when not digging trenches. His uncertain future might contain Korea.

MR. R. MATTHEWS (1909-19) now lives at 5 Stanley Crescent, Kensington, W.11. He has three grand-children to his credit, has a memory for events in the "Naughty Nineties," but a shabby recollection of things that happened last year, but he hopes to remember a few names and faces at the O.B.'s Dinner. Though a Governor of two L.C.C. Secondary Modern Schools, a Manager of a Church School and an Invigilator for London University, he still finds time for household affairs.

T. K. McANSDEN (1918-21) is now at the Gribble Inn, Little Torrington, N. Devon, where he will be pleased to see any O.B. touring the district.

D. M. McDOWELL'S (1934-42) present address is 17 Skelwith Road, Hammersmith, W.6. Lecturing in Hydraulics at the Battersea Polytechnic, he often meets Giles, who teaches Maths. there. He also meets one of the McQueens, who is married and lives in Ealing. McDowells, who has sold several Dinner tickets to O.B.'s, often hears from Flight Lieut. Pedder, D.F.C., stationed at South Cerney, Gloucestershire. While in Aden, McDowell had a very good time helping survey the harbour and its approaches.

J. S. MILES (1943-48) is training to be a designer-draughtsman in an engineering works at Slough, and with him are Ing, Warrington and Woodbridge.

R. F. RAY (1941-48) was not very long at Cambridge before he met Bland, Bass, Belbin, Fletcher, Stansbury, Thirtle and Richards (*ne* Suessman ii). Anthony Gann, according to Ray, is editor of the *Public Works Digest*, a serious paper.

J. N. ROBINSON (1928-33) writes, while on leave at Stokenchurch, that he will be going back to Trieste, where he has been longer than in any other place in his eight and a half years of Army life. Lately he has had quite a few runs at cricket, and has been on the reserve for comic football matches played on Christmas Day. He has been promoted to W.O.I., and is quite prepared to go to Korea as soon as a comfortable N.A.A.F.I. Club is established there.

D. J. STAGG (1941-46), when he left the R.A.F., gave up insurance and joined the Ordnance Survey as a surveyor. Although the hours and pay are not so good the prospects are better. The R.A.F. Unit to which he was attached only consisted of two hundred men and two of those were Fletcher and Goodwin. Stagg hears at intervals from Loughran.

L. F. WATKINS (1908-14) now describes himself as "Assistant Branch Manager" of Waring & Gillows, Liverpool, with full hopes of being a Branch Manager within two years. Living now at 44 Westbourne Road, West Kirby, Cheshire, for the first time for very many years, and to his great regret he could not come to the Reunion, a function which he always enjoyed. He has already met Jack Kimber, but would like to know of other O.B.'s living anywhere near Liverpool.

L. W. STRETTON (1908-12), M.I.E.E., has been appointed Chief Generation Engineer of the Eastern Division of the British Electricity Authority. He has been Generation Engineer of the Eastern Division's Southern Group of Power Stations since vesting day. After leaving the R.G.S. he continued his education at the Bedford Technical Institute.

F. C. WICKENS (1931-38), who is now Senior English Master at St. Olave's, looked forward to his first visit to a Reunion, but unfortunately was prevented from doing so by a severe attack of sciatica, which had already kept him in bed for twelve days. He and Mrs Wickens have adopted three children, two boys and a girl, two, three and four years of age respectively, and they with the garden and school keep him fully occupied.

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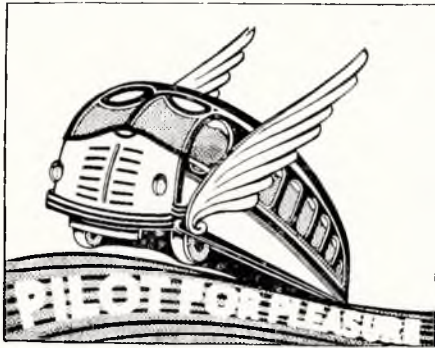
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