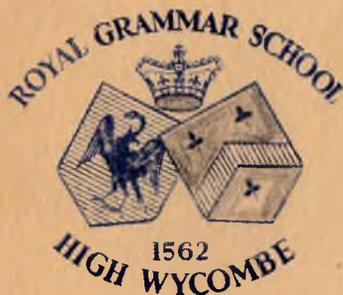


THE
WYCOMBIENSIAN



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MR. A. A. W. COVENTRY

THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH WYCOMBE)

*This issue is edited by G. D. B. JONES, assisted by C. P. KEELING,
G. WARNER and W. A. BOOTH.*

EDITORIAL

A recent Government report has served to emphasise a weakness in our present educational system. At a time when the nation stands in ever increasing need of students (particularly scientists) who have pursued their studies to an advanced stage, on the average two boys out of every five who gain admission to a grammar school either leave before completing their course or fail to realise their potentialities to the full, while only three boys out of every eighteen stay on in the sixth form to continue the higher education which a school has to offer. This great wastage, caused in the main by the twofold evils of financial difficulties and congestion in the home, is not only an individual but, what is more important, a national loss. Many suggestions have been put forward—the payment of maintenance grants, the provision of better homework facilities—but, fundamentally, the problem is one where solution lies in the hands of parents. Apathy and indifference amongst parents seduced by the blandishments of an additional pay-packet are responsible for far too many early leavers. It is in the dual interests of the individual and the nation as a whole that a pupil should remain at school for as long as he can benefit thereby. But he cannot do so without the whole-hearted support and sympathetic understanding of those at home. The responsibilities of parents are as great as their privileges :—

“Maxima debetur puero reverentia.”

SCHOOL NOTES

An event of unprecedented interest to the School and to his very many friends in the town and neighbourhood was the wedding at High Wycombe Parish Church during the summer holiday of the second master, Mr. S. Morgan, to Miss Maude Bennett, of Bower Hayes, Priory Avenue, High Wycombe. The Headmaster and many members of the Staff had the happiness of attending the ceremony, and Mr. Morgan was presented by the Head Boy at the end of the summer term on behalf of the School with a handsome fireside chair and a silver tankard, as an indication of the School's affection and regard. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan are now living at Dragon Cottage, Holmer Green. Our warmest wishes for their future happiness go with them.

It was a source of great pleasure to the whole School to hear that after gaining his Trials Cap in December last Gerald Harris, of Jesus College, Cambridge, has now been awarded his Rowing Blue, as Cox of the Cambridge crew. G. T. Harris, whose home is at Bradda, Hamilton Road, High Wycombe, was a member of the last preparatory form in this School and thus was one of that group of boys who came under the influence during the war of Mrs. G. Kernick. After being top boy in that form he proceeded up the main school on the classical side and after gaining a distinction in Greek in the Higher Certificate of 1949 and being a reserve State Scholar was awarded a County Major Scholarship, with which after two years in the R.A.F. he proceeded to Cambridge. By gaining what is regarded as the most prized of athletic distinctions he has also secured for himself the distinction of being the first Blue from this School at either of the older Universities.

MEMORIAL PAVILION

Members of the School as well as Old Boys will be interested to hear that the Old Wycombiensians' Memorial Pavilion, plans for which have been under discussion for the last year, is now soon to be the subject of tender by the builders. The Governors and the Boys' Committee have now approved the plans presented to them by Mr. Eric Janes, the Old Wycombiensian, who is kindly acting as honorary architect for the School, and the Buckinghamshire County Council has now promised to contribute £1,000 or a third of the total cost, whichever is the less, to the enterprise. There has been some difficulty and much discussion about the site for the pavilion. It was originally intended and proposed that it should be placed a little to the south of the existing pavilion facing Green Road, but the Planning Authorities were unable to agree to a scheme

that was either temporary or that infringed the building line too violently. A site has now, however, been agreed on near the Canteen, with its back to the School, in a position which has the approval of the Staff, the Old Boys and the Governors and which raises no planning difficulties. There is every prospect that the pavilion will be actually built during the course of this year.

OBITUARY

Mr. A. A. W. Coventry

The whole Staff and School were inexpressibly shocked to hear during the summer holiday of the sudden death at the early age of 39 of Alan Coventry who, after being a distinguished member of the School from 1926 to 1933, and after taking a degree at Reading University, had returned to us as a member of the Staff. A firm disciplinarian, he acquired enormous respect from the boys for the great efficiency of his teaching and for his obvious devotion to the School, while to the Staff he was a most loyal, respected and beloved friend, because of his real goodness of heart, his ready willingness to undertake any task for the School, and for the enthusiasm he brought to anything he undertook. Apart from his classroom work, he was an enthusiastic and vigorous athlete who, after playing cricket very ably in his younger days, had taken the liveliest part in Staff athletics as well as coaching sets of boys with good humour and firmness ; his place will be very difficult to fill. Our greatest sympathy goes out to Mrs. Coventry and their little daughter.

Mr. P. A. Seymour

Old Boys who were at the School during the war years will have had their memories of their school days revived by the news of the sudden and tragic death of Mr. P. A. Seymour, M.A. (Oxon. and Melbourne), in Florence on the 1st December. Mr. Seymour had been Ancient History Tutor at Jesus College, Oxford, for 25 years and as such had taught several members of the Staff as well as a number of Old Boys. During the war years, as his own pupils at Oxford dwindled through the calls of the Services, he volunteered to come for three days each week to teach the sixth form classical pupils at the School where their own masters were also serving in the Forces. The impact of his incisive, firm, and indeed brilliant teaching upon some very able boys is recorded on the Honours List, but even apart from his ability as a teacher his moral force, together with the deep impact that his sympathy with and interest in his pupils always made on them will certainly cause him to be remembered long at the School. He was regarded with great affection

which he deeply valued by the members of the Staff who knew him, and it is a source of deep satisfaction to those friends that after six years in Australia with his own family he felt impelled to return to this country for a six months' holiday among his friends in England, a holiday which he enormously enjoyed. The School would want his family in Australia to know of the deep affection and regard with which he will always be held here.

Mr. Hubert Glenister

The School would like to express its deep sympathy with the family of Mr. Hubert Glenister, who was not only a distinguished Old Boy of this School and the head of one of the most prominent furniture firms, but was also for quite a long period a Governor of the School, a Trustee of the Youens V.C. Fund and a prominent member of the Old Boys' Committee. His two sons were at this School in the 1930s and early 1940s, and both proceeded to universities, one to London University and the other to Jesus College, Cambridge. It was largely through Mr. Glenister's initiative that a fund was raised for the erection of the memorial tablet in the Parish Church to Lieut. Frederick Youens, our first holder of the Victoria Cross, who gave his life in the first World War. He was also deeply concerned about the provision of new playing fields for the School, a matter which is still of major importance. He was a most generous friend to the School also and we, as well as his family and the town at large, will miss him greatly.

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following on their awards :—

R. D. Barwell, State Scholarship in Modern Languages, Leeds University.

W. A. Booth, State Scholarship in History, Balliol College, Oxford.

D. J. Griffiths, State Scholarship and Meyricke Exhibition in Natural Sciences, Jesus College, Oxford.

R. J. Handscombe, State Scholarship in English, Jesus College, Cambridge.

G. D. B. Jones, State Scholarship and Welsh Foundation Scholarship in Classics, Jesus College, Oxford.

C. P. Keeling, Open Exhibition (Rustat) in Classics, Jesus College, Cambridge.

R. E. Lomas, Open Exhibition in Modern Languages, Downing College, Cambridge.

C. R. F. Maunder, State Scholarship and Open Scholarship in Mathematics, Jesus College, Cambridge.

G. Sherlock, Open Scholarship in Geography, Leeds University.

M. O. Simmons, State Scholarship in Mathematics, Balliol College, Oxford.

G. Warner, State Scholarship and Open Scholarship in History, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

SALVETE

We were glad to welcome five new members of the Staff to the School at the beginning of the Autumn term.

G. B. G. Chapman, Esq., M.A. (Cantab.), who has come to teach Science.

J. J. D. Dalton, Esq., B.A. (Cantab.), who joins the Classics staff.

Rev. J. E. Simpson, M.A. (Cantab.), who has come as a Mathematics master.

Rev. A. J. Skipp, M.A. (Cantab.), who has come to teach Classics and Scripture.

Mrs. D. M. Wilson, B.Sc. (London), who joins the Mathematical staff.

This term we also welcomed two student teachers, Mr. Hall (English and French) and Mr. Palmer (Classics). We hope that their stay with us will prove both happy and memorable.

RUDDIGORE

Christmas 1954

A nation that likes to think cowboys do nothing but warble to the harvest moon, that all negroes are minstrels, and that every Spaniard is built with a hook to hang his guitar on, needs to be able to laugh at itself. But what happens when two people mock our institutions, our foibles, our pastimes, even our taste in music? The answer is easy: we take their works to our hearts, and make them an institution in themselves.

Not so easy is the task of the producer. Whether he regards Gilbert and Sullivan as purveyors of poor man's opera, rich man's pantomime or coxcomb's masque—and they deal in all three—he is limited by the formality of elaborate stage directions designed to preserve the traditions of their comic operas. That these restrictions are necessary for amateurs faced with the bewildering task of singing, acting and dancing simultaneously is normally beyond doubt. But we have come to expect such a polished standard of production from the R.G.S. Operatic Society that we tend to lose sight of the magnitude of the undertaking.

It would be unfair to say that every new tune invented by Sullivan is the last tune but one played backwards, but there is a sameness about some of the music which makes highlights essential. When these moments come, they have to be made the most of. No less difficult is it for the conductor to draw the maximum body and effect from his orchestra, and at the same time do nothing to detract from the force of the singer upon whom everything is focussed. Add to these problems the sheer, physical difficulty of handling fifty-odd performers in a confined space, of scenery which entrances in itself, and yet blends with the panoramic pattern of the colours, and one begins to see the snags.

But no performance can claim the right to be judged by the difficulties it entails. Quite the contrary! If a music hall performer could draw an ovation by juggling with one solitary orange, he might deservedly claim to be the greatest artiste on earth. And it is because "Ruddigore" has few of the persistent lilting airs of its fellows, because it is set not in gondola-swarmed Venice, nor in the mystic Orient of the Mandarins, but in a simple part of Cornwall, ignorant of pixies and pirates, that its production stands or falls by the overall quality of the performance. For a society which is strong enough to accept this judgment, no choice of play could be better.

But back to the beginning. The first sight of Mr. Grant's magnificent backcloth, the seascape with the lighthouse on the distant headland, drew a spontaneous round of applause, and gave an illusion of depth rare on a comparatively small stage, at the same time blending admirably with the pale blue dresses of the bridesmaids. It was here, too, as in the ghost scenes later on, that the lighting attained its most professional quality.

The opening conversations suffered from a certain amount of hand-flapping and "walkie-talkie," but much greater poise was achieved by the smaller boys as the opera progressed. The quality of Rose's singing voice, however, set a standard of clarity which never flagged, and it was with this performance by W. F. Hodge that we began to realise how vastly improved was the diction and delivery throughout.

One of the weaknesses of this type of libretto is the slow pace which accompanies the setting out of a somewhat vague plot. But everything was put right by the rollicking, nautical entry of Richard Dauntless. J. A. Norrish's hornpipe gave promise of a punch and personality which made everybody want to "stand up for Dick through thin and thick." In face of this onslaught it was difficult for D. R. I. Friend as Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd to appear not to lack fire, but he warmed up later on, and gave a competent performance in a difficult part.

The success with which any individual part can be portrayed in a production of this kind depends to some extent upon its being built up and sustained by the chorus, and this causes one of the biggest aches for the heads of the producer, conductor and choreographer to share. Their co-operation was at its best with the entry of Sir Despard Murgatroyd and the full chorus, and provided one of the most powerful spectacles of the show, ensuring T. B. Baldwin a sympathetic reception whatever was to happen. There were no deficiencies about Sir Despard, however: his acting was forceful and mature, his singing delightful, so that whenever we had a spot of "the bad bart and all thart," we simply had to howl for more.

The second act, set in the baronial hall, gave less scope for scenic effect, but the lofty, dignified set made the baronial costumes even more effective. Mad Margaret's cackle, and her movements—for D. J. Maurice had an unusually developed sense of mime, together with D. J. Simmon's whimsical, creeping Adam Goodheart, played with vigour but restraint, had long convinced us that something fey was brewing in the cellars of the dark, ancestral Cornish halls.

Came the thunder—and the darkness—and the weird, effective machinations of the lighted baton—a delightful touch. The storm rumbled on, the frames trundled out—in a remarkably short time. On with the ghosts! And what a ghost was Roderick! Not the pale shadow of a former self, but the sure, commanding presence of a person with a destiny. We felt if being twenty years dead and buried is as good for the voice as F. J. R. Hobson made it seem, many of our professional singers might go underground to great advantage. It was here, too, in the more dramatic scenes, that the orchestra had the opportunity to become more expansive, and Mr. Ingate, in his first experience of conducting an R.G.S. production, provided a richness it is not always possible to achieve on such occasions.

In fact the whole performance gained in strength until the Grand Finale, the final bows and then "Wigs off," we were down to earth again. "Down to earth," because we had forgotten that "Ruddigore" was being performed by amateurs and that the "girls" were boys. That is the true measure of the success of Mr. Hills' production: that although many of the audience were not familiar with the play, the plot is thin, the tunes less appealing than usual, it was such good entertainment that even those two "daring, competent old impostors," Gilbert and Sullivan, might come down out of their ancestral frames and wisely chuckle, "You see, it really doesn't matter, matter, matter, matter."

N.H.W.

“PER ARDUA”

We seem to live in an examination-ridden world. Indeed, life itself seems to be one long examination. An extremely refined type of examination, on a higher plane than elsewhere, takes place at the University towns. The apparent purpose of these ordeals is to award clever boys entrance to the Universities. This is the apparent purpose. The unfortunate candidate has to endure a great deal. Imagine being bodily transported into a never-ending abyss of rush, toil, tears and exhaustion. In these University towns time appears to stand still . . . the outside world is forgotten. Time is slow during those three-hour periods . . . short and gloriously sweet in the interims. But from the very first moment the candidate arrives, everyone seems to be in league against him.

The college porters and servants are very kind in directing lost “gentlemen” to their appropriate rooms; behind this facade is their real forcefulness. Their use of the word “Sir” expresses their extreme contempt for the ignorant and quite boorish greenhorn. Their bowler hats ensure their complete superiority over the candidates, their language to one another is a form of esoteric communication quite incomprehensible to anyone else. The dons themselves appear to dress in a similar fashion to the college servants. This adds to the general confusion and frustration of the candidate.

After having spent his first apprehensive night at the college of his choice, the candidate ventures forth, pen and ink in hand, to his examination. A large crowd of other grim, white-faced examinees are gathered outside the appointed room. The snow drifts down. A human version of Henry Crun beckons the “gentlemen” to enter. In the actual room all the windows are closed, a wood fire burns away in one corner of the room. This produces clouds of smoke belching forth into the room from time to time. The temperature in the room is about 19 degrees Fahrenheit. The candidate’s fingers and hands refuse to function at all; his pen either dries up completely or gushes forth a lake of ink. The question-paper has a blank, unsympathetic glare. “Is beauty the purgation of superfluities?” The examiner has by now finished picking his nose and is noisily eating boiled sweets out of a large paper bag. He invariably gazes at one individual at frequent intervals; this said individual is in such a state of nervous collapse that the professor’s glassy stare tends to make him worse. An hour before the end one candidate gets up, hands in his paper and retires. This is unnerving to the rest. One concludes that he is either a genius or the exact opposite. Having decided whether beauty is the purgation of superfluities, the candidates stagger forth into the swirling chasm of the streets.

How blissful are the times between the exams ! How glorious then, is the company of one's friends ! How comfortable to sit in the local Lyons' cafe, partaking of their wares, discussing with one's friends the ephemeral horror of some past exam. ! Then, perhaps, to the record shop to listen to the records of one's choice, but not to buy. Then back to the rooms in college, to put one's feet up on the mantelpiece, to listen to the highly-esteemed "Goon Show," munching biscuits and, perhaps, pineapple. Exams. now are forgotten. This surely is bliss !

The journey back to civilisation gradually acclimatises one to the outside world once more. A week later, perhaps, a letter, too painfully thin, with the college crest embossed on it, is brought by a malicious postman.

Dear Sir,

I regret to have to inform you that, since the competition was very high, the college feels itself unable to award you a scholarship. We wish you every success in your next attempt at some other college.

Yours

This letter brings back a flood of memories to the reader ; painful memories crowding into his mind. But this is agreed by all : it was good fun, it was good experience. The Greeks had a word for it :—

παθει μαθος

SISYPHUS.

ANIMAL, VEGETABLE OR MINERAL ?

What is that curious being, a fourth-former ? It is a matter of opinion. According to his masters he is an idiot who does not know a single thing and never will. To a prefect he is a thorough pest who is always in trouble. His father quite likes him but finds him a trial to his nerves. The only person who really cares for him is his mother, and even she thinks that he is a nuisance at times and simply cannot believe it possible that, in one term, he can lose a couple of fountain pens, his school cap, two left plimsolls, and a brand new pair of gloves. She cannot understand how he leaves home in the morning looking fairly respectable yet returns with his trousers torn, his jacket stained, his shoes coated with liberal layers of mud and his face and hands in much the same state of filth. On the rare occasions when she is rash enough to search his pockets she is amazed to find lumps of toffee, half-eaten apples, odd nuts and bolts and "creepy-crawlies" in matchboxes.

All the same, we press on undaunted and, as some say, unwashed. Nobody seems to realise that we are the seniors of tomorrow and, anyway, the seniors of to-day were probably just as bad. . . .

P. J. THOMPSON, IVS,

MOUNTAINEERING

I love climbing in every shape or form whether it be in the British Isles, in the Swiss Alps, in Greece or in tropical Africa. There is something exhilarating about gaining height with every step, to enjoy an ever-increasing view, to experience that sense of isolation, to inhale that fresh mountain air. I was born in Switzerland, which no doubt partly accounts for my love of the mountains.

There are many ways of enjoying the scenery of the Alps. The simplest, I suppose, is to be carried up to a well-known summit by one of the many mountain railways and to admire the view from a hotel terrace, or to drive up a high mountain pass by car, or to fly over in an aeroplane, but nothing can be compared with actually climbing into the mountains on one's own two feet. One of the greatest pleasures I experience each year is the one I get when I first put on my mountaineering boots and start off on my first summer climb. There is something very special about the feel of nailed boots on a rocky path.

Let me briefly describe a climb in the Swiss Alps. You reach rail-head or road-head as early as you can on the previous day and in leisurely way walk up to a club hut or an alpine chalet for the night. You will follow delightful mountain paths through pine woods and alpine pastures with here and there picturesque chalets and a singing brook, and everywhere a mass of flowers. To spend the night in an Alpine Club Hut or on the hay in a high alpine chalet is by itself already a wonderful experience.

At dawn next morning you set off for your chosen summit. It should by preference be a comparatively easy one, for a difficult climb calls for a professional guide, which is not only expensive but also takes away a lot of the enjoyment and comradeship of the climb. At least one member of your party, however, should be an experienced mountaineer.

The first hour or so of your climb should be done before sunrise. With a slow, steady step you will follow a track up grassy slopes to the first snowfields, then up a moraine to the world of ice and rock. Roped together you will cross a glacier with its impressive serracs and rather terrifying crevasses. Suddenly the sun will appear over the crest of a neighbouring ridge bathing everything with its brilliant light. The last part of your climb will probably be up what from a distance looked impossible steep rock but which you find now comparatively easy.

Then comes the great thrill of reaching the summit. Even if the view is spoilt by bad weather, you will enjoy a feeling of achievement, but if you are lucky and have a clear day, you will be rewarded by a breath-taking view, a view which cannot be described and which no photograph can reproduce, a view which must be experienced to

be believed. Incidentally, the best views are not from the highest summits ; a good picture must have a foreground as well as a background, and from your ideal view-point you should be able to admire the massive forms of nearby higher summits and at the same time look down on the hills and valleys of the world you have left behind. Basking in the sun with your backs against the cairn (all summits have cairns) you will contemplate the beauty of it all and thank God for being alive to experience such enjoyment.

You will then have your picnic lunch and find that no food has ever tasted better.

The descent is not so exciting ; it is also more dangerous, and you have to be particularly careful. You will probably return to your night stop, to collect odds and ends that you have left there, and then continue down to the valley below. You will be struck by the rapid change in the scenery and you will appreciate your fertile surroundings after the grimness of the glacier world which you have just left. You will get back to your hotel dead tired but happy at having accomplished something worth while.

Mountaineering has the advantage of being the cheapest form of sport, for the only essential is a good pair of boots. A holiday in Switzerland, however, is not cheap, for first of all you have to get there, and secondly the cost of living in Switzerland is high. Fortunately, if you know the ropes, your expenses can be considerably reduced. Never have anything to do with a travel agency or organised tour, just go to Victoria Station and buy a third-class ticket to — well, where to? Not Zermatt, St. Moritz, Grindelwald, or any other well-known centre, but to some little-known place off the beaten track. Study a map of Switzerland and select your spot. There are small hotels and pensions in alpine villages which are practically unknown to foreigners and those are the ones to go for. Some might be fairly primitive, but they are always scrupulously clean.

There is one essential to a really enjoyable holiday in the mountains, and that is a good climbing companion, preferably a kindred spirit who likes and dislikes the same things as you do. To be a member of a party can also be good fun, and if some of you boys get together with the idea of a climbing holiday, I shall be only too pleased to advise you where to go and perhaps even meet you out there this summer.

G.A.R.M.—The Bursar.

“ NEW SOUNDS FROM THE OLD SCHOOL ”

Practically every Grammar School in the country has some kind of orchestra, but we are more or less unique in having a real jazz band as well. Of course, there are people about who would not agree that a jazz band is an asset, and, in the course of forming

our own, Peter Keeling and I have met with the stubborn opposition of one or two people with exactly that outlook. However, we persevered and our band is now one of the School's attractions. We can "draw" a considerable audience after School—something which few school societies can accomplish. We can put up a tolerable show in front of an outside audience and fare reasonably well in front of the terrifying apparatus of a tape-recording machine. I think these are no mean achievements when one considers that we have met with scant approval from "official" circles, have had to "haggle" for the most elementary facilities and, at the same time, have had to keep together and put on programmes with the minimum of outside help.

The boys in the band have really been very patient during our early struggles, and before going on to describe our activities, I ought to give them their due by telling you something about them. Without Peter Keeling, the trumpet leader, nothing could have been done. Master of his own instrument, he knows much about most of the others, and he has spent a lot of time making arrangements and writing out chord sequences for those who do not possess his musical talent. Most of us in the band have had our critics, but he has come through unscathed. His sheer power carries the group along in the ensemble, and his solos, whether muted or straight, show plenty of imagination. Irv Osborne, the clarinetist, is our other mainstay because he not only understands the jazz spirit, but is capable of putting it into practice on his instrument. His "blue" notes on the low register more than compensate for the few mistakes in the faster numbers. John Keeling can provide some beautiful "tailgate" trombone sounds, somewhat reminiscent of "Kid" Ory, when we can prevail upon him to play loudly. However, he is often reluctant to do this, owing, I expect, to a natural nervousness. Even so, the trombone does provide that added balance to our front-line, and John improves every time he plays. Keith Biggs, on piano, is a solo attraction with his arranged boogie and blues numbers, but more solos in the full band numbers would be appreciated. However, we hope that encouraging shots of "Roll 'em 'Fats'!" from a "sent" audience will inspire him to make greater efforts. Terry Gilder, the drummer, is also in the C.C.F. band, and you can detect a distinctly military beat in the ensembles, although he is gradually making the rhythm freer by means of typical jazz devices, such as the offbeat and the occasional rim-shot. To date he has had to cope with the additional problem of using a makeshift drum kit, but as a word of encouragement, it might be added that the girls always go for the drummer in a jazz band. Finally, there are the two banjoists, "Ben" Johnson and myself. Our instruments are somewhere along the line of development from a ukelele to a banjo, "via" the mandolin, but whatever they are, they sound all right. Thanks to

Peter Keeling, we can now play them on a mechanical principle, which spotlights our musical ignorance, but which does not detract from our enjoyment. "Ben," especially is quite an adept at taking solos, in which he varies the otherwise rigid rhythm. Apart from playing the banjo, I also attempt to sing a little, and if I have offended the eardrums of any member of the audience, I can only plead that I am trying to put over the blues in the way that they ought to be put over and quote, as an additional justification, the example of my idol, George Melly.

The band always plays traditional jazz, or, in other words, the music which had its origins in New Orleans at the turn of the century and which developed in Chicago during the 'twenties. Its essence is collective and solo improvisation (or embellishment) upon the basic tune, backed up by a steady four-beats-in-the-bar rhythm. Our repertoire includes such old favourites as "Didn't he ramble!" the New Orleans funeral march, "St. Louis Blues," a tune which has its origins in the middle of the last century, "The Old Grey Mare," the English folk-song which the Humphrey Lyttelton band featured, and the New Orleans Rhythm Kings' "Tin Roof Blues."

Passing from what we play to why we play it, I can only say that the main reason we formed a band in the first place was because we wanted to play jazz. We get a great deal of enjoyment out of it, as anyone who has been to any of our sessions will tell you, and I think that one of the main merits of jazz is that the musicians, as well as the audience, can really let themselves go while they are creating the music. The stomping of the feet, the closed eyes and the shouts of encouragement are all signs of an atmosphere of excitement in which everyone can participate.

If the main reason in forming our band was to play the kind of music we liked, there was the secondary objective of enlightening people in the School as to what jazz really is. Many people have hazy conceptions about jazz, ranging from the music of Billy Cotton to that of Victor Sylvester, and we hoped to dispel their delusions in the only possible way—by playing real jazz to them. Musical snobs are very prone to associate jazz with gin-mills, gangsters and vice-dens, owing, no doubt, to the fact that jazz in Chicago coincided with the period of prohibition. Few things, in my mind, could do more to refute this legend than to watch a group of Grammar School boys playing this "sinful" music in the Junior School hall.

Having discovered what jazz is, we find that most people enjoy it. It is, fundamentally, "people's music," and there is nothing esoteric about it. Anyone, from the most junior form to the most senior, is welcome at our sessions and we pride ourselves on having obtained audiences which do, in fact, range from all over the School. We have made many converts and convinced many sceptics during

our first two terms of existence and we hope to do the same in this, our last term together before we go our separate ways. At any rate, by the time we do break up, we hope to have established our claim as one of the most creative elements in a school which has, unfortunately, often been lacking in creativity.

In conclusion, we must express our sincere thanks to the various people who have helped us out during the past two terms. When our regular drummer was ill, Bob Thomson and John Norrish kindly stepped in to help. Barri Jones has been invaluable on the administrative side as Band Manager. The constant help of some of the prefects has also been greatly appreciated, especially of E. G. J. Oliver. On the staff, we must thank Mr. Johnson for lending us his drum-kit. Mr. Runswick, as Chairman of the Jazz Club, and Mr. Dalton have been good enough to "supervise" our various meetings, while the Headmaster and Mr. P. L. Jones have always been most considerate in allowing us to play in various parts of the School.

G. WARNER, VIM³.

C.E.W.C. LECTURES

Six members of the sixth form attended the annual Council for Education in World Citizenship lectures which were held in the Central Hall, Westminster, during the last four days of 1954. The general theme was the study of recent changes in Latin-American countries and their effects upon world affairs.

In the main lectures and also in the discussion groups, the topic was divided into four sections—social, economic, political and cultural—each being dealt with separately. The final reports submitted by the discussion groups on the last day showed that a very thorough investigation had been made into each question.

Apart from the main speeches—of which the two most interesting were made by Mr. J. A. Camacho, of the B.B.C., and by the Marquis of Reading—there was a diverting lecture by Donna Naruna Sutherland on South American music and ballet, which included demonstrations by her pupils.

On the lighter side, there was a dance held in St. Pancras Town Hall on the first evening of the course. This was attended by about 800 people, all of whom seemed to enjoy themselves.

In the dinner-hours, the Young Communist League organised meetings in a nearby hall and several C.E.W.C. members, as intended by the Y.C.L., attended. Although the proceedings were not entirely without barracking in various forms, these gatherings provided a lively way of passing an hour or so. Most of the Wycombiensians who attended agreed it was a good way to spend a week of the Christmas holidays.

M. LACEY, VIS.

A ROYAL HOLIDAY

In August and September last year I went to Germany to stay with the family of the Fürst zu Waldeck und Pyumont, who are related to the Countess of Athlone. One of his sons, Prince Georg, came on an exchange holiday with me.

Life in aristocratic circles in Germany is very different from our own. It is the custom of all princesses to curtsy to their seniors and everyone kisses hands. I stayed at the 500-room castle at Arolsen (see photo), which is richly decorated with priceless picture and furniture. The family owns a large forest area with herds of deer and wild boar. They also look after a market-gardening concern and supply the district with vegetables, fruit and flowers. About 100 servants are kept and live in houses owned by the Duke.

I was taken on a five-day tour of Germany and Austria during my stay. Frankfurt and Cologne still bear the signs of heavy bombing, but many towns are untouched. Many are walled and remind one of past centuries—such are the towns of Rothenburg and Dinkelsbühl.

We went to the top of Germany's highest mountain, the Zugspitze (8,900 ft.), and had a wonderful view of mountains stretching into Austria and Switzerland.

While staying in the Kleinwaisertal, in Austria, with mountains all over 5,000 ft. towering overhead, I experienced a terrible thunderstorm. Hail stones were piled a foot deep and many houses were flooded as a result. The thunder was terrifying, for it echoed around the valleys and magnified the sound.

In all I had a pleasant holiday with Dukes, Counts and Princes.

P. DRAPER, VIM³.

A BIRD COURSE AT DUNGENESS BIRD OBSERVATORY

During the second week in August last year, I attended a bird course held at Dungeness Bird Observatory for junior members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The main object of the course was to teach the students how to handle and ring birds, and how to identify them in the field and in the hand.

The R.S.P.B. owns about 1,233 acres of the Dungeness promontory, which consists mainly of open shingle with a few gorse bushes and ruined buildings dotted here and there. There are also two large, and two small, waterfilled pits.

The Observatory has accommodation for eight visitors and is surrounded by a high grass wall. The living room acts as a reference room, and has numerous books and magazines on all aspects of natural history. There is also a smaller building called

the " Watch House " in which materials for the traps are kept and where birds are weighed and measured.

Three Heligoland traps, a wheatear trap, and a few smaller traps have been erected here. Two of the Heligolands are situated along a line of gorse bushes frequented by warblers, and the third one is in the moat surrounding the Observatory.

These Heligoland traps are large funnels of wire netting, 12 feet high and 30 feet wide at the entrance, tapering down to a " catching box." This is a wooden box with a door at one end and glass at the other. The birds, after being driven into the mouth of the trap, fly into the " catching box," believing it to be a way out, only to find themselves prisoners.

The wheatear trap is exactly the same as a Heligoland trap except that it is placed along a fence frequented by wheatears.

We learned that there is a right way and a wrong way of " driving " a trap, the right way being to spread out in a curve, and advance towards the trap, tapping the bushes as you go ; thus driving the birds into the trap. We were also taught how to handle and ring them, and we were soon ringing such delicate birds as willow warblers.

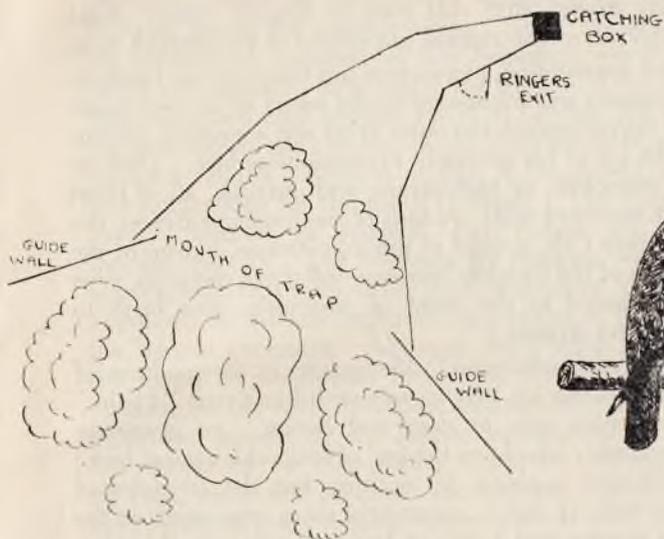
The day usually started at 6 a.m. with a round of the traps. This is the best time for trapping because the birds are feeding and are not fully awake. This usually took us until breakfast at 9 a.m. After breakfast we could do some more trapping until dinner, and then sea-watching after dinner. The evenings were spent by filling up the logbooks for species seen, numbers of species, and details of the birds we had ringed. After this we discussed incidents and problems until bedtime.

During the whole week a grand total of 326 birds was ringed, giving us ample opportunity to study the plumage of the different species. Some of the more interesting birds ringed were : Pied Flycatchers, Redstarts, Whinchats, 1 Wheatear, 1 very dark Cuckoo, and one Green Woodpecker. Great excitement was caused by the capture of 23 Swifts at the Lighthouse. This was the first time that any swifts had been caught here. Also ringed were 157 Whitethroats, 72 Willow Warblers, 18 Sedge Warblers, 2 young Stock Doves, 2 Lesser Whitethroats and 1 Reed Warbler.

Notable birds seen while sea-watching were : Arctic Skua, Gannets, Sandwich, Common, Arctic, Black and Little Terns, Curlew, Whimbrel, Knot, Little Stint, Green Sandpiper, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Sanderling and Common Scoter.

At the end of the week the course was voted a great success by all, thanks to Mr. H. E. Axell, the Warden, and Mrs. Axell, who cooked the food.

J. N. KEELING, Vx.



HELIGOLAND TRAP (See article)



KESTREL



LAPWING



MONTAGUE'S HARRIER

Drawn by J. N. KEELING, VX.

THE ENGLISH—ARE THEY HUMAN?

What is this strange stuff that runs in English veins? God alone can tell who mixed the strange pot-pourri of the English race.

Arrogant but unassuming, pugnacious but reserved, the Englishman is shy of strangers and frightened by the sound of his own voice. But a fierce fire burns beneath the outer crust and a swirling current flows beneath the ice of his generally expressionless face. Dark or fair, heavy and immobile, or high-strung and quixotic, all of them possess a strange wayward will. A dash of the ferocious Briton, the "hwyl" of the crazy Celt, a tinge of the iron Roman, a drop of the fiery Saxon, a dash of the haughty Norman—all these elements, even when they are blended to the point of neutrality, give birth to "something rich and strange!"

Crazy, demented Englishman! Methodical in the madness of his eccentricity; greeting his best friends with but a curt "Hello" and openly affectionate only to dogs and horses; an inveterate gambler and tea-drinker who loves the feel of long odds against him; stirred to catcalls and applause by nothing but the struggles of twenty-two men with a ball; apparently more engrossed in the defence of three stumps and a pair of bails against a small leather ball than, in the preservation of a mighty and illustrious empire; prone to neglect all else in his eagerness to see whether one horse can run faster than nine others; an islander among islanders regarding his home as his castle and the rest of the world as too alien to merit serious consideration; looking upon himself, in a foreign country, as the one sane being in a world full of gibbering foreigners; yet strangely tolerating the ancient and the outlandish; always insanely cheerful and incredibly blundering into disaster and still more fantastically blundering out of it; but always maddeningly, bewilderingly, calm . . .

But what looks calmer than a flywheel at top speed? What is calmer than the heart of a whirlwind? What more human than the foibles and eccentricities of the incomprehensible English?

G. D. B. JONES, VIC.

SPANISH JOURNEY

Last summer, in the company of about sixty students and teachers of Spanish, I attended a course held every year under the auspices of the Hispanic Council, at San Sebastian in Northern Spain. Our party crossed to Paris, where we caught the overnight train to Irun on the Spanish side of the western end of the Franco-Spanish frontier, which we reached at about 8 o'clock in the morning. We then passed through the Spanish Customs, which is controlled by the Civil Guard and not by a special body as in England.

From Irun we climbed, by coach, into the foothills of the Pyrenees, where we encountered what was thought to be a rarity in Spain during the summer—rain. After travelling about ten miles we reached the outskirts of San Sebastian, which is situated in a fertile area around a large bay in the shadow of the mountains, which keep the town cool enough for it to become the principal holiday resort in Spain and the seat of the Spanish Government during the summer months. Because of this, it has grown up as a centre of communications for the north of Spain. The main roads from the French frontier to Madrid and Bilbao and Santander pass through the city. The residents are Basques, with a few Spaniards who came to find work when the Government moved there, and the popularity of the city increased on account of its central position in the Basque provinces. Although the French Basques mixed with the Gauls in pre-Roman times, the Spanish Basques remained a separate people with their own language and culture and were not influenced greatly by the Roman occupation. Indeed, they were not converted to Christianity until the eleventh century, and till then, many still practised sun-worship. After their conversion, they produced many notable figures of the Roman Catholic Church—men like Saint Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the Society of Jesus, and St. Francis Xavier, one of his associates.

The main industry of Northern Spain is fishing. Every small coastal village has its fleet of fishing vessels, which catch mainly tunny, crabs, lobsters, prawns and sardines. Inland, the peasants grow apples for making cider and also large quantities of maize, which they use as fodder for their bullocks, the accepted form of power and transport in the mountains and still a common sight in San Sebastian.

On account of their isolated development, folk-lore has played an important part in Basque culture. During the summer, festivals are held in the bull-ring at San Sebastian, when groups of dancers come from all over the Basque provinces to perform intricate sword dances, the equivalent of our English Morris dancing, and to watch ram-fights, wood-chopping competitions and weight-lifting contests in the Basque style, where the weight is a cube which the competitors have to lift on to one shoulder. One of the sports which the Basques have invented is called "pelota," played on a court which has one side wall and two end walls. The game is played either with a basket, strapped to the player's wrist, or with a bat, or with the hand, as in fives. In every Basque village it is usual to come across an open space against a large blank wall, on which the village boys are playing "pelota" with their bare hands, while in the large cities there is nearly always one "fronton," as the court is called, in which professionals play. Two other pastimes in which the Basques participate are rowing and pigeon shooting. It is a common sight

to see crews out in the sheltered harbours, or even in the sea, practising for competitions, while inland one may often come across beaters, driving pigeons along narrow valleys towards a shooting party. But the main sport in Spain, not confined to the Basques, is bull-fighting, and every large town has its bull-ring.

The series of bull-fights in one town usually lasts for three or four days and six or eight bulls are killed each day. The "corrida," as one day's performance is called, starts immediately at the scheduled time, when the president of the "corrida" enters his box and the procession of "matadors" and their assistants, or "toreros," enters the arena, led by two men on horseback, who act as assistants to the president. When the procession has left the arena, the two horsemen go to a position below the president's box and one of them tries to catch a key, which is thrown to them by the president. It is believed that if the key is caught, the afternoon's sport will be good, but poor if it is dropped. Immediately the horsemen leave the arena, the doors of the bull's pen open, the bull charges out, stops, and looks round, amazed. Across the arena he sees a pink cloak being waved and charges towards it, but to his amazement it vanishes. On the other side of the arena, the same thing happens. This continues for two or three minutes until the "matador," has been watching the reactions of the bull, enters the arena and makes the bull charge his cloak, which is of darker shade than those of his assistants. When the bull has been in the ring for five minutes, the "picadors," mounted on horses, enter and take up their positions, one on each side of the ring, so that the right flanks of the blindfolded horses, which are protected by thick mats, are facing into the centre of the ring. When they are in position, the "matador" makes a pass at the bull so that it sees one of the horses, which it then charges, but before it makes contact, it is stopped by the "picador's" lance. However, it pushes its way to the horse and tries to get under the matting, although the lance is still stuck into its shoulder. This continues for five minutes, when the "toreros" again attract the bull's attention, while the "picadors" leave the ring. Then the "banderilleros" enter with the darts, which they attempt to stick into the bull's neck by running towards it and plunging with the darts as they side-step past it. After four pairs of darts have been used, the "matador" enters the ring again and gives a display of complicated passes at the bull, which by this time has become enraged at having all these pointed missiles stuck into his neck. After a time, the president waves a white handkerchief to give the signal that the "matador" can use his sword. The ceremony of dedicating the bull then takes place. The "matador" indicates to whom he is dedicating the bull with his hat, sometimes it is the president, or a well-known person, or the whole of the crowd. The "matador" then faces the bull and sights the spot

at which he aiming along the sword. As he moves forward, the bull also advances, with its head lowered, owing to the amount of strength which its neck muscles have lost through being lanced and having the darts stuck into it. If the "matador's" aim is good, the sword will pass between the shoulder bones and the spinal cord to the bull's heart. If his aim is faulty, the sword may hit a bone or may miss the heart and go in up to the hilt. If the sword hits a bone, it is usually thrown out by the action of the muscles and the "matador" tries again; but if it sinks right into the bull's body, it is killed by one of the "toreros," who sticks a dagger into it just behind the skull, thereby killing it outright. When the bull is dead, its body is dragged out of the ring by a team of mules, and to eliminate the possibility of the next bull panicking, the sand is raked over so that no trace of blood is left on the surface of the arena.

R. H. POWELL, Vls.

TOTON MARSHALLING YARDS

Toton marshalling yards are situated seven miles south-west of Nottingham and a mile north of Trent Junction, where the London Midland Region Nottingham to Derby line meets the London to Sheffield line. The yards are perhaps visible to pilots of aircraft flying from Hucknall airfield, home of the "Flying Bedstead." They are the focal point of the coal traffic of the Midlands and also deal with some iron ore.

The up-yard is larger than the down-yard. From it depart long coal trains to Brent, hauled by the powerful Beyer-Garratt type engines. Trains to be sorted in the up-yard are switched from the main line at Stapleford and Sandiacre box and pass behind that station. They climb slightly away from the main line to enter the arrival lines which number twelve and converge into single track to pass over the hump. It would be difficult and even dangerous to attempt to take the large, powerful engines of the incoming freight trains over the hump, so that a track less heavily graded is taken off from the track over the hump, which leads to the "loco"—the engineman's name for the engine shed. At Toton there are three roundhouses, circular sheds with a turntable in the centre from which the engine roads radiate.

The single track goes over the hump and divides into two at the king points, and the two into four at the queen points. The four tracks each pass over a retarder and thence to one of the four "fans" groups of nine or ten tracks. The retarders are rails normally resting between the running rails and a few inches below them. They are actuated by a lever in the control tower through the medium of oil so that they rise and grip the flanges of wagons passing over them. This is done to eliminate violent collision with stationary wagons.

When the engine of the train to be sorted has been run off, the wagons are uncoupled and a number is chalked on the end of each of them. This number determines the road into which the wagon will be humped. Adjacent wagons with the same number, and hence for the same destination, are not uncoupled but are left coupled in groups known as Cuts and are clearly visible to the Hump Controller in the hump room at the top of the hump, as the wagons do not break away from each other. When he sees the number of each wagon the hump controller presses the button of that number on his electrical control desk and also a button telling the retarder operator in the control tower how many wagons there are in the cut.

The desk mechanism changes the points for any one wagon only when the preceding wagon has passed over them, and the position of each wagon is indicated by lights on the desk. When a road is full, an object similar to a thimble is placed over the appropriate button so that a wagon may not enter that road.

The humping is carried out at two speeds (hump normal 3 m.p.h. and slow $1\frac{1}{2}$ m.p.h.), controlled by a light system in the arrival yard which the driver of the diesel shunting engine can see from his cab. These diesel engines have the 0-6-0 wheel arrangement and have a short wheelbase especially so that they can go up or down the hump, and two coupled together sometimes haul trains of repaired wagons up the hump to be reshunted to travel to their various destinations.

————— W. A. C. KNOWLES, Vx.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE TODAY

The popular concept of the British Commonwealth and Empire is of a number of countries, loosely tied together by some unknown force, owing allegiance to the same Person, and on which the sun never sets. But what really is the Commonwealth, what is its position in the world to-day ; can it influence world affairs, and is it as strong as or stronger than it used to be ?

The Commonwealth and Empire shows the world that peoples of differing races, colour, creed and background, can co-operate with each other and work together for their common good. This is of great importance, for without the trust and co-operation between member-nations the Commonwealth would not exist today.

Like many other British institutions, the Commonwealth is hard to define. The Balfour Declaration states that :

“ Great Britain and the Dominions are autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another, in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the Crown, and associated freely as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations ! ”

Because of this the Commonwealth is now stronger than before. For Great Britain is no longer the ruling power in India, Pakistan, Canada and the other Dominions but is an equal associate. These countries used to feel suppressed but now they are on the same level as the Mother Country, and there is more national feeling and pride—as well as the distinction of being in the British federation. As are the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Commonwealth is based on principles, ideas and beliefs and not on military or economic aspects, although these now, necessarily, come into the picture.

The present Commonwealth has advanced from the Imperial Age :

“ It is an entirely new conception, built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man—friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace.” (THE QUEEN)

There has never before been anything like it in the world. Over the years it has grown at different rates—some regions gaining full independence and some still regarded as backward areas in need of British funds for the advancement to their maturity. However, although the members are progressing at differing rates, the Commonwealth as a whole has been growing stronger all the time—until in 1939 it was in itself a World Power.

But we are now faced with the question of whether this operation is still in progress. Burma has left the family. India is already a republic, while it is probable that Pakistan and South Africa intend to become republics, and it is not certain whether they will remain inside the Commonwealth. Canada tends to lean towards the United States in certain matters, but Australia and New Zealand would no more choose to secede than would the United Kingdom itself. Apart from this there is a general feeling of security in the family of British nations that enables its members to face the world as a compact unit able to act as a mediator between America and Russia.

One of the most notable features of the Commonwealth and Empire is that of co-operation between member countries. This is a great asset and from the increasing number of conferences being held at various levels it would be true to assume that the Commonwealth is being drawn closer together and so strengthened.

The strength and co-operation could be seen in both World Wars, where it was its solidarity that paved the way to ultimate victory.

“ The Commonwealth was a unity—but one different in the sense that a conglomeration of peoples and territories—such as the Soviet Union—is a unity.” (J. COATMAN)

But could this be a weakness? For is it feasible to imagine complete agreement on all issues just by consultation? The United Nations

and the Council of Europe are unities but they have not had the experience of having done great things in the past and of hoping to do greater things in the future.

The relative compactness of the British Empire and Commonwealth makes co-operation between members easier. For the countries are concentrated on two ocean basins—the North Atlantic and the Indian. As the Mediterranean is linked by the Red Sea to the latter, the only countries outside these two areas are New Zealand, which can be regarded as forming part of the Australian block on the eastern ramparts of the Indian Ocean, the Falkland Islands and Hong Kong—a distant but important part of the Empire. This unity is another source of strength to the Empire, and dispels the old idea that is “far flung.”

For fear of diminishing the strength of the Empire, Great Britain is wary about joining European organisations—such as the iron and steel community. Hence there is an Imperial Preference by which each member country agrees to buy the majority of its requirements from inside the boundaries of the Commonwealth.

But regional co-operation is still a vital factor in the defence of the Empire. The Mediterranean as a routeway between two oceans and the oceans of the world themselves are important to the security of the Commonwealth.

“But the ocean is only a good defensive barrier if the defender can prevent his enemy from using it as a highway.”

(HODSON)

It is here that the combined sea power of the Commonwealth and Empire is a great strength; the navies are equipped with the latest ships, while the air forces with modern aircraft and the armies with the best vehicles and fire-arms. The importance of sea power was very well illustrated in the North Atlantic in the Second World War.

“Both in 1914 and 1939 the Commonwealth went to war as a united whole—but each Dominion freely and without hesitation, joined the Mother Country, whereas Eire chose to remain neutral.” (N. MANSERGH)

This is a fact which puzzles foreigners. Yet it is the essence of the Commonwealth and Empire. No one member is obliged to do as the rest—to follow the herd. Perhaps that fact is the strangest: the links are loose, but they are held very firmly.

As a result of the last war the United States of America and the Commonwealth were drawn closer together than ever before in history. Bismark once said:

“The most important thing in the modern world is that the United States speaks English.”

This relationship gives added strength to the Commonwealth yet does not in any way diminish the closer ties between the countries

themselves. The presence of an ANZUS pact to defend the Pacific without Great Britain does not make a breach with the Homeland.

Foreigners often prophesy that the Empire will fall apart in a crisis, yet it has survived two World Wars and emerged as strongly united as ever before. Now with the threat of the Communist expansion and the intensifying of the "cold war" the Commonwealth is drawn closer together, realising that its strength must be combined with that of the United States to combat the threat to the Free World.

In the event of a future war the question would be of regional or combined defence. It is obvious that the Commonwealth would be stronger if it acted as a unit; but this might not be possible. In this case each country would defend its own region. Taken as a whole, however, the Commonwealth, as opposed to the United States or the Soviet Union, would be regarded neither weaker nor stronger. In 1939 Adolf Hitler realised that the power of the United Kingdom and the British Empire was his greatest enemy and that he would not succeed in achieving world domination until it was conquered. But today, in 1955, neither Russia nor America hold the same view as did Hitler 16 years ago. As a result the British Empire has not become weaker, for she emerged from the war stronger than ever before, but in a world position she does not command as much power or fear. However, it has been realised that to disarm would be foolish, and old out-of-date planes, ships and field equipment are gradually being replaced by modern inventions. This is costing much money and a large part of the National Budget of each Commonwealth country is devoted to defence, which is a common factor to all and one that links and strengthens.

In each of the Commonwealth countries there are British institutions and methods brought by the early settlers and developed since that time. A strong binding cord is this uniformity among nations. But as well as these "foreign" ideas, the countries have kept their old traditions (as in India and Pakistan), and in some cases the two have mixed together (as in Malaya).

The Crown is an integral part of the British Empire and Commonwealth. It is a symbol of authority loved and cherished by British people the world over. Every state or union must have a leader, and Queen Elizabeth the Second is the embodiment of this idea for the Commonwealth. India recognises the Queen as the Head of the Commonwealth and she is the Queen of Australia, South Africa, Canada, New Zealand, and Ceylon, and the Protector of many other lands.

The tours the Queen and other members of the Royal Family make abroad strengthen the idea of a Commonwealth "family" and show the different countries that they are flesh and blood and not just figureheads some thousands of miles distant.

What of the future? Will the commonwealth become stronger or weaker?

“ If the family spirit is lost, will the Commonwealth be able to achieve adequate internal cohesion against external danger? ” (SOWARD)

The British Empire represents the greatest experiment in human organisation in history and is outstanding in world politics. In the past it has been firmly united and of mutual benefit to all its members and there is no reason why this should not continue. The family spirit will always be there and consequently the Commonwealth will be able to face any danger to the Western Community. We may be weakened—but not by war. For we have lost many of our overseas investments yet emerged from both World Wars stronger than previously.

In the future it seems that there will be more co-operation than ever before between the members of the Commonwealth and Empire : in the fields of scientific research for the benefit of all, and in the fields of administration for the benefit of the Colonial peoples. Great Britain is leading the world in the development of Atomic Power for peaceful uses, and this will be of the greatest importance to the Commonwealth in the future.

“ Economic progress may be a stronger weapon in combating Communism than the weapons of war and diplomacy. ”
(SOWARD)

With even more co-operation in economical and technical activities the Commonwealth will gain in strength and importance.

“ Everywhere in the Empire there is a sense of urgency, of new opportunity, of a great and prosperous future. ” (KAY)

There are immense undeveloped territories in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the colonies, and some parts are even unexplored. No one can foresee the great wealth that might be uncovered and so bring to the Commonwealth a new and bigger prosperity.

An alien occupation hinders the advancement of a country, and in view of this Great Britain is endeavouring to get her colonies far enough advanced to govern themselves. But there is nothing worse than a native population taking over control of a country when they are not sufficiently able to do so. When this has been achieved the Commonwealth will be stronger than ever, for each country will be on the same level. By the granting of an extra £80M in February, 1955, the development of all the colonies will be hastened and so bring the ideal of self-government nearer.

What conclusions can be drawn from all these facts? It is definite that the British Commonwealth and Empire is not getting any weaker. It still holds great prestige in the world and may be

said to hold the key to civilisation for Eastern Europe and those parts of Asia now under Communist domination.

The military strength of the Commonwealth is greater than at any other time in history, yet it is not strong enough to withstand the United States or the Soviet Union by itself.

The United Kingdom together with Australia and Canada is leading the world in the development of Atomic Power for peaceful uses and is not so concerned with its use for military purposes, being satisfied to leave this to the U.S.A.

Co-operation between all members of the Commonwealth and Empire is growing more and more, and new schemes are evolved every year for the mutual benefit of all the British Group. The future of the Commonwealth is certain to bring the countries nearer together and might be a basis for a World Community. The Commonwealth is certainly not growing weaker but rather it is progressively gaining in strength as the members grow in experience.

“To be a British subject, with the freedom of this league of nations, is still the greatest political privilege the world can offer.” (CARRINGTON)

P. DRAPER, VIM.

THE CARE AND USE OF A SHOTGUN

The first and greatest rule in shooting, irrespective of whether you are using a shotgun, rifle, pistol or airgun, is never to point a gun at anyone or anything unless you intend to kill. A gun should never be pointed at anyone, even in fun. Although you may be sure that the gun is not loaded, it may be so; accidents happening through lack of care are constantly being reported in the press. Ever since I was eight years old, when I was given my first airgun, my father has drummed this rule into me. So when handling a gun, it must be remembered that it is a weapon made to kill.

When you are going to use your gun (in my case a .410) in the field, remember these principles; then learn to carry your gun properly. First load the gun; then close it by bringing the stock up and keeping the barrel pointing downwards. The gun is now ready for use. The usual way to carry your gun when shooting is under the arm with the barrel pointing downwards. If, however, someone is walking in front of you, for example, when walking in single file through a narrow path, the gun should be carried inverted over the shoulder, with the barrel pointing upwards. If it is raining, carry the gun in the first way with the breach well up under the arm. The water will then run down the barrel. Whenever a stream, stile, hedge or any other obstacle has to be crossed, always unload the gun and—if possible—hand it to someone else, already over, stock first.

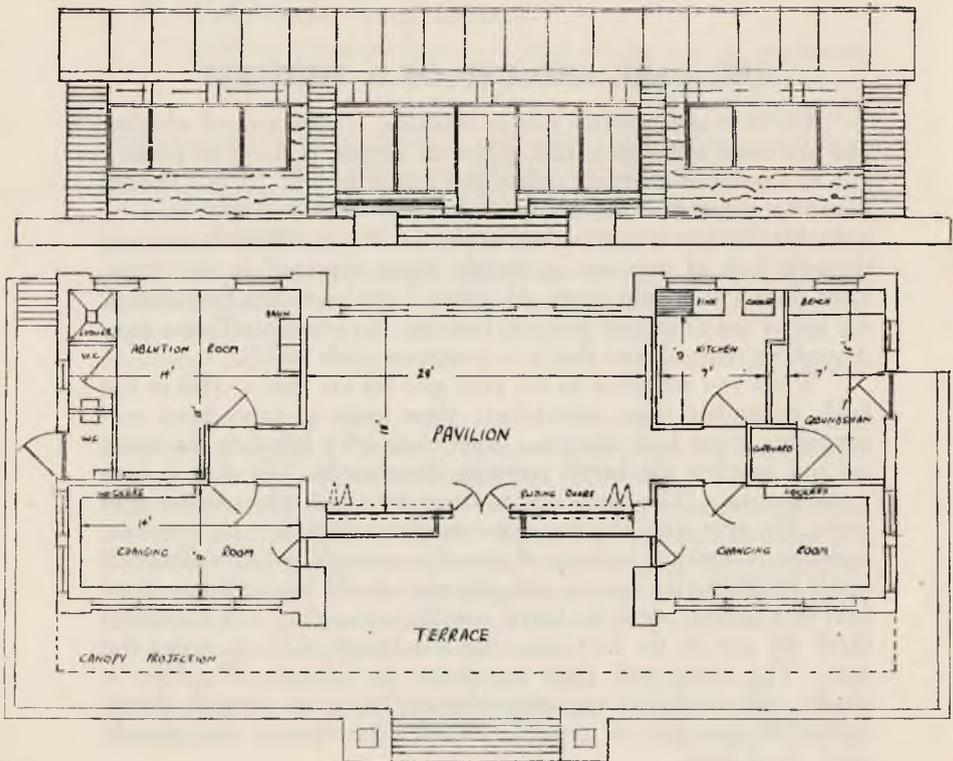
Shooting with a shotgun is very different from shooting with a rifle, in that you do not take aim in the same way. When shooting with a rifle you aim at the object, but with a shotgun you have to allow for the speed of your quarry. In fact, you do not aim at the quarry but in front of it. There is an old saying which young shooters will find very helpful—

“You cannot shoot too far in front.”

Finally, always remember to clean your gun each time after use. If you forget and the gun is left to stand for several days, the barrel will become rusty and even pitted. Pitting is caused by the spent gunpowder acting on the shiny surface of the inside of the barrel. Keeping the gun clean with a rod and good oil will prevent this.

R. A. RICHARDS, IIA.

THE MEMORIAL PAVILION



A building which is to serve as a War Memorial must present a dignified exterior and be built to last ; at the same time the functional value of the completed memorial must be borne in mind when the final plans are prepared. It can be seen from the plan and front elevation (scale 1/2500th approx. full size) that the Hon. Architect has more than satisfied the desires of the Old Boys and the cricketers.

The solid brick and concrete structure has been faced with waney-edged elm boarding, thus giving the outward appearance of a traditional Cricket Pavilion and at the same time providing a lasting memorial. The building is raised off the ground and most of the paved terrace is covered by a projecting concrete canopy. The main pavilion, which will seat 60 people for tea, can be opened to the sun by means of large folding glass doors stretching the whole length of the front. The two changing rooms are provided with lockers and the ablution room has the latest equipment. The Groundsman has not been forgotten and his room is well provided with cupboards and shelves for the storage of cricket gear.

The whole Pavilion presents a most pleasing and dignified appearance and the members of the Cricket Club are awaiting its completion with enthusiasm.

STAMP SOCIETY

After being dormant for nearly twenty years, the Stamp Society has come to life again. The Committee has drawn up a full programme consisting of talks every fortnight and a meeting to exchange and sell stamps every week. A visit to Harrison & Sons, the stamp factory in High Wycombe, is also under consideration. The prospects for a flourishing society are very good, as rumours predict that it will be well supported by both Senior and Junior members of the School.

E. G. J. OLIVER.

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club meetings have been well supported throughout the Winter term, in spite of the fact that, in the recent cold spell, journeying to our room at "Uplyme," through a hail of large, wet snowballs, has been rather difficult. Two Junior (under 18) County Chess matches were held at the R.G.S. this year. The Bucks team won both matches, against Oxon. and Herts., and the four representatives from the R.G.S. acquitted themselves well. The Chess team has had a good year so far. Nine matches have been played, of which one was drawn and two were lost. The Juniors were less successful, having played three matches, drawn one and lost two.

R. A. STEVENSON.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

The loss of the cinema greatly impaired the activity of the Society during the Autumn term. A small group of boys was entertained at Wycombe Abbey, for "Exploring the Antarctic," a very interesting talk by Doctor Roots. An enjoyable visit to Aspro Ltd. followed to end the term. In January a party toured Broom & Wade's Engineering Works and received a very good tea. I.C.I. Paints Division was also visited, and a visit to Huntley & Palmer's has been arranged. An old boy, Mr. J. Stevenson, has kindly consented to give an illustrated talk on Atomic Energy. It should prove very enjoyable and we look forward to it. The Biology Laboratory is now darkened and it is hoped to show some films there soon. The Society is extremely grateful to G. A. Cullen for making a new notice-board, which dominates the wall. The Natural History Group has been started again by R. D. Owen and new members are needed; everyone in the Senior School is welcome to attend.

J. M. CHINERY.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Since its formation last year the Classical Society has consolidated its position as one of the School's most popular and vigorous societies. In November a crowded meeting heard a most stimulating and amusing lecture on "Black Magic" by Professor Cormack, Professor of Classics in the University of Reading. To begin the New Year the Bursar, Group Capt. G. A. R. Muschamp, kindly gave us an interesting pictorial record of Greece from the Mycenaean Age down to modern times, entitled "Greece through the Ages." The Society concluded the term on an exhilarating note when Mr. R. L. Howland, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and former holder of the English Native Shot-Putting Record, delivered a scintillating lecture on "Greek Athletics," a lecture which combined scholarship with humorous eloquence and was frequently punctuated with energetic acrobatics.

G. D. B. JONES.

SPANISH SOCIETY

The main events in the work of the Spanish Society for the last one and a half terms were the film shows. They have all been most interesting, portraying various aspects of life in Spain. A poetry-reading contest has been arranged and will be held as soon as sufficient entries have been received. The winner will receive a book-token. At Easter, fifteen boys are going to London to attend the popular course given annually by the Hispanic Council.

G. A. CULLEN.

HISTORY SOCIETY

In November the Society travelled to London to visit the Public Records Office and the National Portrait Gallery. The visitors found the Records Office interesting, but somewhat sparse in content, and many Seniors preferred Foyle's bookshop to the Gallery. At the end of the Christmas term, the Society staged a trial—by now an almost traditional event. Given on the last Monday of term, this trial of Oliver Cromwell attracted much interest. Last term, the more antiquarian-minded members of the Society took the opportunity to assist in the excavations of the Roman villa on the Rye. No outstanding finds were made, but the School was able to acquire fragments of tiles and other building materials which will be exhibited in the intended History Society museum. The Society has, therefore, found a fair amount to do in the last few months, and what has been done, especially in relation to the archaeological excavations, has yielded good results.

R. THOMSON.

JAZZ CLUB

The Club's activities began with an excellent programme of records given by R. Prior about the late Thomas "Fats" Waller. Later in the term, G. Warner gave a programme entitled "Creole Jazz," which entertained all and enlightened many of the enthusiastic audience. Late in October, thirty members, under the kind supervision of Mr. R. Howard, made a trip to the Royal Festival Hall, where the N.J.F. presented a traditional jazz concert. Towards the end of the term, the School Jazz band appeared before a large and critical audience and performed excellently, despite the absence of their clarinettist. After a poorly attended session at the very end of term, the band, with its reinforced rhythm section, recently gave a satisfying concert to an audience of fifty. At the time of going to press, a concert with the High School Modern Music Club is being arranged. Thanks are due to Mr. Runswick for his unflagging activity as our Chairman.

P. E. REAR.

T.C.O.S.

The activities of the Society began with the now almost "termly" debate with the High School. Miss D. Allen and T. J. Gowan proposed the motion, but G. Warner, whose speaking was up to his usual high standard, and Miss J. Bowler were successful in their opposition. The motion was rejected by twenty votes to nine. The "venue" of our next debate was Piper's Corner School, Great Kingshill. The speaking from the platform, notably A. J. Gordon and R. D. Owen, was all of a high standard. The verdict

of those present was in favour of the "Modern Teenager" rather than of the "Victorian Miss." The Summer term debate is at the High School, and it is hoped that this will receive a good representation from the Society, and that our debates will be better supported in the future.

R. T. PUTNAM.

MUSIC SOCIETY

This term the Society has been more active than usual. (It has, however, never been defunct, as was claimed in a previous edition of the *Wycombiensian*!) In addition to the usual weekly programmes of gramophone records, which are now held on Wednesdays, a Chamber Music Group has been formed, and a visit was made to the Royal Festival Hall to hear a performance of Beethoven's First and Ninth Symphonies. This proved to be very popular, and further visits are being planned for the future. The Society is, however, short of players for the Chamber Music Group, and we should like to take this opportunity of inviting instrumentalists to join this Group.

C. R. F. MAUNDER.

C. C. F.

ARMY SECTION

There is little out of the ordinary to report since the last issue of the magazine. The main activities have been directed towards training for Certificate "A", Parts I and II, and Signals Classification.

The Senior N.C.Os. R.S.M. R. D. Mitchell, C.S.Ms. J. A. Collar, J. R. Morgans and R. Thomson, Drum Major C. P. Keeling and Sgt. A. J. Mactavish have proved themselves to be one of the most efficient teams of senior N.C.Os. for some considerable time. Many aspirants to high position in the C.C.F. would do well to copy their enthusiasm.

There is an excellent prospect of an enjoyable camp this year. Arrangements have been made for some 100 cadets to go to St. Martin's Camp, Shorncliffe, near Folkestone, an excellent site and a well-organised camp.

We are pleased to record that ex-cadets of the Contingent, B. Sinnatt and T. W. Abdullah, have now been commissioned less than a year from the time they left the Contingent.

R.P.

R.A.F. SECTION

The increasing cadet strength of the R.A.F. Section has been accompanied by a gratifying rise in the number of cadets gaining Proficiency and Advanced Proficiency Certificates. In the examinations in December (1954) 16 cadets were successful at the Proficiency level and 12 obtained the Advanced Proficiency Certificate. A record number of 49 cadets will take the examinations in March, 1955. Flight Sgt. M. Lacey is to be congratulated on being selected to take part in an overseas flight with the R.A.F. in the near future. An Easter Camp is to be held this year ; 40 cadets will be spending a week at R.A.F. Station, Llandow, near Cardiff. A liaison visit has already been made to R.A.F., Llandow, and a tentative camp programme arranged. Every effort is being made to ensure that a good deal of Chipmunk flying will be available for cadets. Some interesting visits to Barry Docks and to the popular seaside resort of Porthcawl are also in the programme. Accommodation for cadets will be in huts and it is confidently anticipated that the camp will be both instructive and enjoyable. It is further planned to have a Summer camp this year. This will probably be at R.A.F., Lyneham, a very busy and important station of R.A.F. Transport Command. Flying in various types of aircraft should be a feature of this camp and it is hoped that many cadets will avail themselves of these opportunities in the week beginning 22nd July. E.M.

ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

The last report was written aboard H.M.S. "Thunderer" during last summer. Since then the Section has been most fortunate in obtaining a twenty-seven foot whaler from the Admiralty. The boat and all the gear are new, in fact we had delivery straight from the builders.

We are all looking forward to sailing, and no doubt to the dismay of some, pulling our boat on the Thames this summer. The Upper Thames Sailing Club have provided us with facilities for sailing both the whaler and our "cadet" dinghy. This year we hope more boys will be able to spend some time on the river and learn some of the fundamentals of pulling and sailing.

Three boys, T. J. Gowan, M. F. Turner and J. Perkins, passed for Cadet Petty Officer during last term, and three more, M. J. Stevens, J. S. Kelly and R. E. Lamb, have taken the examination this term.

M. H. Vaughan-Rees, J. W. Harding and J. Rogers have passed for Cadet Leading Seaman since the summer, and are now preparing to take the Cadet Petty Officer examination.

The strength of the Section is now up to sixty-two, twenty more than last year, so that we are now at our maximum.

On the 24th March, thirty cadets from the Section will be visiting the boys' training establishment, H.M.S. " St. Vincent " at Portsmouth. It should be a very instructive visit, and if it follows the pattern of last year's trip, it will be most enjoyable.

D.T.N.

CRICKET CLUB 1955

Captain : F. E. J. HAWKINS

Vice-Captain : A. HARVEY

Old Colours returning :

F. E. J. Hawkins, A. Harvey, R. F. Sainsbury, E. M. Squires.

On Saturday, January 22nd, ten members of the 1954 teams started net practice at the indoor nets at Slough. This Saturday morning training will continue until the outdoor nets are available in April. It is difficult to estimate the value of this pre-summer training ; the great pity is that difficulties of transport and finance restrict the numbers. It does mean that these lucky few can overcome their difficulties well before the season starts. The enjoyment shown by all members of the scheme makes it more than worthwhile.

The Captain, now entering his fourth year with the 1st XI, should make a most experienced leader of an XI that has the makings of a more than useful side. Earlier this year it seemed as if six old colours would be available, but the Navy and New Zealand have claimed two of the fast bowlers. This means that more boys will have the chance to make the 1st XI. Fielding will again receive the extra attention that it did last year, as the increased time spent on this department of the game more than paid for itself.

The new Pavilion may be ready before the season ends. Details of the design, site and construction can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Fixtures this season include games at all levels with Harrow County School, a renewed fixture with Bishopshalt School, a new fixture with R.A.F. Medmenham, and 1st and 2nd XI games at home with Kings Norton Grammar School, Birmingham, during the complete Cricket Week starting on Friday, July 15th. The usual game with the County Colts Trial XI will end the season.

H.W.J.

RUGBY RETROSPECT 1954-1955

1st XV

School Matches : Played 14, Won 12, Lost 2

Other Matches : Played 2, Won 1, Lost 1

The season seemed to fall into two parts : up to the Half Term before Christmas, on firm grounds mostly at home, and perhaps against rather weaker opposition, this fast and enterprising team won all its matches, and made some big scores notably against Watford Grammar School, St. Benedict's, and the City of Oxford School. With very lively and skilful halves in R. C. Ashby and F. E. J. Hawkins and an extra fast right wing in B. K. Johnson and E. M. Squires, many tries came from quick passing and all-out running. More than once Squires was able to take evasive action without wasting time, and Johnson always needed close marking. A. Harvey and R. E. Lomas were a slower pair, but by accurate timing of his pass Harvey gave Lomas every chance to make ground. The forwards included some experienced players in the Captain, A. J. Gordon, the hooker, J. S. Kelly (both outstandingly good all through the season) and R. A. Mann and B. E. Devlin. Of the new ones, G. D. B. Jones and R. F. Sainsbury were fast and lively and several times handled well. It was the constant readiness of the forwards to start a passing movement whether among themselves or the three-quarters kept the enemy on the defensive in these early matches. Ashby, too, with his elusive breaks-away started off many attacks.

After Half Term the good weather ended, and from then on our victories were dearly bought. We lost by the odd score at Reading under bad conditions and won under far worse at Kingston against Tiffin School. In the return match at Watford and away at Abingdon the next week, although both games were won, the team seemed to have lost its sting in attack, relying more and more on Ashby to turn the scales. Squires was unfortunately injured at the end of the Abingdon game for the rest of the season : M. J. Richardson, a centre-threequarter, deputised for him quite well in the circumstances. The team then lost by eight points to nine against St. Edward's 2nd XV, and only just scraped home against Leighton Park on a dry but very windy day. In this last match of the term, the forwards, after a good first half against the wind, seemed to "pack up" for a long spell. If the attack was less sparkling, the defence had some strong points. Gordon and Ashby covered relentlessly. Hawkins picked up with delightful skill and made touch with low, well-aimed kicks. Johnson's enormous kicks and Lomas's long ones from the wing helped to drive the enemy

back and rob their forwards of ground gained. We have not before had such fine kickers to show up the weakness of the punt ahead as an attacking move. Mann, an unobtrusive but hard-working second row forward in his third season, and the incomparable Ashby left us at the end of Term.

Much the same impression was given at Balliol and Newbury, where for a period after half-time, the enemy forwards were allowed to get the ball repeatedly from scrum and line-out. This last game was only won by a last-minute try following a despairing kick ahead and a fumble by the defence. Hawkins eluded the close marking with great skill. Of the other players, during the season R. J. M. Hart did a lot of good things but had one or two "jittery" days. Devlin has been a very good forward, F. J. R. Hobson more at home on the heavy than the dry pitches : he was our only heavyweight. Lack of weight may have been one of our biggest troubles ; but there were other weaknesses : only one or two players tackled right "through" their man, the rest contenting themselves with stopping him ; and the loose forwards and others did not use their brains enough in backing up the halves when they broke away ; the youthful J. H. Richardson did, however, learn more of his job by the end of the season.

It remains to congratulate the Captain on his leadership of a good and cheerful side who showed us some very exciting and spectacular play on occasions. We must also thank the Berkshire Society of Referees for their help during the season.

The 1st XV were : R. J. M. Hart*, E. M. Squires*, B. K. Johnson, A. Harvey*, R. E. Lomas, F. E. J. Hawkins*, R. C. Ashby (Vice-Captain), G. D. B. Jones*, J. S. Kelly, B. E. Devlin, F. J. R. Hobson*, R. A. Mann, R. F. Sainsbury*, A. J. Gordon (Captain), J. H. Richardson*. All members of the team have their First Fifteen colours, new awards this year being marked by an asterisk. Others who played were : M. J. Richardson, D. J. Gittins, C. M. Nash (who left early in the term with his 2nd XV colours), A. J. C. Wright, J. Smithers, J. W. Harding, G. L. S. Hickey and N. E. J. Craft.

2nd XV

School Matches : Played 15, Won 10, Drawn 1, Lost 4

With a useful pair of halves and a big strong pack the team did very well until disorganised in the Spring Term by calls from the 1st XV. M. J. Richardson became a good centre-threequarter and the Captain, Wright, at stand-off half, gave his threes plenty of the ball. For the rest, the threes ran hard but combined rather weakly. The forwards did much of the scoring, with Owen head of the

averages ; but it would be hard to name the best of a very sound hard-working lot unless it was the veteran hooker, G. R. Davis. The Colts who played in the Spring Term looked promising for next year.

The 2nd XV were : A. C. G. Edwards, J. A. Cox, M. J. Richardson, J. M. Chinery, P. Chamberlin, A. J. C. Wright (Captain), J. W. Harding, W. A. Booth, G. R. Davis (Vice-Captain), R. E. Lamb, J. Smithers, I. C. Birch, D. J. Gittins, R. D. Owen, G. L. S. Hickey. All members of the team have their 2nd XV colours. Others who played were : A. J. Sallows (unfortunately injured), N. C. Gosling, N. R. Stokes, R. C. Todd, E. G. J. Oliver, Chandrubeksa, A. H. G. Whitehead, R. W. Thorne, D. W. Hollomon, D. Fone.

3rd XV

Played 7, Won 2, Lost 5

A rather unsuccessful season, but the team did well in November to get so near to a good Watford team, showing considerable improvement. Austin, the most accomplished player, was unlucky with injuries : Todd, Gosling and Chandrubeksa played consistently well.

The 3rd XV, as they appeared in the photograph, were : B. R. Youens, E. G. J. Oliver, Chandrubeksa, N. R. Stokes, R. J. Ferguson, R. J. Austin, A. H. G. Whitehead, M. J. Snapes, R. C. Todd (Captain), R. D. Mitchell, P. W. H. North, R. B. Humphries, P. Aikens, N. C. Gosling, J. R. Morgans and J. P. Quick. Also played : J. Brine, D. P. Ketch, P. D. Hares, O. Volkonsky, J. C. Murphy.

COLTS XV (Under 15 on Sept. 1st, 1954)

Played 8, Won 7, Lost 1

Another good season, although we come back to the old criticism of a lack of genuine forward play with all heads down and eyes open, a fault which costs us the away match at Watford year after year. The back play was quite good, with Thorne, the Captain and Hollomon running and tackling well. Gregory was a fine full-back, and the halves, Fone and Large, a good pair. Bone, with his good kicking, Rake and Hackett deserve special mention among the forwards as good individually in a not quite solid pack.

The Colts XV were : J. R. Bone, C. J. Cunningham, D. Fone, E. C. Franks, G. Gilbertson, J. G. Gregory, R. C. Hackett, D. W. Hollomon, R. C. Jones, C. J. Large, R. F. Palmer, J. H. Pettifer, R. H. Ragg, C. R. Rake, T. D. Reavey, D. A. Scott-Kiddle, R. W. Thorne (Captain). Also played R. J. Collett, M. Jarman, C. S. J. Mardell.

JUNIOR COLTS (Under 14 on Sept. 1st, 1954)

Played 9, Won 9

Enthusiastic training, and a willingness to accept advice, made a well-balanced team which did not depend upon one or two outstanding individuals. Thus when illness and injuries removed several "regulars" in the hardest match, the team was more than able to hold its own. Success was again founded on a fit, fast, hard-working pack of forwards, well supported by a promising pair of half-backs, and two thrustful centres. The team owes much to those boys who so loyally supported the practice games without gaining a place in the matches.

JUNIORS (Under 13 on Sept. 1st, 1954)

Played 4, Won 3, Lost 1

The team reached a high standard, especially in the match at Watford. The forwards led by Styles paved the way through determined running and hard shoving against a heavier pack. The backs showed good judgment in passing and kicking, though the tackling in the three-quarters is still rather weak.

The following played for the Juniors: E. J. Belcher, J. S. Cockburn, D. J. Darvill, W. M. Douglas, B. K. Hearn, R. G. Hollingworth, I. J. King, F. G. Marsh, M. W. Moore, D. J. H. Munro, D. H. Nicholls, G. R. Packman, K. R. Puddephatt, R. F. Quirke, A. W. Raleigh, L. J. Scrivener, W. E. Shackell, J. S. Simpson, A. J. Styles (Captain).

SUMMARY OF MATCHES PLAYED

Date	Opponents	1st XV		Ground	Result	F.	A.
					
Sept. 25	Windsor County School	...	...	Home	Won	15	3
Oct. 2	Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	38	3
" 9	Borlase School, Marlow	...	...	Away	Won	41	0
" 13	Watford G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	37	0
" 16	St. Benedict's, Ealing	...	...	Away	Won	25	0
" 23	City of Oxford School	...	...	Home	Won	26	0
" 27	Stowe School, 2nd XV	...	...	Home	Won	19	0
Nov. 6	Reading School	...	...	Away	Lost	3	6
" 10	Tiffin School	...	...	Away	Won	6	5
" 13	Watford G.S.	...	...	Away	Won	11	3
" 20	Abingdon School	...	...	Away	Won	5	0
" 24	St. Edward's 2nd XV	...	...	Away	Lost	8	9
Dec. 4	Leighton Park School	...	...	Home	Won	6	3
Jan. 29	Wycombiensians "A"	...	...	Home	Won	5	0
Feb. 5	Balliol College	...	...	Away	Lost	3	8
" 12	St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	...	...	Away	Won	9	8

2nd XV

Date	Opponents	Ground	Result	F.	A.
Oct. 2	Marylebone G.S.	Away	Won	16	3
.. 9	Aylesbury G.S., 1st XV	Home	Won	20	5
.. 13	Watford, G.S.	Away	Won	22	0
.. 16	St. Benedict's, Ealing	Away	Won	17	0
.. 23	City of Oxford School	Home	Won	44	0
.. 27	Stowe School, 3rd XV	Home	Won	13	11
Nov. 6	Reading School	Home	Lost	3	6
.. 10	Tiffin School	Home	Won	14	0
.. 13	Watford G.S.	Home	Won	11	0
.. 20	Abingdon School	Away	Won	9	0
.. 24	St. Edward's School, 3rd XV	Away	Drawn	3	3
Dec. 4	Leighton Park School	Away	Lost	3	18
Jan. 29	Thame School, 1st XV	Away	Lost	0	8
Feb. 5	Henley G.S., 1st XV	Away	Lost	3	16
.. 12	St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	Away	Won	15	3

3rd XV

Sept. 25	Windsor C.S., 2nd XV	Away	Lost	3	25
Oct. 9	Borlase School, Marlow, 2nd XV	Away	Won	12	6
.. 13	Watford G.S.	Away	Lost	0	29
Nov. 6	Reading School	Away	Lost	6	16
.. 10	Tiffin School	Home	Won	6	0
.. 13	Watford G.S.	Home	Lost	9	11
Dec. 4	Leighton Park School	Away	Lost	0	21

COLTS XV

Sept. 25	Windsor C.S.	Home	Won	20	3
Oct. 2	Marylebone G.S.	Home	Won	28	3
.. 9	Watford G.S.	Home	Won	9	3
.. 16	Southfield School	Home	Won	12	3
.. 23	Henley G.S.	Away	Won	46	0
Nov. 6	Reading School	Away	Won	8	0
.. 13	Watford G.S.	Away	Lost	0	21
.. 20	St. Benedict's, Ealing	Away	Won	11	0

JUNIOR COLTS

Sept. 25	Windsor C.S.	Away	Won	25	0
Oct. 2	Marylebone G.S.	Away	Won	6	0
.. 9	Watford G.S.	Home	Won	6	3
.. 16	Southfield School	Home	Won	30	0
.. 23	Henley G.S.	Away	Won	65	0
Nov. 6	Reading School	Home	Won	23	3
.. 13	Borlase School, Marlow	Home	Won	50	0
.. 20	St. Benedict's, Ealing	Home	Won	14	3
Feb. 12	Watford G.S.	Away	Won	5	3

JUNIORS

Oct. 8*	Crosfields School	Away	Won	6	0
Nov. 6	Reading School	Home	Won	14	0
.. 20	St. Benedict's, Ealing	Home	Lost	0	6
Feb. 12	Watford G.S.	Away	Won	9	6

* Third Form (U/13) Team

THE HOUSE MATCHES

Fraser House won the Senior Cup, rather against expected form : their simple but effective tactics were to deny the enemy the ball by hooking it from every scrum. The general turn-out in the Colts and Junior matches was in every way more satisfactory than we have enjoyed seeing in previous years, and there were some very good games.

SENIOR LEAGUE

Fraser drew with Youens	...	...	...	3 pts. to 3
Fraser beat Arnison	...	...	...	6 ,, 0
Fraser beat Disraeli	...	...	...	8 ,, 6
Disraeli drew with Arnison	...	...	...	6 ,, 6
Disraeli beat Youens	...	...	...	8 ,, 5
Youens beat Arnison	...	...	...	6 ,, 3

(Result : Fraser 5 pts., Disraeli and Youens 3 pts. each, Arnison 1 pt.)

COLTS CUP

DISRAELI beat Fraser by 28 pts. to 0 in the Final Round.

JUNIOR CUP

ARNISON beat Fraser by 18 pts. to 0 in the Final Round.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Births

R. BANHAM (1940-45). On August 6th, 1954, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. R. Banham, a daughter.

A. W. BRADLEY (1937-42). On October 26th, 1954, at Leicester, to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bradley, a son.

R. P. JEMMETT (1942-46). On May 29th, 1954, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Jemmett, a daughter.

B. F. LANCE (1937-42). On September 1st, 1954, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. Barnard Lance, a second son.

B. B. SEYMOUR (1928-35). On January 4th, 1955, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Seymour, a second son.

D. WOOSTER (1926-29). On January 22nd, 1955, at Beaconsfield, to Mr. and Mrs. David Wooster, a sister for four sons.

R. C. GOODBURN (1935-40). On April 21st, 1954, at Fulham, to Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Goodburn, a daughter.

L. B. BARNES (1924-29). On March 11th, 1955, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Barnes, a son.

C. T. FLETCHER (1939-46). On June 3rd, 1954, at Broxbourne, to Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Fletcher, a son.

Marriages

CHISHOLM—WRIGHT. On August 14th, 1954, at Darlington, N. V. Chisholm (1936-43) to Miss Joy Wright.

FREWIN—FRENCH. On September 5th, 1953, at Monks Risborough, C. G. Frewin (1939-44) to Miss Iris French.

HONOUR—GRAY. On March 18th, 1954, at Newton Abbot, K. B. Honour (1939-45) to Miss Hester Gray.

HUNT—BAKER. On October 30th, 1954, at Sherton, L. R. C. Hunt (1939-44) to Miss Cecily Grace Baker.

JEMMETT—TUCKER. On July 14th, 1951, at Hughenden, R. P. Jemmett (1942-46) to Miss Edwina Tucker.

MACKRILL—FASTIER. On February 5th, 1955, at High Wycombe, M. J. R. Mackrill (1939-45) to Miss Alice Aristide Fastier.

MOSS—GIBSON. On December 18th, 1954, at High Wycombe, D. W. MOSS (1940-46) to Miss Vanda Burnett Gibson.

NEWELL—ADAMS. On December 4th, 1954, at Witney, P. B. Newell (1938-45) to Miss Margaret Jean Adams.

SYRETT—WOODWARD. On August 8th, 1954, at Beaconsfield, R. A. Syrett (1942-47) to Miss Jean Woodward.

TIMPSON—MORRIS. On September 11th, 1954, at Hughenden, F. E. Timpson (1932-39) to Miss Cynthia Morris.

BLAND—FRYERS. On October 30th, 1954, at Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, J. A. Bland (1939-46) to Miss M. G. Fryers.

NIGHTINGALE—TETLEY. On December 18th, 1954, at Stevenage, D. T. Nightingale (1940-46) to Miss Jennifer Tetley.

Deaths

A. A. W. COVENTRY (1926-33). On August 22nd, 1954, at High Wycombe Hospital, Alan Arthur William Coventry, aged 39.

Coventry died very suddenly after being engaged earlier in the day helping in the road census being taken for the Ministry of Transport on the Medmenham road. At the R.G.S. he took an active part in all the School activities, was a prefect, house captain, and captain of the 1st Soccer XI, and gained his colours for cricket. When he left he became a student teacher at Cippenham School, and in 1937 went to Reading University, where he obtained his B.A. in 1940, and after the war his Diploma in Education. He served in the Army in East Africa for six years and had been on the Staff of the R.G.S. for the past six years. He had played for Stokenchurch, Chinnor and High Wycombe Cricket Clubs, and was particularly well known in the areas as an all-round sportsman. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Margery Coventry, and little Ruth, aged 7 years.

F. H. GLENISTER (1901-07). On October 7th, 1954, at Great Kingshill, Frederick Hubert Glenister, aged 63.

F. H. Glenister was a boy at the School when his grandfather, Thomas Glenister, was one of the Governors. He passed those old-time exams., the Oxford Preliminary, Junior and Senior, the two latter in the Honours Division. He was placed 23rd out of 400 candidates in a Civil Service Entrance Examination. He was a prefect and a 1st XI Soccer Colour, and also played for the 2nd XI Cricket. He was chairman of Thomas Glenister and Co. Ltd., established as a family business by his great grandfather in 1839. He was a member of High Wycombe Borough Council from 1928 to 1937 and played a leading part in acquiring 63 acres of Hughenden Park as a public open space. He was a Governor of the R.G.S., and leaves a widow, Mrs. G. Glenister, and two sons, Bernard and Frank, both directors of the old firm.

E. J. READ (1915-21). On October 14th, 1954, at Amersham Hospital, Eric John Read, aged 50.

Read was made a School prefect while in the Lower Fifth Form, an indication of his character and leadership. He was a sergeant in the O.T.C. and played regularly for the 1st Soccer XI. He was a founder member of the O.W. Rugby Club and a stalwart forward for years, and latterly a referee. He was actively identified with the High Wycombe Cricket Club and always ready to support any kind of sport. During the War he served in the Middle East as a Flying Officer in the R.A.F., and when he died was managing director of J. Read (Upholstery) Ltd. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Maisie Read, and two sons, John, who plays regularly for the O.W. 1st Rugby XV, and Peter, still at the R.G.S.

J. V. WOOLLCOMBE (1891-98). In December, 1954, at Hammersmith General Hospital, John Vivian Woollcombe, aged 73.

The Rev. J. V. Woollcombe went from the R.G.S. to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1903. After several curacies and an appointment with the Colonial and Continental Church Society he returned to his birthplace in 1919 and was Vicar of Loudwater for ten years, and since had been Chaplain of the hospital in which he died.

F. VAN DE WINCKEL (1938-40). On December 9th, 1954, at Hillcrest, New Road, Booker, Frank Van de Winckel, aged 27. Van de Winckel was found dead in bed with his wife unconscious by his side. The bedroom was full of fumes caused by an oil heating stove which had been left on all night because of the bleak weather. When he left school Van de Winckel became an expert motor mechanic and had been a partner and director of Turnpike Garage Limited for about two years; he was a keen sportsman, quiet and popular. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Minnie Van de Winckel.

The Annual Supper took place at the School on Friday, October 29th, 1954, at 7.30 p.m. Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Tucker it was held in the boarders' dining room and the meal of sausage and mash, apple pie and custard was prepared by their domestic staff. It was decided to hold the Supper in the autumn in the hopes that more O.B.'s would be present, but unfortunately the number (39) was the lowest ever, and it looks as if this could be the last summer reunion.

School Pavilion

Mr. Arnison's tribute in the *Bucks Free Press* to the service rendered by the sports pavilion to the R.G.S. was very appropriate now that a new one is about to be built. The pavilion was erected in a three-acre playing field adjoining the Rye in 1905 and was formally opened on July 20th, 1905, by the Rev. E. W. Shaw (later first Bishop of Buckingham), who was chairman of the School Governors. The number of boys in the School was 56, of whom ten were boarders. In 1915, when the School was transferred to its present spot, the pavilion too was transferred, and so is now nearing its golden jubilee. The small corrugated iron shed was added by Mr. Brand to hold the mower and other necessary implements. Prior to 1905 all changing had to be done at home or at School, and cricket and football materials were kept in an extremely large box left on the playing field. Mr. Arnison states that it speaks well for the honesty of Wycombe youth of the time that the box was never broken into and rifled. The only other pieces of furniture on the field were two wooden benches reserved for V.I.P.'s and visiting teams. It is estimated that the proposed new 1955 pavilion will cost about £3,000 and if it gives as much service to the R.G.S. as the one built in 1905 for £47 10s.—there should be no complaints.

The following Old Boys, for the reasons given, regretted they were unable to come to the Annual Dinner :—

- A. W. BRADLEY has started a Children's Theatre in Leicestershire and cannot get time off—he hopes the Theatre will be an antidote to the Children's Cinema Club.
- D. J. CLARKE : imperative business visit to Liverpool.
- A. H. CRAVEN : Another engagement.
- K. E. FOUNTAIN : Field course in North Wales arranged by Leeds University.
- F. HALLASEY : Will not be in England again till late May.
- R. J. HANDSCOMBE : R.A.F. not too keen about letting their personnel cross the Irish Seas for one convivial evening.
- C. MINTER : Cannot get leave from Morval Barracks, Farnborough.

- D. G. SAINSBURY : Studying hard for his final law degree examinations in June. Hopes to be articled to a firm of solicitors in Aylesbury. He is trying to sell Dinner Tickets to two O.B.'s, however.
- G. SHERLOCK : The same reason as Fountain.
- B. SINNATT : Serving in Germany as a 2nd Lt. 35th L.A.A./S.L. Regiment, R.A., at Odenberg.
- M. TILLION : Rather far from Singapore, where he is now stationed.
- P. W. WARD : Too much effort attending A.G.M., meeting friends, eating, drinking and rushing to catch the last London train.

OLD BOYS' NOTES

MR. BRAND is now living with his daughter Pauline at Parkwood, Woodborough, Notts. He is suffering from arthritis in the leg and is sorry he will not be able to attend the Old Boys' Dinner.

REV. A. M. BERRY inaugurated his 83rd year by taking five sermons in four parishes and driving himself from one to the other.

G. H. BAKER (1906-12), head of Harold Baker Ltd., of Desborough Road, High Wycombe, is now satisfied that his firm can press ahead with "Melafoam" and expand still further. Melafoam is a patented process for the production of rubber foam for upholstery.

J. A. BLAND (1939-46) is still at Cambridge and if things go well may be there for a few more years. He has been out of touch for some time with the many R.G.S. students at Cambridge but hopes they will have another re-union soon. When he wrote in October, 1954, an impending "domestic event" was preventing him from taking too active a part in things.

W. T. BRINDLEY (1910-15), who retired in July, 1954, is to be found at Tudor Cottage, Beechwood Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey.

A. W. BRISTOW (1912-21), when he left School entered the the service of High Wycombe Corporation at the Water Works, where he applied himself seriously to his work. He was later appointed to Bexhill-on-Sea as assistant engineer, and in 1946 became Water Engineer and Manager. Bexhill-on-Sea now claim to have the most up-to-date plant and the Corporation in expressing their appreciation gave the entire credit to the work of Bristow and his staff.

D. J. CLARKE (1937-41) since he left School and after his release from the Indian Army has been working for the Anchor Line Shipping Company as their outside representative. He now lives at 477 Worlton Road, Liverpool, and hopes to visit L. F. Watkins (1908-14), manager of Waring & Gillows at Liverpool.

E. EATWELL (1942-48), deferred through his studies at the London Polytechnic, joined the Fleet Air Arm in August, 1953. After visiting the West Indies on the Aircraft Carrier *Implacable* he joined the frigate *Leeds Castle* as Sub-Lieut., having passed all his examinations while on the *Implacable*, and until February, 1955, will do his air training on H.M.C.S. *Shearwater* at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

A. C. EMARY (1944-50) finished his military service in August, after being for two years in the Gunners, for 18 months of which he was a surveyor in a Locating Battery, B.O.A.C. K. Chater and D. W. Davis are also gunners, Davis in the Middle East and Chater at Salisbury with about a year to do.

F. R. FISHER (1924-30), now at 15 Lincoln Avenue, Rose Green, Bognor Regis, is teaching at Westcoats Secondary Boys' School as a specialist in Mathematics. He fully intended to attend the O.B.'s dinner last year but was prevented by ear trouble which nearly led to hospital treatment.

J. B. GRIFFIN (1908-09), Prebendary and Canon of Exeter Cathedral since 1948, conducted a course of lectures for the religious education of day and Sunday school teachers at Uplands School, Parkstone, from July 31st to August 7th, 1954.

A. M. HARCOURT (1948-51), when he left the R.G.S., attended Acton Technical College for three years and took his B.Sc. in 1953, passing in Pure and Applied Mathematics. He was Vice-President of the Students' Union for one year and Treasurer of a flourishing Drama Society for two years. Since September he has been a Research Assistant at the Kodak Research Laboratories, Wealdstone, where there are some more O.B.'s. He and Emary play regularly for the Twickenham R.F.C. "A" XV. In his spare time he has been a postman at Christmas time, helped at the British Aluminium Laboratories and worked as a labourer on a building site and spent the extra money he earned on a sailing holiday in Denmark.

Congratulations to G. T. HARRIS (1942-50) on being the first R.G.S. Old Boy to win a "Blue." Harris, now a law student in his third year at Jesus College, Cambridge, has coxed in trial eights for two years and missed the honour of a trials cap by a narrow margin last year. He is secretary of Jesus College Amalgamated Clubs and all R.G.S. boys past and present will watch the progress of his boat, if not from the river-bank, then on the television screen and wish him the best of luck.

F. HALLASEY (1913-18) enjoyed the visit to his old School so much that he hopes to call again in 1955.

C. C. HUFFLETT (1951-54), in face of competition from boys from the whole Commonwealth, was promoted "Captain" of H.M.S. *Conway*, which meant that at the age of 16½ years he was in command of the boats' discipline of his Division, led the "march past" and had power of corporal punishment. He won the high jump and obtained the *Conway* rugby colours, also the Cox Certificate for sailing boats, Bronze Medallion for Life Saving, St. John Ambulance Certificate for first aid at sea, School Certificate in English, maths., and navigation and various other certificates such as signalling. During the holiday he navigated (under the Master) a trawler to well beyond the Arctic Circle and back to Hull.

S. G. J. KEEN (1921-24) is the new president of High Wycombe Area Committee of the Furniture Trades' Benevolent Association. Keen is a well-known figure in the High Wycombe furniture industry and has for long been a leading member of the High Wycombe Cricket Club and of Wycombe Wanderers' Football Club.

H. H. LEE (1929-33), when he was transferred to the Woking Branch of Barclays Bank, had to give up his command as Major of "Q" Battery, and Lieut.-Colonel W. D. Marshall, Commanding Officer of 645 L.A.A. Regt. R.A., T.A., presented him with an inscribed silver drinking tankard at a farewell party held at the T.A. Centre.

D. M. McDOWELL (1934-42) has had a house built at 22 Rathcork Park, Cavehill, Belfast, and is likely to be there for several years with his wife and two children, Kay 6½ and Stephen 1¾ years. He is lecturing in the department of Civil Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast, his particular subject being Fluid Mechanics. He has been working hard for the last five years and largely in his own time for his Ph.D. and was successful last June at St. Andrew's, his old University. He is coming on a visit to London on the 26th March, just too late for the Reunion.

R. V. MARTIN (1938-44) still thinks a great deal of his old School and is interested in all its activities. He is teaching P.T., games and geography in a secondary school in Chesterfield. He is happily married and lives in his own house, which he had built over a year ago. He strives to instil R.G.S. tradition into his present school work and play. He sends his best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Tucker and all members of the staff who remember him.

COLIN MINTER (1949-54), as 23225863 Sapper Minter, is enjoying his military service at the Morval Barracks, Cove, Farnborough.

C. MORRIS (1914-19) has won for the second time in three years the King George VI Cup for the best cultivated root and green crops at the show of the Royal South Bucks Agricultural Association,

one of the few shows which retains its original character with ploughing matches and competitions for working farmers and their hands. Morris will receive a replica presented by Queen Elizabeth, who is patron of the Show.

Last April P. B. NEWELL (1938-45) passed all the examinations of the Institute of Public Cleansing and at the Annual Conference was admitted to membership of the Institute, which entitles him to put A.M.Inst.P.C. after his name. While on his honeymoon he heard he had been appointed Malaria Field Officer in Tanganyika. After a hectic fortnight packing, filling forms and vaccinations he and his wife arrived at Tanga on January 23rd in the S.S. *Uganda*. A fifty-mile journey brought them to Amani, 3,000 feet up the Usambare Mountains, a beautiful place, with every species of tree, shrub and flower in its hillside gardens. Shortly he and his wife will go to Tabora, in the Western Province, to be responsible for Malaria Control in that province, an area stretching from Uganda and Kenya to Northern Rhodesia; he goes around by plane, car, train and lake steamer. He stops there a year, when he returns to Amani, and then to the Southern Highlands. He is looking forward to the Magazine.

R. G. PILGRIM (1945-53) has been in hospital since December, 1953, and was operated on for a duodenal ulcer on March 17th, 1954. The operation was so successful that his mother hoped he would be able to come to the dinner. It has been recommended that he should be discharged from the R.A.F.

J. N. ROBINSON (1928-33) last August was flown over from Austria to see his mother who was ill, but unfortunately he arrived too late.

R. H. ROLFE (1919-26) now lives at Turville Cottage, Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead. He gave up Local Government work because it offered too restrictive a field for engineering and has been with the Thames Conservancy Board at the Chief Engineering Office for over two years. He has also passed the final examinations of the Institution of Civil Engineering, is a Corporate Member and possesses the Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.

V. G. W. ROGERS (1910-13) is the proprietor of the Iringe Hotel in Tanganyika; he was formerly on the Stock Exchange. In the first World War, Rogers was twice wounded and was mentioned in Despatches.

A. J. SKIPP (1929-37) is now Priest-in-charge at St. Anne's, Wycombe Marsh and St. Peter's, Micklefield. Skipp was an Open Exhibitioner at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, from 1937-40, where he obtained his B.A. (Hons. English). He was commissioned in the Buffs during the war and when he left the Army in 1947 as Major he had worked with the British Institute of Adult Education

and the Arts Council, then was trained at Wells Theological College, ordained Deacon in 1953 by the late Bishop of Oxford, and ordained Priest in 1954 by the Bishop of Buckingham. He enjoys coming to the R.G.S. to help with the teaching of classics.

CAPT. L. G. STRATTON, J.P. (1893-97) has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Princes Risborough Magistrates Court.

D. W. STEVENS (1933-39) does most of his work at home. Working on programme contract for the B.B.C., he says, is an even tougher proposition than working on the staff. He broadcasts regularly in English, French and German, and has recently finished a lengthy series for the B.B.C. Transcription Service under the general title of "A History of British Music." Another series, "Chapel Royal," is on the stocks. Since these programmes are sent in recorded form all over the world, he hopes they may reach a few O.B.'s ears.

H. G. TIDY (1924-32), now a Commander, Royal Navy, was slightly injured when his car and two others were involved in a collision at Coleshill on Saturday, December 18th, 1954.

C. THOMPSETT (1948-54) has been selected to represent the East Birmingham area at the World Jamboree of the Boy Scouts to be held in Canada in August, 1955.

L. A. TAYLOR (1946-52), after serving with a British Commonwealth Unit in Japan instructing troops for their Army Certificate of Education, is now in Tripoli doing the same sort of job.

P. B. WHITE (1929-33) is anxious to meet U. A. Bennett when he next arrives in England so that he can show his appreciation for the kindness and reception Bennett gave when they met in New York just before the war. White is now teaching at the Hotel and Catering School of Acton Technical College and is responsible for the Hotel Book-keeper and Receptionist Courses. The College also runs courses for Hotel Chefs and Hotel Operations for students who wish to enter the hotel and catering trade and have properly equipped kitchens and restaurant where the work is carried out by the students.

D. F. WILLIAMS (1937-43) hoped to arrive in England from Mauritius in time for Christmas and that his six months' leave would enable him to attend the Old Boys' dinner.

H. C. WINTER-TAYLOR (1930-37) appeared in the popular television programme "Find the Link," the link being that both the challengers had "ditched" a plane and had been rescued by a submarine. Winter-Taylor crashed into the Atlantic about 400 miles from land in August, 1941. Unlike the other challenger, he was unfortunately picked up by a German submarine and he and his crew of six spent four years in a German prison camp.

D. E. WOOBERRY (1946-54) was awarded a cadetship in the Technical Branch of the R.A.F. and reported for duty at the Technical College, Henlow, on October 4th, 1954. There he will undertake a three-year course in engineering approximately to University degree standard and also do about 50 hours' flying in a Chipmunk. On successful completion of training, Wooberry will become a permanent officer in the technical branch of the R.A.F.

P. J. WOODS (1951-54) started at the D.H. Technical School, Hatfield, soon after he left School. He will take two nine-week courses at the school with a nine-week break in the workshop in between, all leading up to taking the National Certificate. He finds some of the work revising what he did at the R.G.S. rather boring but has been promised that the second course will be harder.

P. D. FRY (1941-48). When he wrote for a dinner ticket, he was just recovering from having his appendix removed. He will be pleased to contact any Old Boy at "Tillotsons," Commercial Road, Liverpool. He was able to enjoy the dinner.

A. H. BEAL (1925-27). When he left School, he worked for A. C. Frost & Co. at Beaconsfield and played rugger for the Old Wycombiensians. During the war, with the Royal Engineers, he took part in the invasion of Normandy and went right across Europe to the Baltic Sea. After the war he was sent out as a member of the British Military Mission to Greece, where he stayed until demobilisation with the rank of Major. After a year or two at Beaconsfield, he and a friend of his decided to open a business of their own as Estate Agents, Auctioneers and Surveyors at Boscombe, under the name of Beal and Tazewell. Beal is entitled to the letters F.R.I.C.S. and F.A.I. after his name. If he remembers rightly, three Old Boys, "Pug" Britnell, Beal and Geoff Seymour, won the prize given by the Berks., Bucks. and Oxon. branch of the Surveyors' Institution in 1931, 1932 and 1933 respectively. He is a member of the Bournemouth model "House of Lords," which bases its procedure upon the real thing at Westminster. He has met John Walter at Bournemouth and has called on Mr. Arnison. He mentions as his contemporaries, Ray, Bevis, Pienne, Horley, Maynard, Watson, Brownhill, Muir, Carr, Ware, Austin, Gerrard, Avery and Kimber.

R. L. PLATT (1930-35) writes from Guildford that his brother, N. L. Platt, who was so badly injured in the Great War that he was given a pension, is slowly recovering from a serious operation at Bart's.

R. A. MILLER (1940-46) is working on a small market at Bobigny (Seine), in France, under the International Young Agriculturalists Exchange Scheme. He will be there for the next 12 months and finds his "school" French a great help. Don Shaw, he writes, is at Merrist Wood Horticultural Institute.

C. T. FLETCHER (1939-46), after passing the final Accountancy exam., is starting in April as Assistant Accountant in the Borough Treasurer's Department at Luton. Although he is too busy house-hunting to come to the dinner, he keeps full interest in his old school.

W. CHINN (1939-44). He writes that Dublin is one of the stoutest outposts of the R.G.S. There were actually six Old Boys celebrating at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, on the eve of the England-Ireland Rugby match and their loyal toasts caused consternation among the I.R.A. members present! Chinn is about to take his finals in Natural Science, specialising in Geo-physics. He is captain of Trinity College boxing team, recent winners of the Inter-Varsity Challenge Cup, and has represented Ireland in several International competitions. The other Old Boy in Dublin is Alan Grainger (1940-45), described by Chinn as "Chief Whipper-up" or production manager in a Dublin paint factory. Both are single and glad of it.

T. W. ABDALLAH (1946-54). He was commissioned in the R.A.S.C. at Aldershot in February and is now in Egypt, just outside Ismailia, where he finds the sunny weather a nice change. He works hard in the mornings and plays games in the afternoons. The Arab villages are out of bounds, which Abdallah says is just as well, because he has never smelt anything quite like them.

It is certain that many names should be added to the following list of O.B.'s who are taking an active part in "local affairs."

Governors of the Royal Grammar School :

P. C. Raffety, J.P. (1888-93), Chairman ; G. H. Baker, J.P. (1906-12) ; R. W. Bartlett (1900-07) ; J. W. K. Taylor (1919-24).

Bucks County Council :

J. W. K. Taylor.

Bucks C.C. Education Committee :

Co-opted member, W. H. Timms (1905-11).

Bucks County Executive of the National Farmers' Union and County Milk Committee :

R. M. Kimber (1919-23).

Bucks County Executive of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs :

R. M. Kimber, W. H. Timms.

High Wycombe Borough Council :

G. H. Baker (1906-12), R. V. Britnell (1915-24), D. J. Hann (1924-29), G. H. Hunt (1923-30), S. A. Goulborn (1928-36).

Rural District Council :

D. C. Davis (1917-22), R. J. Field (1930-35), C. Morris (1914-19).

Governor of High Wycombe Almshouse Foundation :

S. A. Goulborn.

Chairman of High Wycombe Constituency Labour Party :

S. A. Goulborn.

President of the Young Conservatives, High Wycombe :

J. Read (1942-50).

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