

THE  
WYCOMBIENSIAN



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SCHOOL 1ST TENNIS VI 1954  
R. J. Handscombe, J. Weaver, G. D. B. Jones  
B. K. Johnson, J. G. Deller, K. J. Cattermole



SCHOOL 1ST IX 1954

R. G. Pilgrim, R. C. Jones, T. C. Olsen, M. J. Garratt, A. J. Saddler, E. M. Squires  
A. Harvey, F. E. J. Hawkins, J. W. Pursey, R. C. Ashby, R. F. Sainsbury  
P. Draper

# THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

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

Editor : D. REAR

Assisted by R. J. HANDSCOMBE

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## EDITORIAL

Lord Carrington's Speech Day address was one of the most entertaining we have heard for many years. It nevertheless contained as much sound advice as good humour, for in explaining the value of writing good English and the need for the spirit of citizenship he pointed out two notable weaknesses in the School. One of the observations of the inspectors in 1949 was the prevalence of slovenly speech. There is, of course, no remedy for this, but there is every reason why boys should take more care in their writing. A fine English style is not a thing easily developed, but everyone should be able to express himself with clarity and grace whenever the need arises. The clichés that have in the past characterised the unfortunately typical manner of expression in *The Wycombiensian* are no less deplorable than the increase of jargon and officialese in the world at large. Might it not be a valid suggestion that the "ordinary level" English Language papers are altogether too easy?

Much good could be done in this direction by the formation of a society to make boys more conscious of the worth of good writing and its great tradition in this country, a venture which, it is known, would have the full support of the department of the staff concerned. This has a direct bearing on the second of Lord Carrington's arguments. On many occasions in the past this page has drawn attention to the lack of support for out-of-school activities. The position today is hardly any better, although two new bodies, the Classical Society and the Jazz Club, have been established in the past year. The Music Society, the weekly gatherings of which were traditionally small but regular and enthusiastic, is now to all intents defunct, while the embryonic Spanish Society is, to say the least, in a static position. It is thus hardly a propitious moment for the launching of two new societies, but the fact remains that the School would be well served by regular meetings in the interests of literature and natural history. A plea for the latter by an obviously enthusiastic senior boy appears on another page; as he says, it is hardly likely that the very large number of boys interested in the

subject would fail to support such a venture. It might also be pointed out that there are few other schools of comparable size without such a society.

It is obvious that it is not easy in a school in which day-boys predominate to cultivate either a natural respect for the English language or a strong public spirit ; but there is no reason why considerable improvement might not be made in both fields if the effort is forthcoming.

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## SCHOOL NOTES

### General :

On April 1st, 2nd and 3rd the Dramatic Society presented Agatha Christie's "Black Coffee." The play was produced by Mr. R. Howard.

On April 12th the School heard a talk by Captain J. Lawson-Smith on his experiences as a diver.

A conference of the Student Christian Movement was held in the School on May 7th, which was a School holiday.

The School Sports were held on May 21st.

The Dramatic Society visited Her Majesty's Theatre to see "The Teahouse of the August Moon" on May 21st.

The C.C.F. was inspected by Group Captain P. I. Harris, D.F.C., on June 3rd.

The Music Competition took place on May 28th. The order was : 1, Fraser ; 2, Disraeli ; 3, Youens ; 4, Arnison.

The Historical and Classical Societies visited St. Albans on July 9th.

Over 300 boys went on the School Trip to Cambridge on July 12th.

On July 9th the Senior School heard a talk by Mr. E. H. Wall on the Commonwealth today.

Speech Day was held on July 15th.

On July 16th and 17th a party of boys under Mr. W. A. Rees represented Bucks in the English Schools Athletic Association championships at Ashington, Co. Durham. They were : A. D. Barrett, A. J. Gordon, R. E. Lomas, G. Sherlock, C. M. Nash, R. C. Jones, K. C. Jones, K. Faulkner, M. J. Richardson and R. J. Austin. Lomas and Gordon were respectively placed fourth in the javelin and fifth in the 440 yards events.

A Kemsley Prize for British Empire knowledge was won by G. Warner.

A. J. Saddler gained joint first prize in the Greek reading competition of the Reading branch of the Classical Association.

During the term we welcomed several German boys as guests of the School.

On July 9th the prefects held a dance in the School Hall.

### Services Awards :

Congratulations to D. J. Griffiths and B. D. Batchelor on their Flying Scholarships ; to B. R. Wright and E. C. Bond on gaining Royal Naval Cadetships at Dartmouth ; and to J. A. B. James on gaining an R.A.F. Cranwell Scholarship.

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## SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was held this year on the afternoon of Thursday, July 15th. The principal speaker was the Right Honourable the Lord Carrington, M.C., Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, and he was received by a guard of honour of cadets from the Army Section of the C.C.F. In his opening remarks, the chairman, Mr. P. C. Raffety, J.P., congratulated the Headmaster on his appointment as a Justice of the Peace and went on to wish every happiness to Mr. Morgan, who was to be married in August.

Before beginning his report, the Headmaster paid tribute to a great friend of the School, the Lord Bishop of Oxford, whose passing had been mentioned by the chairman. Both boys and parents would miss him deeply. He also congratulated the vice-chairman of the Governors, Alderman Clarke, on being awarded the C.B.E. No one in Wycombe, he said, had sustained so many onerous duties and conducted them with the dignity and graciousness of Alderman Clarke in his two Coronation years as Mayor.

He went on to thank Lord Carrington for coming as principal speaker, after being a guest on previous Speech Days. He was the only Buckinghamshire man serving under Sir Winston Churchill as a Minister, and they were delighted to think that he was one of their own people.

In his report the Headmaster said that in the previous September he had realised on the first day of term that at last the flood had come. There were then 171 boys in the sixth form, of which 37 were in the second year science sixth ; many of the arrangements already made had to be re-cast so as to divide first and second year science sixths into two. Even then the groups were rather too big for proper advanced work, but they had to manage somehow without the proper staff and without the laboratory accommodation. Other forms had suffered, and the science staff had been badly overworked.

At the bottom end of the School each of the forms had numbered throughout the year 38 boys, a number too large for both the form room and for adequate teaching. The situation next September would be more desperate still. The big forms at the bottom

would merely move up a step, and they had already been told by the Authority to expect a whole extra form, probably an equally large one, to meet the ever-increasing demand. He wondered if parents or County Councillors had stopped to think how many people they catered for at the highest level, and then compared it with how little the School had cost them in rates and taxes. If anything like justice was to be done to the boys of the School and to the School itself, the Authority could not delay even a year in making speedy provision for them.

The number of Open Scholarships during the year was small, though the Head Boy, G. D. B. Jones, could have added his name to that list had he not preferred to wait one more year in order to achieve the major success on which he had set his heart. The State Scholarships were not outstanding in number, but the numerous County Scholarships indicated the contribution made from the area to the Universities and to the nation's needs. During the last year some 33 boys had qualified for university scholarships of one sort or another : 19 Old Boys were in residence at Jesus College, Cambridge, and another batch was to go up in October ; 70 boys had just taken the Advanced and Scholarship papers of the G.C.E., of which only three were not intending to go on to the Universities.

Old Boys had been doing well at Cambridge. C. J. Goodchild, after only two years, gained a First in Part II of the Mathematical Tripos, an achievement rare in itself but almost incredible in only two years at the University. D. A. Hester, at Jesus College, gained a first in his classical examination, and M. Zander a First Class, one of only three in the college, in Law.

Two 16-year-old boys had gained highly competitive places at Dartmouth. The younger of these, B. R. Wright, was the third boy in the whole examination.

Games had proceeded in their normal way. The rugby team had suffered only one defeat by another school during the season, and the tennis team was making marked progress. The athletic sports were probably producing better results than ever before, and the cricket XI was the best fielding side they had ever seen.

The C.C.F. was going to camp the next day. The Naval Section had been greatly strengthened by an Old Boy, Mr. D. T. Nightingale. The band had been augmented, almost entirely through the enterprise and initiative of one boy, C. P. Keeling, by a new fife band.

The boarding houses remained more or less where they were. The Headmaster could see only eleven vacancies for next September, and he already had on his own list double that number qualified on the last examination, in addition to at least forty or fifty who had applied direct to Aylesbury for boarding scholarships.

He was deeply disappointed to read of the resolution passed by the Old Wycombiensians' Rugby Club at the Annual General Meeting to discontinue its direct connection with the School and to call itself no longer the Old Boys' Rugby Club. He could not believe that anyone of intelligence could be so lacking in perception as not to realise that he was doing great harm both to the Club and to the School by such a move.

The School Operatic Society continued to do its admirable work under Mr. Piner and Mr. Hills, and intended to break new ground in the next year by attempting "Ruddigore." The Dramatic Society had presented a full-length play under Mr. Howard's direction, making a profit of £113 for the School Fund.

In conclusion, the Headmaster expressed the good wishes of his colleagues and himself towards Mr. Morgan. He would go forth on his great adventure surrounded by volumes of good wishes and most affectionate messages of esteem from them all.

Lord Carrington then presented the cups and prizes, and went on to congratulate the winners of them in his speech. He said that he had asked some of them about their future careers, and would like to advise all boys, whatever their ambition, to take the utmost care over their English. This would not only be a great advantage in later life but would be a source of much pleasure. This country did not paint the best pictures, or compose the most beautiful music, but it had a great tradition in prose and poetry. As the Prime Minister had insisted, everyone should be taught to respect this standard. Many people tended to become more complex and to use jargon in their expression as they grew older, and he quoted from Sir Ernest Gower an example of the natural economy and clarity that characterises a child's approach to writing.

He then drew attention to the tendency towards selfishness among many people today. Wycombe had a tradition and character in its civic life, and almost every kind of voluntary activity was undertaken in the town. However, voluntary work was apparently becoming out of fashion, and too many inactive people expected things to be done for them. Lord Carrington advised boys to use their spare time well: there were not enough young and active people willing to go into local government today, and if every person who habitually complained about his local council was prepared to offer some service, however small, to his fellow men, he would find personal satisfaction and fulfilment.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the Bishop of Buckingham, the Right Rev. R. M. Hay, and seconded by the vice-chairman of the Governors, Alderman R. P. Clarke.

In the evening the commemoration service was held in High Wycombe Parish Church. The sermon was preached by the Rector of Denham, the Rev. J. E. Simpson, M.A., a former Headmaster of Amersham Grammar School.

## GOVERNORS' CERTIFICATES

G. D. B. Jones, P. Windsor, P. W. James, A. D. Barrett, D. J. Griffiths, B. K. Johnson, M. J. Knight, R. A. Mann, J. Weaver, J. G. Deller, A. J. Gordon, G. Sherlock, J. W. Pursey, R. G. Pilgrim, A. J. Saddler, J. P. J. Edwards, C. P. Keeling.

### SPECIAL PRIZES

- Headmaster's Prize** : G. D. B. Jones.  
**Governor's Reading Prize** : R. A. Mann.  
**Governor's Classics Prize** : (presented by R. P. Clarke, Esq., C.B.E., M.A., B.C.L.), G. D. B. Jones.  
**Graefe Cup for best C.C.F. Cadet** : R.S.M. J. Weaver.  
**Harte Cup** for A.T.C. (presented by Wing Commander C. S. W. Harte) : Sgt. M. Lacey.  
**Art Shield** (presented by A. Hastings, Esq.) : C. G. Keen.  
**Hope Cup** (presented by Mr. and Mrs. W. Hope) : R. E. Lamb.  
**Marti Prize for French** (presented by Mrs. A. Marti) : R. E. Lomas.  
**Thorne Prize for English** (presented by Mrs. G. Bayley) : R. J. Handscombe.  
**Westney Prize for Music** (presented by M. W. Westney, Esq.) : D. Hearn.

### FORM PRIZES

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| FORM IIA :              | FORM VX :             |
| 1st, K. R. Puddephatt   | 1st, A. F. King       |
| 2nd, D. H. Nicholls     | 2nd, J. H. Richardson |
|                         | 3rd, P. M. Slotkin    |
| FORM IIB :              | FORM VA :             |
| 1st, R. G. Hollingworth | 1st, I. P. Roe        |
| 2nd, E. A. W. Maunder   | 2nd, J. R. King       |
| FORM IIc :              | FORM Vs :             |
| 1st, M. B. Wood         | 1st, P. D. Hares      |
| 2nd, G. P. M. Walker    | 2nd, C. W. Anthony    |
| FORM IIx :              | FORM V SHELL :        |
| 1st, D. A. King         | 1st, J. P. Quick      |
| 2nd, J. A. Vickers      | 2nd, N. E. J. Craft   |
| 3rd, { H. C. Bramley    |                       |
| { D. P. May             |                       |
| FORM IIIA :             | FORM VUA :            |
| 1st, J. R. Garland      | 1st, J. A. B. James   |
| 2nd, T. V. Drayton      | 2nd, K. F. Biggs      |
| FORM IIIs :             | FORM VUs :            |
| 1st, P. J. Thompson     | 1st, R. F. Bond       |
| 2nd, L. Gewater         | 2nd, J. W. J. Freeth  |
|                         | 3rd, J. G. Ticehurst  |
| FORM IVx :              | FORM VU SHELL :       |
| 1st, C. J. Date         | 1st, M. Deitchman     |
| 2nd, S. C. Williams     | 2nd, D. P. Hall       |
| 3rd, J. D. Neville      |                       |
| FORM IVA :              | NEATNESS PRIZES :     |
| 1st, C. N. Dowdy        | VU D. P. Hall         |
| 2nd, R. Drewett         | V T. Randell          |
|                         | IV R. G. Saunders     |
| FORM IVs :              | III K. G. Hubbard     |
| 1st, D. E. Breslin      | II G. S. Wood         |
| 2nd, P. J. Turpin       |                       |
| FORM IV SHELL :         |                       |
| 1st, J. M. Barnard      |                       |
| 2nd, R. C. Chandler     |                       |

**SPEECH PRIZES :**

- VI B. E. Devlin
- VU & VX D. J. Bloxham
- V R. I. Sebire
- IV M. A. Hollingham
- III H. C. Bramley
- II W. L. Pender

**HANDICRAFT PRIZE :**

- K. C. Jones

**MUSIC PRIZE :**

- T. Olsen

**FORM VI—1ST YEAR :**

- Greek* : B. R. Wright
- Latin* : B. R. Wright
- French* : J. D. Richardson
- German* : P. Chamberlin
- English* : B. E. Devlin
- History* : R. D. M. Thomson
- Geography* : J. C. Briden
- Chemistry* : J. Smithers
- Physics* : P. R. Coward
- Mathematics* : T. J. Gowan
- Botany* : } G. A. Cullen
- Zoology* : }

**FORM VI—2ND and 3RD YEAR :**

- Greek* : J. W. Pursey
- Latin* : A. J. Saddler
- Classics* : G. D. B. Jones
- Ancient History* : C. P. Keeling
- French* : R. D. Barwell
- German* : G. E. Bates
- English* : D. M. Jago
- Spanish* : R. H. Powell
- History* : C. E. C. Greely
- Geography* : P. Windsor
- Economics* : G. Sherlock
- Chemistry* : W. A. Booth
- Physics* : B. K. Johnson
- Botany* : A. J. Gordon
- Zoology* : D. J. Griffiths
- Mathematics* : C. R. F. Maunder
- Botany* : J. M. Chinery
- Zoology* : P. A. Mann
- Mathematics* : P. W. James
- Mathematics* : C. R. F. Maunder

## C.C.F. ARMY NOTES

The events of the term have been Inspection, Speech Day, Camp, and several 303 Shooting matches.

The annual Inspection was carried out by Group Captain P. I. Harris, D.F.C., Director of A.T.C. Cadets of Home Command. The Inspecting Officer was very favourably impressed by the parade and tested out the A.T.C. Glider in no uncertain manner, becoming airborne at the second attempt.

On Speech Day the Army Section turned out a Guard of Honour for Lord Carrington, whilst the Naval and Air Force Section lined the route. The band and Camp guard gave a display whilst the guests were enjoying the tea interval.

During the term a team represented the School in the Salisbury Plain District rifle meeting at Bulford. Although not very successful in the falling plate match, the VIII shot very creditably in the team match, taking fourth place.

A very strong contingent of five officers and 100 cadets attended annual camp at Pirbright run by the Royal Horse Guards.

Two teams of four went from Camp to represent the School at Bisley and the first team finished fourth. As is usual when two teams compete, the four best shots of the eight would have won the competition by one point! The scores were :—

"A" Team				"B" Team			
	200/35	500/35	Total		200/35	500/35	Total
Sgt. Collar ...	30	29	59	Cpl. Keen, C.G.	20	21	41
Cdt. Robertson ...	31	24	55	Cpl. Minter ...	25	25	50
L/Cdt. Snapes ...	25	23	48	Cpl. Mactavish ...	30	29	59
Cdt. Hart ...	25	21	46	Cdt. Aikens ...	20	20	40
			<hr/> 208				<hr/> 190

The "Blues" laid on many very interesting demonstrations, including tanks, artillery and aircraft. The example set by the Guards in their drill and general demeanour undoubtedly had a stimulating effect on the contingent in general.

Night operations were enjoyed by over eighty of the cadets and time alone prevented "Sgt. Michelle of the French Foreign Legion" from reaching the hideout of the Chief of the Bonga Wonga tribe and claiming his reward, but both attack and defence showed plenty of resource and good spirit.

This was the first time that the whole band attended camp. Three contingents were to take part in a Band Competition, but whether it was the excellent form shown by our band in their practices or whether it was the blisters brought on by the march of the day before, only the band of the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe competed. The Drum Major of the band of the Scots Guards awarded the contingent 90% for its display.

The contingent marched out of camp with the band at its head to the tune of the "Happy Wanderer," a sight which could not fail to make anyone connected with the School very proud of it. It was fitting that Cadet R.S.M. J. Weaver, who has done much to improve the standard of efficiency in the contingent, should be present to lead it out in one of its most impressive moments.

### ROYAL NAVAL SECTION

This report of the Section's activities should bear an authentic Naval flavour, as it is being written in H.M.S. *Thunderer*, a "stone frigate" situated close to H.M. Dockyard at Plymouth, where the cadets are carrying out their annual summer training. The "ship" is in fact the old Royal Naval Engineering College, now used only as accommodation for Naval engineering student-officers, and on occasions for C.C.F. cadets.

The fifty-one boys who are attending training, thirty-one from the R.G.S. and twenty from Roundhay School, Leeds, use the old College library for their recreation and mess space and, we imagine to their relief, use the more land-lubberly beds of the dormitories instead of hammocks for sleeping.

Their day begins at 06.30 and up to about 16.30 they are actively employed; a very handsome timetable has been worked

out by the Training Commander in conjunction with various ships and establishments, and comprises a good deal of sailing. It is perhaps a noteworthy thing that these engineer officers are by far the ablest yachtsmen in the Royal Navy, excelling even the executive (*i.e.* seamen) branch.

Since the last report appeared training continued as usual until it foundered on the G.C.E. and School examinations. Seven cadets passed for leading seamen, and one for petty officer. During the latter part of the Summer Term the leading seamen had instruction in sailing in a newly purchased "Cadet" dinghy on the Thames at Bourne End. A whaler has now been allocated definitely to the Section, but has not yet been delivered.

The day trip to Portsmouth which was reported as probable in the last magazine took place on the 25th March, and the cadets received a lesson in the clockwork precision that the Navy is renowned for. Lieutenant Commander Dyer, R.N., of H.M.S. *Dryad*, arranged a most interesting programme to give the cadets a trip in two M.T.Bs. from H.M.S. *Hornet* and a visit to the new angled-deck aircraft carrier, H.M.S. *Centaur*.

The General Inspection, held on Thursday, 3rd June, was most successful; Lieutenant Commander Diggle, R.N., who attended as the Naval specialist, was very satisfied with the Section's bearing, work and organisation.

After passing Certificate "A," nineteen new cadets have entered from the Basic Section; ten of the senior cadets expect to leave at end of this School year, including J. P. J. Edwards, the Section's petty officer.

In conclusion, we must congratulate B. R. Wright on gaining third place in the Entrance Examination to the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. A very fine achievement, and we hope that he will have a happy and successful career in the Royal Navy.

## R.A.F. SECTION

There are 126 cadets in the R.A.F. Section of the C.C.F. Of these, nine have reached Advanced Proficiency and thirty are proficient cadets. In the most recent Proficiency Examination taken earlier this month, the results of which are still awaited, forty cadets entered. This record number reflects the continued excellent instructional work of the N.C.Os. Sgt. M. Lacey and Cpl. B. D. Batchelor have completed their training as holders of Flying Scholarships and have gained Pilot's Licences. Sgt. D. J. Griffiths, the most recent Flying Scholarship holder, is training at West London Flying Club. Cadet J. A. B. James has been awarded a scholarship to the R.A.F. College at Cranwell under the recently initiated scheme for selection at 16 years of age. A party of 50 cadets has attended the Annual Camp, held this year at R.A.F.

Station, Thorney Island. The beginning was marred by a gale, so violent that it almost appeared that the camp would be abandoned. This unpromising start was quickly forgotten in the warm, sunny days which followed. Although the R.A.F. Station was engaged in a major N.A.T.O. exercise, flying was available for cadets in Chipmunk, Anson and Valetta aircraft. The average flying time per cadet was 53 minutes, while Sgt. M. Lacey was one of the few cadets selected to go on a 10-hour operational sortie in an aircraft of Coastal Command which was taking part in the exercise. Cadets also distinguished themselves on the Rifle Range, eight cadets reaching the "Marksman" standard and Cadet A. B. Robertson being placed second in the competition which included all the cadets in camp. Visits to Hayling Island were a pleasant relief to more strenuous activities. The returning cadets appeared to have enjoyed their week of tent-life and certainly looked fitter because of it. Although there is reason to believe that the joys of tent-life were appreciated less by the officers than the Cadets, it was a successful and enjoyable camp for all concerned.

E.M.

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## PARIS CULTURAL HOLIDAY

Among the sixty thousand Britons who invaded Paris this Easter were six members of the Sixth Form. They were taking part in the Fifth Paris Cultural Holiday, which was attended by over eight hundred students from all over Britain. The main object of the trip was to learn not only about the French way of life, but also about French culture, literature and language.

The mornings were spent either at Cours Pratiques on the French language or at lectures on French literature given by eminent professors at the Sorbonne. This is a mile from the College Stanislas where the 300 boys were lodged, while most of the 500 girls stayed at the Lycée St. Louis only six hundred yards from the Sorbonne.

The afternoons were spent on organised tours around Paris. All the famous historic places were visited—some in a three-hour coach tour, others separately. After ascending the Eiffel Tower—where incidentally long-distance paper aeroplane races frequently started while the English parties were there—we walked down the 753 steps from the second stage.

Free tickets were provided for a performance at the Comédie Française and our party saw "L'Avare" after an opening playlet "Il faut que la porte soit ouverte ou fermée" by Musset.

On Saturday morning a reception was given at the Hôtel de Ville for the 2,000 students and schoolchildren who were in Paris at the time. A Ball was given in our honour at the pleasant Cité Universitaire shortly before we left.

A Television Newsreel photographer accompanied the party from Victoria to Paris and the film was subsequently shown on Children's Television.

The food at the Collège Stanislas was excellent, but the French taste for well-cooked meat was not in accord with our own ideas of tenderness. It is indeed to be regretted that we may not be able to enjoy such cooking again next year, for at the prizegiving and farewell meeting at the Sorbonne we learnt that French colleges now have to return to work on Easter Monday. The organiser, Miss Williams, and her efficient assistant, Mr. Moss, both made eloquent pleas to the French Government representatives and to the Sorbonne officials present that the decree should be repealed in the interests of the Entente Cordiale. They in turn assured us of their willingness in the cause.

We owe many thanks to Mr. E. Jones, by whose untiring effort this worthwhile and most unforgettable holiday was made possible. We hope that some French government may allow him to do the same for many years to come.

D. G. F. KAY, VIM.

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## VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE

On the morning of Monday, July 12th, High Wycombe station capitulated. Overpowered by sheer weight of numbers, the station staff could only stare bewildered at the rampant confusion which presented itself as drove after drove of boys filtered on to the platform to join the already seething throng. The annual Royal Grammar School outing had begun.

Miraculously order was at length established and it was in small groups that the next stage—the invasion of the train—was organised. In spite of all forebodings and much to our surprise, two-and-a-half hours wandering through charming English countryside apparently rarely honoured by the presence of such a modern invention as a steam engine (judging by the expression of incredulity on the faces of both the pigs and the people we passed) brought us to our objective—the university city of Cambridge.

The tours of the colleges brought to light many interesting features in both buildings and college life itself, as, for example, a glimpse of the rooms shared by a couple of undergraduates comprising living room, bedrooms, and a very small kitchen containing sink and gas ring. Apart from specific colleges nearly every party visited the magnificent 15th Century King's College Chapel, with its striking stone roof and 16th Century stained glass windows of world fame—a building not easily forgotten.

By this time those who had not already eaten their sandwiches in the train found lunch on the "Backs" very pleasant. Left to

our own resources in the afternoon, not a few of us made our way to Jesus College, to which so many of our number aspire. We found it to consist of very ancient and picturesque buildings clustering round a beautiful Norman Chapel, while other colleges visited by large numbers of boys were Trinity, with its vast court, and St. John's, with its "Bridge of Sighs." Of many other colleges nearly all their courts, dining-halls and chapels were open to visitors and we could but choose what we hoped were a representative few. Other buildings of interest were the laboratories to which access was possible, the museums, of which the Scott Polar Research Institute was probably the most interesting, and the Church of Our Lady and English Martyrs, whose spire (216 feet high), the highest in Cambridge, was an imposing spectacle on our entry into the city from the station.

For the more academic-minded Cambridge was found to contain vast numbers of books at bargain prices, but one of the party, with a view to the return journey, informed us of the shortage of low-priced firearms. The more energetic gentlemen stretched their muscles on the putting greens, while large numbers went boating on the Cam. Of the latter, two oarsmen, unsatisfied with the lethargic progress of their boat, gained immortal fame by taking a swift decision and diving courageously into the water fully clothed. Apart from the New Zealand women's cricket team, there was little else of interest in Cambridge, and we were all back at the station by a quarter to six en route for Wycombe.

The return journey was enlivened by speculation as to what had happened to the one boy who was left behind at Cambridge, by numerous juniors excitedly running up and down the corridor taking the numbers of beautifully grimy engines emitting vast clouds of black smoke at Bletchley, and by the general high spirits that always accompany the return of a school excursion. Indeed, it was a very happy and contented crowd that alighted at Wycombe at 7.30 in the evening, realizing to the full the truth of the modest statement heading the maps provided that Cambridge is "Great Britain's premie university."

C. E. C. GREELY, VIIM.

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## SLEUTHMANSHIP

Mr. Howard obviously has a soul for Agatha Christie, for he follows his original production of "Ten Little Niggers," the first presentation of the Dramatic Society, with another of this lady's admirable mysteries, "Black Coffee." Perhaps Miss Christie is better read than staged, but the Society are, to my mind, sensible in their relatively unambitious choice. School Drama can often get

bogged down hopelessly by aiming too high, and this type of production ensures that both audience and actors enjoy themselves, which, after all, is the aim of an amateur society.

It is a rare delight to be able to spot a real actor in a School production, and I say this with all respect to the aged past, the ambitious present, and the starry-eyed future. But in Michael Dickens we have such a one. His playing of Miss Caroline Amory was perhaps the best example of acting in a female part that we have seen at least since the war. Precise in gesture and movement and intelligent in interpretation, he gave us no female impersonation but an utterly convincing feminine character. He used his voice delightfully, and displayed a keen and subtle sense of humour. After the death of her brother, Miss Amory had to deliver what to an amateur actor could be a brute of a line: "I'm so glad I ordered fried sole, that was one of his favourite dishes." A lesser actor than Michael Dickens would have drawn a laugh on that line which would have upset a rather tense little situation, but he succeeded in putting it across perfectly.

Anthony Gordon did well, too, as Hercule Poirot. One had, at first, to dispel Miss Christie's familiar description of the famous detective from mind, but once that had been done it was easy to accept this rather larger than usual M. Poirot. The conceit of the character was well displayed, and it was good to see an amateur actor resisting the temptation to say "Ah, this character is French, which means I must fling my arms about violently all the time." Tony Gordon used his gestures with a sensible and effective control, to contribute to what was altogether a very pleasing performance.

Michael Vaughan-Rees and Timothy Gowan were cast in the other female parts in the play, Lucia Amory and Barbara Amory. The latter vamped poor Capt. Hastings very prettily, and Michael Vaughan-Rees handled the rather more difficult dramatic Italian girl with good effect. Both looked their parts, moving very naturally, and avoiding the temptation to make minor adjustments at constant intervals. Ralph Mann had a short-lived part as Sir Claud Amory, but succeeded in the brief time at his disposal in making us remember that he was in the play. He has a powerful voice and good stage presence, and knows how to use both to advantage. Edward Raynor, villain of the piece, was played by Peter Keeling with self-confident suavity, and John Colver was noble and gallant in the best British tradition as Sir Claud's son Richard. He had a certain tendency to be stiff and upright, but, after all, I suppose that is in the best British tradition too. The sinister Continental, so essential an ingredient to any of Miss Christie's tales, was provided in the person of Dr. Carelli, played by Radu Hellman. Distinguished by the inevitable moustache as the man to suspect, Dr. Carelli was given just enough of the melodramatic to fit nearly into position.

The stolid Capt. Hastings, Poirot's companion and confidant, was played by Anthony Saddler. This is not an easy part for anyone under middle age to attempt, but Tony Saddler has stage experience enough to know how to get it across in the circumstances—that is to say by under-playing it, so that the audience can accept complacently a character that would trouble them if too young an actor were to try to "do something with it." A word of praise also to Keith Fountain's Butler, which was played unobtrusively but effectively in the same tradition.

The buoyant, versatile, Inspector Japp (Geoffrey Warner), family Doctor Graham (Patrick Woods), and P.C. Johnson (Richard Todd), all neat little character studies, completed a cast that was of a consistently good standard.

The production as a whole achieved a steady pace after a slow start to the first Act, although there was a tendency for too much action to take place on one side of the stage, and too little in the middle, which rather cramped the actors and slowed down some sequences. On one occasion too Hercule Poirot was allowed (or took the liberty) to turn his back completely upon the audience to address the cast! Make up was of a very high standard, particularly for the ladies, and we can always rely on Mr. Grant for a pleasant set.

Finally we must congratulate the Producer and cast on a very enjoyable evening's entertainment, which left one baffled about only one thing. How on earth can all those people afford evening suits?

MARTIN BANHAM (1944-52).

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## INTO VESUVIUS

Throughout the four days we spent touring Naples and its surroundings the majestic splendour of Mount Vesuvius remained in sight. Not until we reached Pompeii, however, did we want to become more acquainted with the volcano. The grey lava-like soil was the main inducement; this, coupled with the innumerable stories one hears about the volcano, finally persuaded us to make the journey to the crater.

A drive of five miles through a wooded lane brought us to a group of little houses at the foot of the mountain. Here we bought the tickets and hired a guide, without whose help the climb would have been almost impossible. From here another short drive along a steep and winding road took us far above the tops of the tallest trees, which thrived on the lava soil at the foot of Vesuvius. This road gradually disappeared under the boulders of lava, and ended in a small platform of greyish-black soil with an occasional patch of the rust-brown oxide of iron. From here onwards the ascent began.

The path had been trodden hard by previous visitors, which made the climb rather easy. It was, however, a slow journey along the zig-zagging path ; hence some of us decided to attempt a more hazardous vertical climb, only to gain more experience in slipping and falling than in mountaineering. We progressed along this path for about half an hour before we met another person, whose bored expression indicated that he was on duty and was not another visitor. This man stood beside an oblong hole about a foot long, from which a spout of steam escaped into the moist air. This, explained our guide, was a hot hole, one of the many found on the mountainside. He inserted a couple of sheets of newspaper, which were soon ablaze, and repeated this several times for our benefit.

This was as far as we had intended to go, but since the cool weather was most suited to the climb the guide was able to coax us into proceeding further. The path that led from the hot hole to the crater was composed of loose lava and small rocks of various ores chipped from the mountainside, making a rather slippery surface. The higher we climbed the more tedious was the journey, and we walked through layers of mist, bathed in dew and dust. Each layer of mist seemed to envelop the summit with its shade, but we proceeded from one to another only to find that the summit was still far ahead. After walking on through four or five layers we came upon the final stretch of the narrow path, rising steeply to the summit, and at the end of it the most pleasing sight ever—a thatched hut. We were soon relaxing on hard wooden chairs and sipping the drinks served by our guide, who kept insisting that we should follow him to the crater after coming so far.

Surprisingly enough, a few of us consented and marched in single file into the open. There was no steep climb ahead, but the narrow path round the mouth of the crater was almost invisible in the thick mist. Some ten minutes' walking brought us to a small tunnel between two rocks on the farther side of the crater. One by one we descended to a ledge on the inside of the crater and stood gazing into what seemed a bottomless pit. Following the guide along a path running halfway down the pit, we found the visibility good enough to enable us to see the bottom, about thirty yards in diameter and filled with large rock-like structures of lava-soil. The bottom half of the crater was greyish-black, but farther up were patches of yellow and rust-brown soil, ores of sulphur and iron. After the cold air back at the crater mouth it now became distinctly hot ; steam poured from the wall whenever lava was chipped from it. It was our only opportunity of using our cameras since below the level of the mists, and even here it was only a matter of seconds before the lenses were fogged. Each one clicked as soon as it was open, and it was more a matter of luck than judgement that some pictures came out.

The heat was soon unbearable, and we filed out through the tunnel and along the narrow path to the hut. With the rest of the party we made our way down, slipping frequently in the poor light but proud of our achievement and eager to see the world again.

M. FALIH CAFFOOR, VIM.

## WITTEN, A GREEN SPOT IN THE RUHR

At 6.45 the alarm clock rings ; out of bed, into the bathroom and dressing are all one movement. Breakfast, which usually consists of tough, dark, home-made bread, crusty rolls, and a glass of cold milk, drives away the last traces of sleepiness and makes me completely cheerful.

After a quick glance at the headlines in the newspaper I pack my portfolio according to the timetable for today ; History, Latin, French, Maths, Chemistry, and Geography.

Then a rush to the garage, clamber on my bicycle and travel the three kilometres to the Witten Municipal Grammar School, where I jump off with a clatter. On the way my gaze rests on a small group of young girls, who are going to school, chattering and giggling. Is SHE among them ? . . .

Suddenly a tram-bell clangs directly in front of me. Pedalling backwards with a squeak, my brakes screech, and I squeeze with a hair's breadth to spare between a Mercedes and a Volkswagen. Once again it's a case of " You lucky dog ! "

At 7.30 the school bell rings. Little first-formers, with satchels on their backs, run by tall sixth-formers, stepping along with purposeful strides, into their classrooms, which begin with the first form on the ground floor and end with the sixth form on the upper storey. The regular line of classrooms is broken only by the chemistry, physics, and biology laboratories, and by the music room.

The master, usually a man with a great personality—without any particular outward sign of his academic merit—enters the room, sits at the desk, opens the form register and is informed of any news. After that the homework—that much-cursed intruder on free afternoons—is scrutinized and discussed. New ground is covered, fresh schoolwork is collected, and so ends the first period (45 minutes). There is a ten-minute break in which you can prepare in the quad for the next period.

During the fourth period a mathematical exercise is written out. All the exercises are marked by the master with the numbers one to six, one being exceptionally good and six correspondingly bad. Oral tests are marked in a like manner. All the separate marks, added together in the report, are taken home by the scholar twice a year, at Easter and in the autumn. If you are given a five at Easter in two main subjects, you have to stay put and must go through the

same class once again. If that happens several times, you must leave the school.

Matriculation, taken at nineteen or twenty, is an examination in all subjects. (There is, therefore, no specialisation.) This terminates your stay in the high school and makes it possible to go to University.

In the fifth period we have Chemistry with the form-master. Today, however, Chemistry falls into the background; the evening of our "beer feast" is drawing near, and especially the "Beer Magazine," of which the greater part consists of jokes and caricatures of the staff and comrades, is for once far more important.

Towards 12 o'clock it has become unbearably hot. Unfortunately at 10 o'clock it was not quite 25°C. in the shade; otherwise we could have gone home because of the heat, as we did the day before yesterday.

At 1 o'clock the school gates are opened and we go home to a lunch already set out.

If the masters were lenient and have not set much homework, you can bathe, boat, or practise P.T. after your meal—or you can even go for a walk, alone or with company.

Yes, life is really grand, especially when you are still young and can look forward to so much.

P. PRETSCHNER.

(Peter Pretschner was one of the many German boys who spent some weeks as guests of day-boys and of School House, mostly in the Summer Term. His article was translated by R. D. Barwell—EDITOR.)

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## HOW TO SPLIT INFINITIVES

by Omer Tetrachloride

One of the School's most closely-guarded secrets can now be told: how a group of grammarians working in secret in a remote part of the School have finally succeeded in splitting the infinitive.

The project got under way in 1941, with the installation of a huge infinotron specially constructed behind the closed doors of the woodwork shop. Although the exact details are still withheld for reasons of security, it is possible to outline the general process.

From a stockpile of fissionable gerunds, a suitable subject is taken and placed in the infinotron, together with a small amount of syntax. All this material must be handled with great care, as the slightest slip may lead to a painful solecism. Once inside the apparatus, the gerund is whirled about at a great speed, being in the meantime bombarded with small participles. A student with a gender-counter stands by, always ready to warn others if the alphabetical rays are released in such high quantities as to render the

scientists neuter. The effect of the bombardment is to dissociate the whirling parts of speech from one another, until, at last, the infinitive splits off from its gerund and is ejected from the machine. When it cools, it is ready for use.

The question is often asked : " Can schools in other countries likewise split the infinitive ? " I think we can safely answer, " No. " Although it is true that Russia for one is known to have large supplies of Roget's Thesaurus hidden away behind the Plural mountains, it is doubtful if the Russians possess the necessary scientific technique.

We have shown that it is quite possible, given the necessary skill and courage, to unquestionably, and without the slightest shadow of doubt, accomplish this miracle.

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### CORONATION YEAR

In fifty-three was the Coronation  
(God save the Queen),  
And there was greatest celebration  
(God save the Queen),  
Ranking men of highest station !  
Princes drawn from every nation !  
Shouted all in exultation,  
" God save the Queen. "

Men with bravest decoration  
(God save the Queen)  
Marched in file at Coronation  
(God save the Queen),  
Men with stars for aviation !  
Men with stripes for navigation !  
Thinking all in adoration,  
" God save the Queen. "

We've heard there was a great sensation,  
(God save the Queen),  
In the year of Coronation  
(God save the Queen),  
So may God keep in preservation  
Elizabeth, Queen, and her great nation.  
Again we say in salutation,  
" God save the Queen. "

J. FAINT, IIC.

## COUP D'ETAT

Have you noticed that the accustomed serenity of school life has been rudely shattered? Yes, the Band has been resurrected. This form of music attacks everyone in the School at every possible moment. From the School field are heard the higher harmonics of out-of-tune bugles sounding like bovine grunts and squeaks of pain. Leaving the budding Kenny Bakers, if you happen to be in the vicinity, the eight would-be drummers attack your ear-drums. Nor is this all. Some wretched boys are learning the noble fife. The fruit of their travail sounds like Pan inspiring fear into some rustic's ears on his pipes playing in Schönberg's twelve-tone system. This is the revolution that we have to undergo, and we are living in a free country!

————— C. P. KEELING, VIOL.

### "THE DEAD MARCH"

"It's just too conventional," said the Inspector to his assistant, "we find an eccentric lying dead on his carpet in a pool of blood with half his head blown away, a gun in his hand and a neatly typed suicide note with a signature that might be anyone's. I tell you, the whole thing might have come straight out of a second feature." "Well, he was an eccentric," rejoined his assistant; "I mean, the gramophone record and all that." "Yes, I know," replied the Inspector, "a very macabre touch, which also smacks of the conventional. He plays a record of one of Sousa's marches to drown the sound of the shot. I can just see the headline in the Sunday papers—'Eccentric discophil shoots himself to Sousa.' No, I don't like it at all." "But if he didn't commit suicide, what did happen?" queried his assistant. "I wish I knew," replied the Inspector; "if it was murder, there are only three possible suspects. The maid's got a concrete alibi—she went to the pictures with her boy friend at 7 o'clock, two hours before the shooting, according to the pathologists. Her story can be corroborated by any number of people. No, it's the butler and the chauffeur I'm worried about. So far they've stuck to each other like twin brothers. Each has sworn to every detail of the other's story and they both maintain that they were playing cards in the servants' quarters all evening. Of course, they didn't hear the shot. I don't like the way they keep vouching for each other; it's just too artificial."

Anyone who knew the Inspector could have seen at once that he suspected the two manservants. The dead man was a complete solitary, who had lived in this isolated house for years. Apart from a passion for most kinds of music, proved by the stacks of records in his study, he indulged in no hobbies. A venture during the oil boom in Venezuela had left him, rumour had it, immensely wealthy.

He had recently made a will, and as all his relations were dead, his servants were likely to be the only beneficiaries. If this was not the case, it would have been easy enough for any murderers to take advantage of the old man's secretiveness and find the money before outsider could lay his hands on it. One advantage of the time-lag, owing to the fact that the body was not found until the following morning, would have been to enable the murderers to find this money, and the Inspector felt convinced that the gramophone record drowning the shot provided an ideal excuse for not finding the body earlier. He felt sure that the old man's death was no accident, and, indeed, there was every motive. But where was the proof? Everything, as he had remarked, was so conventional. Apparently, there was no loophole. The fingerprints on the gun were the old man's, the bullet in his skull, according to the ballistics experts, had been fired from the empty chamber of the ex-service '38 he was holding in his right hand. His position on the floor was declared to be authentic by the police doctor, who actually gave a reconstruction of the suicide. Also, there were the alibis.

The Inspector paced up and down the room. He knew the butler and the chauffeur stood or fell together and he did not feel in the mood for another assault on the dead-pan faces and glib phrases that had characterised the men's story. But, determined to try and crack their alibi somehow, he sent for the maid. When she came in, the Inspector asked her when was the last time she had seen her employer alive. "About a quarter to seven, sir," she replied, "I asked him if there was anything he wanted. But, as he was having a 'record evening,' he said he'd get his supper himself." "'A record evening'?" queried the Inspector, "what's that?" "Well, sir, he was very keen on music, you know, and he used to spend some evenings just playing through his records. You can see the pile he was using last night; it's over there, by the gramophone." She indicated a pile of records lying on a little table.

The Inspector walked over to the records and began looking through them. "Humm, Debussy," he said to himself, "mostly quiet stuff; that would explain him using a Sousa record. They've thought of everything." He turned to the maid: "Expensive hobby," he said. "Oh, yes, sir," replied the maid, "that gramophone cost him a hundred pounds, what with all those controls on it. And he knew how to work the lot." The Inspector glanced at the gramophone. It was a magnificent job; three-speed player, volume control, auto-change and auto-stop. "Quite a connoisseur," thought the Inspector. "Those records cost a lot too," continued the maid, "they're all those long playing things." "Long playing!" the words struck the Inspector with the force of a bullet. Rapidly he thumbed through the whole pile of records and confirmed the maid's statement. "They said the room was exactly as they had

found it," cried the Inspector, recalling the two men's statement. Eagerly, he snatched the Sousa march from the turntable and stared at the label. "78 r.p.m.," he read, "just as I thought—normal length." He flung the record down on the armchair and grabbed the pick-up, almost tearing it apart in his haste. It had a reversible stylus, one for long-players and other for normal length records. He looked at the stylus which had just been resting on the Sousa march record. "Just as I suspected," he cried triumphantly, "it's the long-playing stylus, and the Sousa record is a 78." He had found his proof.

————— G. WARNER, VIM.

## NATURAL HISTORY

### *Mustela erminea stabilis*—an appeal

A year ago or so, there was functioning in this School a sect, closely affiliated to the Science Society, of keen naturalists. We numbered about fifteen and met to discuss matters of seasonal importance once every fortnight in the History Room. Everyone had his own pet subject, but although the majority were specialists, each was also a keen general naturalist.

Once or twice the fifteen increased to forty-five when lectures on bird-life, illustrated by means of the epidiascope, were given by one of our members. Such keen interest was shown by those listening that it seems impossible that all the numerous part-time naturalists in the School should not wish to occasionally meet in the same way for informal discussion, or perhaps for organised lectures of different kinds, given by anyone who feels himself qualified to do so.

Pooling of knowledge and experience is known to be effective in all activities, from the discovery of atomic secrets to the hardening of "conkers," and we feel sure that it would be a source of much pleasure and interest to all those interested in any of the many aspects of Natural History, if the same could be accomplished in this field of study. So that it would enable even the most ignorant of us to recognise such a creature as that whose name heads this note—the stoat.

R. D. OWEN, VISC.

### The Severn Wildfowl Trust

The Severn Wildfowl Trust was founded in 1946 by Peter Scott, son of the famous Antarctic explorer, with himself as Director and Viscount Alanbrooke as President. By the end of the summer of 1946, the tame collection of wildfowl had been established, some of which had come from Peter Scott's private collection. Work on a duck decoy then began. This is a ditch covered with wire netting,

which rests upon metal hoops fixed on the banks. The netting gradually slopes down, until it reaches a cage of wire netting. Along each side of the ditch are placed screens of reeds, so that the decoyman can pass unseen. The birds are coaxed along the ditch by a dog into the cage where they are ringed.

In April this year I went on a trip to the New Grounds with the Middle Thames Natural History Society. I expected the birds to be behind wire netting, but this soon proved to be wrong. After paying the entrance fee I opened the big wire gate and stepped into the grounds ; immediately a throng of ducks and geese swarmed around my feet. I was taken completely by surprise and just stood there gaping, until my companion brought me back to my senses. The most surprising thing of all was that the birds bred in specially made boxes at the side of the path and didn't seem to worry at all.

The pools used by the ducks and geese were artificial. Among some of the more distinguished inhabitants were some Hawaiian Geese which Peter Scott saved from extinction, and the Black Swans lent by Sir Winston Churchill to the Trust for breeding purposes. There were many other rare wildfowl in the wire netting enclosures. After seeing them all I went across a field to one of the six observation huts built to permit the study of the flocks of geese that winter there ; however, there was nothing in the field when I looked through the window.

Rocket-propelled nets, another method of catching geese, were recently put into action here. One side of the net is pegged firmly to the ground, and rockets are fired at strategic points along the opposite side. When the geese are close to the pegged side of the net, the rockets are fired, enclosing the geese under the net.

The Trust sent an expedition to the Central Highlands of Iceland in order to study and ring Pink-footed Geese. The party of four, including Peter Scott and James Fisher, spent five weeks at this, the world's largest breeding colony of Pink-footed Geese. During the whole period 1,151 geese and goslings were ringed.

The Trust has a membership of 3,000, and is open to the public. Thousands of visitors go to the New Grounds to see this wonderful collection of wildfowl.

J. N. KEELING, IVX.

### **Matters Ornithological**

The wet weather that has spoiled so many week-end expeditions this summer has been far less welcome to the local bird watcher than the very cold spell in January and February. In that period many birds appeared on local waters that remained only partly frozen, moving inland from the sea or from other large waters in Southern England. The Thames and the largest gravel pit at Marlow attracted such unusual duck as Smew, Goosander, Goldeneye and

Scaup ; not merely odd birds, but in some cases over a dozen. A sweep of the binoculars round the gravel pit would reveal in succession the vivid white of the drake Smew and the rich chestnut heads of the females and juveniles of this species ; the sleek and purposeful Goosander, with its Mallard-green head ; and the rotund little Goldeneye, easily picked out in the midst of the inevitable flock of Tufted Duck. With Sandpiper, Knot and Lesser Redpoll to add variety to the scene, it was altogether the sort of time that makes a search for birds on a hot summer's day appear so futile.

Among the many vagrants seen at Wilstone, the largest of the Tring reservoirs, in past months, two were of particular charm. For a week or two in November one could look over the top of the bank and watch the remarkably confiding Grey Phalarope swimming at the water's edge, no more than a yard away. If sufficiently disturbed, this dainty little bird would flit silently to within thirty feet of the bank and continue feeding, its soft grey plumage giving it an almost moth-like appearance in flight.

An equally tame but even rarer visitor in April and May was a year-old Bewick's Swan. This bird is hardly comparable in size with the common Mute Swan, and might easily be mistaken for a gull at a distance. The Wilstone example floated demurely on the water, its head leaning forward or tucked in the back feathers ; its feeding habits and general appearance had the leisurely air of all swans.

Returning to Marlow, mention must be made of a most striking March visitor from Scandinavia to a piece of thorn-covered waste ground adjoining the gravel pits. This was a Great Grey Shrike, a far more wary bird than those mentioned above. Alternately surveying the scene from some vantage point and flying swiftly between the bushes to the ground, the shrike was a most impressive sight on the topmost twig of a bush or tree, framed against the sky in the glass of the binocular. Particularly noticeable features were its fine, erect carriage and the long black tail. Its smaller relative, the Red-backed Shrike, has long been of interest to members of the School, since there are usually a few pairs nesting in the vicinity. It is, of course, a regular summer visitor.

Messrs. Handscombe, Lewis and Keeling reported a couple of Black Terns on passage at Wilstone on Saturday, May 8th, but on the Monday another observer counted 49 on all five reservoirs, a remarkable number. This is a bird of unforgettable grace, its flight suggesting effortless power while retaining a desultory air. By autumn it is no blacker than any other tern, and appears strikingly white at a distance. The Black Tern is seen at its best, however, on a fine May evening, when there is no more beautiful sight than half a dozen of them circling leisurely over the water.

These are but a few of the more unusual birds seen in this district recently. Let no one think, however, that the writer is merely a "happy wanderer" after these rarities. The commoner inhabitants and regular visitors to these parts can be just as interesting, and are in fact the bread and butter of the amateur ornithologist's diet.

"SLAVONIAN GREBE."

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"HERON" by J. N. Keeling



"KESTREL HOVERING" by J. N. Keeling



BEWICK'S SWAN  
Wilstone 10/4/54



GREAT GREY SHRIKE  
Marlow 27/3/54

## THE SCHOOL ARMS : A NOTE

For more than fifty years the Grammar School has used the familiar device of two shields surmounted by a crown : yet few people know its significance, and no one seems to know its origin or correct form. Three versions can be seen in the Hall alone (and many others elsewhere), all different in detail, but all agreeing in the three essential features : a crown, a shield with a swan, and a shield with a chevron.

The crown presents no difficulties ; it is a Royal crown, a shape familiar from official documents, in gold and silver, containing the red cap of state, and refers to the School's status under the Royal Charter of 1562.

For the original of the shield bearing a swan, we have to look no further than the Borough of Wycombe, whose arms are :

Black : a silver swan standing on a green mound, its wings folded, and a ducal coronet and a chain, both gold, round its neck.

The School has followed this fairly closely, except for occasional variations in colour. Very frequently, however, the swan is shown with its wings outspread, and no mound to stand on. This is a simple confusion with the arms of Buckingham.

As the first shield refers to Wycombe, and the crown to the Royal Charter, we may expect the second shield to refer to Sir Edmund Peckham, the first founder, whose arms were :

Black : a golden chevron between three silver crosses ' bottony fitchy,' that is, the three arms developing into three buds each, something like clover leaves, and the foot pointed.

This shield has suffered more than the other, because no one knew its origin. It is very commonly seen as a light blue shield with a red chevron, and plain crosses, shamrocks or daggers have replaced the ornamental crosses. But there is no doubt that Peckham's arms are intended. There is no one else who had so much to do with the founding the School, and whose arms might be expected to stand here : and in spite of the differences, the resemblance of the common pattern to Peckham's arms is too great to be explained by coincidence.

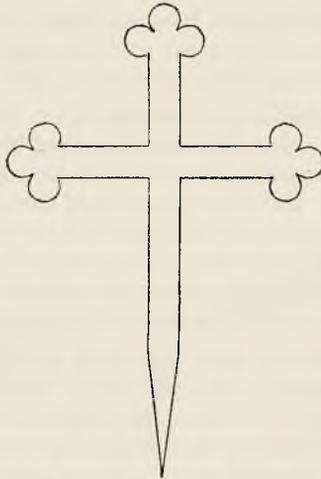
These three features were combined at some time before the beginning of this century, when Mr. G. W. Arnison found the arms in their present state. Unfortunately, there seems to be no record of their adoption, or their detailed design, and we must guess at their date. It has been suggested that they may date from the latter half of the nineteenth century, when schools were beginning to adopt "colours" and "badges." Negative evidence to support this date comes from the old Grammar School building in Easton Street,

where no examples of the arms are found, though we might expect to find them, if they had been in use at the time it was built. Assuming this date to be correct, then, the design belongs to a period that is notorious for its heraldic laxity, and although the inventor had Peckham's arms in mind, he may have changed them through ignorance, or even deliberately. He may perhaps have disliked black, or wished to incorporate the School "colours." Alternatively, his immediate successors may be guilty.

In my opinion, the change are errors, not deliberate, and the School might well have corrected them. That is one problem. The other is the use of deliberately changed versions of the arms by clubs associated with the School. The School may use the arms of Wycombe and Peckham, so long as it treats them with due respect : but that gives no one the right to design and use variations of them, whether by making a difference in the colours, or by mangling them together on one shield. And all these variations break some rule of Heraldry! If we are going to use the devices of Heraldry, and recognised coats of arms, we must abide by the rules of Heraldry, and that means being willing to correct past mistakes. But at any rate let us settle these problems—and settle them soon.

Germany, May, 1954.

B. C. PEATEY (1942-49).



A CROSS BOTTONY FITCHY

## PIRBRIGHT 1954

In a report on the summer camp of 1948 in the *Wycombiensian*, J.M.K., the R.S.M., said that in all activities, the High Wycombe contingent of 46 was handicapped by insufficient numbers and he ended with a hope that the next time the numbers would rise to 80 or even 90. Now at last, six camps later, this has been realised, for no less than 98 cadets attended this year at Pirbright, in Surrey, and, in spite of whatever the cynics may say, I will add that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

It is probably the demonstrations which stand out clearest among other camp memories, and while the usual "Platoon in Attack" and "Platoon in Defence" were not so well enacted as in previous years, the others were well up to standard. The Royal Armoured Corps gave a display on the very afternoon we arrived and another evening was spent in scrambling in and over a selection of tanks, armoured cars and a D.U.K.W. One of the sergeants in charge said it was the quickest way of ruining them he knew, especially when people would insist on "revving up" the engines, traversing the turrets and generally pushing and pulling every lever they could find. Another afternoon, we marched over to a bombing range, where we saw the firing of a 2-in. mortar, a 3-in. rocket launcher and a number of Energa anti-tank rifle grenades. In previous years we have seen the mortar firing smoke and the others firing "dummy," but never before have we seen them firing high explosive. The target for the two anti-tank weapons was a derelict tank, the turret of which had been blown off at some previous date. From our position on the hillside, about 250 yards away, we had a grandstand view and could see the tank reeling under the titanic explosions, especially those of the rockets. The day before we returned home we had a "Farnborough display" to ourselves, with planes from that very station, which was only 5-odd miles away. The R.A.F. people from School would have been in a seventh heaven! Among other incidents, a Comet circled our hill, we were "buzzed" several times by a pair of Meteors and a Canberra, and (from the sublime to the ridiculous!) had a close-up view of a Fiesler Storch, which almost "hung around" our heads. This wierd little machine, which has room for three people and has a stalling speed of 20 m.p.h., was used in North Africa by the Germans both for providing transport for their generals and for reconnaissance purposes—until it was commandeered by some enterprising raiders, since when it has remained at Farnborough. On other days, we saw demonstrations of police dogs and Royal Signals motor cyclists and heard the band of the Royal Horse Guards.

This year, we did not manage to get in so much fieldwork as usual, which was a great pity, but there was certainly no lack of

enthusiasm when we did go out. Perhaps the most outstanding lesson revealed by these manoeuvres was the poor standard of personal camouflage and concealment, the preliminary patrols of the attackers thus being able to map out the defence positions with little difficulty. "Night Operations" was one of the highlights of camp as usual and the idea this time was gunrunning, No. 2 platoon being successful in conveying an ammunition chest through No. 1 platoon's lines. There was no lack of excitement throughout the exercise although the darkness of the night was broken by the Verey lights and the silence by Thunderflashes—and by Cpl. S., who was nearly lifted out of a bush by one!

The band deserves a special mention, because, for the first time, all the bandsmen went to camp. Few people will readily forget marching back to the station on the last day, led by the band, playing, among other tunes, "The Happy Wanderer," which may well be said to have been the theme-song of the camp: indeed, at times it nearly drove one crazy, and when the combined bands of the Guards began to play it, it was just about the last straw.

As to personal comfort, we were in the lap of military luxury. Being in huts, we had sprung (or rather, army semi-sprung) beds with real mattresses, and veterans of camps long past may well wonder what the army of today is coming to on learning that we had hot water to wash in—not merely lukewarm either, but boiling. The mess was excellent too: there was not one meal against which criticism could be levelled, except perhaps the very first we had. There seems to be some form of misguided policy in the army which directs that the first meal is always unappetising, so that the following meals seem even better than they really are by comparison. The fact that we were in huts cut two ways, however, for a higher standard of smartness was expected and was achieved. Each morning everyone spent a busy time after breakfast (or before, as was the custom of the inmates of Hut 11) folding blankets in the approved style, sweeping, dusting shelves, lining up the kits and getting the place in tip-top condition for inspection. Captain Davies had a most difficult job in judging the best hut each day: over the whole week Hut 11 took most honours, the Signals Platoon in Hut 28 coming a close second.

There are a thousand and one other incidents and aspects of camp which would take up pages—the two periods on the .303 ranges, the N.A.A.F.I., the excellent camp cinema, to mention but a few—but over all hangs something which only too often is lacking in the C.C.F. periods on a Thursday afternoon, and that is enthusiasm. The "Oh-heck-when-am-I-going-to-get-out-of-this-horrible-uniform?" expression on people's faces was replaced by a "What-are-we-going-to-do-next?" look, and whatever was afoot, people

were enthusiastic and usually excited into the bargain. J.M.K. called camp "C.C.F. with a difference," and this is the difference. Unfortunately too many people seem to be inclined to think that camp is one long Thursday afternoon and for this reason they never think of going. But at camp it is all practical work : there are no "Thursday-afternoon" type parades, no drill periods and no theory work, and it is at camp alone that a cadet can practice that theory with which he is crammed during the term. Certainly it is an invaluable insight into army life and no cadet ought to feel himself anywhere near proficient until he has attended a camp ; and you do not have to be a regular "Prussian" type to have the time of your life. J.M.K. wanted to see 80 or 90 people at camp, just about double the number who went that year : to ask that now would be a little optimistic, but surely next year we can proudly set down the strength of our contingent in three figures. . . .

A. J. MACTAVISH, VIM.

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### POEM

While hours and minutes slid away,  
The water gliding gently past,  
Methought this earth should end at last,  
While peace and beauty still held sway.  
Forgetting now wherein this day  
Was formed, in time's eternal cast,  
That all the others fled so fast.  
Could he but choose this one to stay ?  
I do not think I ever saw,  
And certain now I never knew,  
How functioned that Almighty Law,  
As did it then in that small view ;  
For then my mind, as if the flask  
Were smitten and the knowledge light,  
Answering all that man could question,  
Streamed into the ignorant night.  
For we are swept aside as stems,  
By rolling waters named Fate,  
And these in turn are forced onward  
By others which can never wait.

R. D. OWEN, Visc.

## TWENTIETH CENTURY OPINION SOCIETY

The Society's activities were necessarily curtailed during the term because of major examinations which were taking place. This term will see the departure of some of our best members. Of these, undoubtedly the most prominent were B. Sinnatt and R. J. Handscombe—the one combining cynical grace with majestic eloquence, the other, sparkling wit with “practical drive.” Other outstanding members were A. J. Gordon, G. Sherlock, B. Lewis and D. Rear.

This year has seen a greater variety in the activities of the Society. As usual the Phoenix debates were successful even if the speakers rarely touched the point of the question. The one held at Halidan House this term was typical, but here the status of modern advertising in society was well discussed. The energetic committee have conjured up some very pleasing innovations. Four old boys spoke from the platform in an internal debate on religion. Mr. P. Gillard was admirably dressed for flogging a dead horse, but Mr. I. J. McCreery parried back with his radio-active kipper. These two debates are only two examples of the inherent vigour possessed by the members of the Society.

Viewing the year as a whole, the Society has advanced by leaps and bounds. It has spread its influence by inviting old boys to take part in its debates. The subjects for debate have been extended, ranging from materialism to the duties of religion and from the English gentleman to “Christmas alcohol and mistletoe.” The Society, therefore, provides a basis for broadening the mind and drawing us out of the trammels of modern over-specialisation.

The increased activity of the Society has not lowered the standard of debate. The higher qualities of speaking were notably shown in the Abbey School debate. It has been a successful year for the Society, which gives us confidence to gain future triumphs.

W. A. BOOTH.

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## DRAMATIC SOCIETY

For some years now the Dramatic Society has been striving to build up a tradition in straight drama equal to that of the Operatic Society in their Gilbert and Sullivan operas. It seems at last that our ambition is to be realised.

At the end of the Spring Term, 1954, the Society staged Agatha Christie's thriller “Black Coffee” with great success, due chiefly to the efforts of our producer, Mr. R. Howard, and also the outstanding performance of Antony Gordon in the role of H. Poirot (not “Poirot,” as the programme informed everyone!) Other leading

parts were very well played by Ralph Mann as Sir Claude, John Colver as Richard, Michael Dickens as Aunt Caroline, Michael Vaughan-Rees as Lucia, and Radu Hellman as the sinister Doctor Carelli. Our net profit for the three performances equalled that of last year's opera—well over £100.

We hope that this will be an incentive to the up and coming generation to achieve an even greater success next year and to establish the Dramatic Society as one of the leading societies in the School and not just an organisation which carries out the many items necessary to producing a school play once a year.

J. C. COLVER.

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### THE JAZZ CLUB

This past term has seen the inception of a society devoted to the appreciation of all kinds of jazz. After an almost wildly enthusiastic first general meeting, there has not been a great deal of activity. Only one record recital has been held so far, that dealing with both traditional and modern jazz in Britain.

Next term we hope to give a number of record recitals ranging from the Quintet of the Hot Club of France to Gerry Mulligan. We are at the moment in the process of forming a band and we believe that great progress will be made in this direction during the coming term.

While these programmes will not be presented with either the condescending humour or the pseudo-intellectualism that much jazz has to put up with, we shall try and treat them with the seriousness that befits a great music.

J. A. J. GOODCHILD.

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### HISTORY SOCIETY

What with exams, and trial exams., the Society's activities have been somewhat curtailed during the past two terms and only three events took place. However, to make up for this sad fact, all three events were on a larger scale than usual and were extremely well supported. At the very end of the Easter Term, we held a "What's my line?" quiz, and the spectators flooded the Geography Room to such an extent that we had to abandon it for the Hall. There, with Mr. Ashford acting as chairman, the panel, consisting of B. Sinnatt, W. A. Booth, I. C. Birch and B. Devlin, rapidly demolished a list of challengers ranging from Alcibiades and the man who built the Great Wall of China to Jack the Ripper and Gambetta. A feature of the panel's tearaway victory was the brilliant, though

scientific guessing of I. C. Birch. One of the challengers' successes was Mr. Lloyd as Samuel Pepys, but he was, unfortunately, only one among few.

On Friday, May 14th, the Society was given a lecture by Professor David Thomson, from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, on the subject "How France is haunted by her history." The meeting was very well supported and it was gratifying to see so many scientists and modern language people there, listening to what most people would have tended to call a subject completely outside their interest. In fact, it was otherwise. Professor Thomson's lecture was lively and very interesting and it provided food for thought for all those in any way interested in France and French civilisation.

After the long break due to the exams., the Society finished its programme with an expedition to St. Albans in conjunction with the Classical Society. The visit took place on Friday, July 9th, and was ambitious enough to warrant the use of two coaches. The party saw the museum, the theatre, the hypocaust and the Roman wall, and were then taken on an extremely interesting conducted tour of St. Alban's Cathedral. Altogether, it was one of the most successful excursions the Society has taken part in for some years. In connection with the visit, the Society must express its gratitude to Mr. Haworth, who first thought of the visit and who did a great deal of work in arranging it and in obtaining the services of the guide at the Cathedral.

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G. WARNER.

### "COMING DOWN"

The School hears much from its Old Boys who are "going up" to universities or who are already there, and those who one day hope to go themselves can gain some information that may be of use. Rarely, however, is much heard of the end of a university career. In reality "coming down" is more important. Up till this time there has always been a reasonably far away point beyond which there is no immediate need to look. At School there is the day one leaves, in the Forces, "demob.", and at the university, "finals." When the exams are over there follow a few rather unreal days that pass too quickly, strangely dissatisfying because all those things which were to be done never are. Now there is no convenient limit in the days ahead to serve as a milestone—the only prospect to the disillusioned ex-student is work and eventual retirement. Both rather too unpleasant to contemplate just yet.

Being "down" brings varying degrees of despondency—some even rejoice. But generally the word covers more than a mere change in geographical location. The "high intellectual plane" upon which many an eminent writer assures the ex-undergraduate

he has been living—little do they know!—will now have to get along as best it can without his stimulating presence.

Life suddenly becomes much more sordid. It is obvious that money will soon present much more complex difficulties than paying end of term accounts, though anyone who has had anything to do with college bursars will know that this is no laughing matter. No longer is there a benevolent authority which bountifully bestows cheques thrice yearly. Alternatively Father says that he can no longer support his son in the luxurious manner to which he has been accustomed.

Such is my predicament. Luckily I do have a job, although the industrial North is not altogether a pleasant prospect despite the "bribe" I shall receive yearly to stay there. It suddenly occurs to me that I am a "has-been"—though doubtless many who know me would have written me off long ago. I *have* been to the R.G.S., I *have* been at Worcester College, Oxford, but from now on I shall be plain "Mr. Citizen." No more leisured afternoons in which the choice is which game to play, or none, whether to sleep, go to the cinema, or call on someone else to prevent both doing any work (academic)—but keeping the thought of it just near enough in the mind's eye to make not doing any really enjoyable.

Soon there will be Income Tax to pay—frightful thought—while even now problems connected with code numbers, the changing of my doctor and the almost impenetrable mysteries of National Health Insurance have to be wrestled with. I have to explain away my class of degree—excusing myself both to the world in general which thinks it ought to be higher—and to my tutors who feel the standards of—may I say it?—our noblest university are slipping by giving me a degree at all.

Finally, I have to explain what I am going to do now—and why—as if I could tell! All this merely because I have "come down." No wonder so many postpone the dread day and stay on to do Diplomas in Education, Postgraduate Research or Degrees in Sociology—though they have no desire to teach, lead a permanently academic life or love people (in the abstract).

A far more valiant heart than mine might be deterred. One thing I do seem to have gained, however, besides a lot of friends I shall probably never see again and a few team photographs: I feel that everything—even "coming down"—has been worth it. The question as to why one ever bothered to "go up" does occur to mind, but only to be dismissed immediately. Funnily enough, I do feel readier to face this apparently hostile and baffling world—much more than the passage of a mere three years might indicate. This is the most important and perhaps the sole consolation in "coming down," but it does by far outweigh

"The thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to," which the very fresh ex-undergraduate has to face.

## UPLYME HOUSE

This year the House has come under military discipline in a big way. The three new prefects, Mitchell, Humphries and North, are keen N.C.Os. in the Army Section of the Combined Cadet Force; their administration and particularly their morning shoe parades are worthy of the Brigade of Guards.

The Summer Term has run its usual quiet course and the younger boys have shown a very pleasing interest in cricket and tennis. We would like to congratulate Gregory, White and Youens on playing so well for School cricket teams. The solid core of cricket interest among the Middles and Juniors has resulted in our gaining decisive victories over School House. Dawes, our only newcomer this year, has shown excellent form in athletics and has represented the School.

The boys were asked this term to take an interest in Terriers Church choir, and their response was admirable. They look too good to be true in the choir stalls, but their efforts are very much appreciated at the Church.

The dark shadow of G.C.E. has hung over many of the boys during the last month, and we wish them "happy postcards" in August.

Old "Uplyme" boys may be interested to know that Richard Howard Jones sends them his best wishes from Hong Kong. He is a wireless operator for a big shipping line, and has been all over the world since leaving us. "Froggy" Waters has just finished his National Service in Germany and goes up to Cambridge next term. "Nobby" Hall has done some very successful rowing in his college boat at Oxford, but he is still concentrating his thoughts on a Rugby Football Blue. A. Harcourt has completed a degree in Science at London University, and Peter Reader finishes his training at Sandhurst in the near future. We expect to see him resplendent in his "blues" soon after passing out. Reg. Robey is back in "civvy street" after Army service in Tripoli and is playing cricket this season for Wycombe 1st XI.

M.M.D.

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## TYLERS WOOD

The Summer Term has been overshadowed, as usual, by exams.—both the public exams. and the ordinary School exams. It has been pleasing to see the way people have "put the nose to the grindstone" and kept it there during the term. We take this opportunity of wishing the best of luck to all those anxiously awaiting that fateful postcard from Mr. P. L. Jones.

After the exams. we managed to fit in a couple of matches against School House. The seniors were well beaten at tennis, but the match was very enjoyable just the same. The juniors avenged our defeat by soundly beating School House at cricket.

This term, of course, we lost B. Sinnatt, and in doing so lost a first-class head prefect and stout supporter of the House. We hope that he will come back and visit us when he has time, as some of our old friends have done this term. We were very pleased to see Peter Elliot, Iain Johnston, still as likeable as ever, and Chris Edwards, looking very stern now, with a thick black growth on his upper lip. We also saw David Phillips, who has just taken his finals in a law course at London, and plans to take a course in the history of art as a form of relaxation.

This term being the end of the School year, we are to lose many of our older friends, and as they leave we wish them the very best of luck and express the hope that they will often return to see us.

A. J. GORDON.

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## SCHOOL HOUSE

As another School year comes to a close many of us will be saying goodbye after many years of enjoyable boarding-house life—times that have had their ups and downs but which no one can really look back upon with regret. We were sorry to lose at the end of the Spring Term our head prefect, Tim Abdallah, who went to work "in the city" with his father, before going into the Army. "Hank" Knight took over office.

The emphasis this term has been on work for the G.C.E. examinations, both the all-important and decisive "Higher" and the Ordinary level. However, we have had some time for sport. R. F. Sainsbury has played well for the 1st XI, and J. Smithers has also played on a few occasions. A. J. C. Wright gained his 2nd XI colours, and Peter Draper scored for the 1st XI for yet another season. We had the great satisfaction of beating Tylers Wood at both tennis and cricket.

The usual message goes out to those left behind. Keep up the old tradition and House spirit—make sure School House stays on top. The best of luck for the rest of your school careers.

J. C. COLVER.

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## FRASER HOUSE

The achievements of the House since the last report have been neither outstanding nor degrading. Although beaten 4—0 by Arnison in the first round of the hockey tournament, we offer our

congratulations to the team for a courageous display ; in particular to M. F. Caffoor, not only for his hard work in organising the team but on being elected captain of the School 1st XI.

In the boxing we were narrowly beaten into second place in a tense and exciting struggle ; thanks are due to all those who enter for this gruelling and frequently bloody sport. Perhaps more Juniors will take part next year.

Fraser would appear to have a "star-studded" future in athletics. Among younger athletes special mention may be made of J. C. Currell, H. W. Clark, D. A. Scott-Kiddie, T. R. Bunday and D. W. Hollomon, who did very well to win the "intermediate" championship. With a few more senior men of quality we might well have carried off the honours on Sports Day.

Although beaten in the first round of the cricket competition, we can look forward to future success as there is a wealth of talent lower down the School. Thanks largely to our talented musical director, D. S. Hearn, we gained a notable success in retaining the coveted Music Shield. Special praise is due to T. B. Baldwin, winner of the composition competition, and to T. J. Hemuss and W. F. Hodge for splendid solo efforts.

Still more all-round effort is needed in the House. Let us all take off our jackets in the coming year and with a concentrated effort win all the inter-house laurels.

M. J. GARRATT.

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## ARNISON HOUSE

Arnison just failed to beat Disraeli and thereby tie with them and Youens in the rugby championship. A strong and fierce struggle ended in an 8-8 draw, but this determination declined during the rest of the year and we have few achievements worthy of record.

Our hockey team was composed of keen players and gamesmen, with the latter predominating. In the first round we lost to the winners, Disraeli, in a determined struggle. In spite of the fact that we had seven finalists, we finished last in the boxing ; Hawkins must be congratulated on winning the Senior Boxing Cup.

The House made a great effort in the Sports, but our chances were reduced by lack of junior entries. That we finished third was due largely to the efforts of K. C. Jones and Craft on the track and Nash in the field events. R. A. Mann tried very hard with our choir for the Music competition, but there was too little real talent to back up the hard work that was willingly undertaken.

In the cricket our hopes were once again dashed, although we

began with an easy win by seven wickets over Fraser. Our opponents in the final, Disraeli, must be congratulated on their play ; in particular Ashby, Olsen and Pilgrim won our admiration for their fine, determined and sensible batting.

Many thanks are due to Mr. Eldridge and Mr. Leggett for their help in the year. Good wishes to all those who " follow on " in the House and who, I am sure, will all pull their weight.

J. W. PURSEY.

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## DISRAELI HOUSE

Our House has had one of its most successful years, winning four of the seven House competitions open for contest, namely Rugby, Cricket, Hockey and Boxing. But for the unfortunate early closure of the Sports through the uncertain weather we might well have been in the running for the Athletics Championship.

The final rugby match versus Arnison was a ding-dong struggle throughout which will be long remembered by all who took part, and the resultant draw was sufficient to give Disraeli the championship for the first time since Ted Woodward's day.

Thanks to an excellent defence, our hockey team were the victors after two close games against Arnison in the first round and Youens in the final.

In the Music competition, Hobson once again worked extremely hard in organising the House entries and his patience was rewarded by the success of our choir. Although the soloists performed creditably, weaknesses in dictation and composition lost us many valuable points.

In the Athletic Sports our Juniors excelled themselves and our points total might have been better had the full programme been completed.

Disraeli repeated their performance of previous years by winning the Boxing tournament. With Hares outstanding, the all-round excellence of the House team in the preliminaries and finals paved the way to our success.

A special mention must be made of the grand team spirit shown in the cricket matches. In the first match against Youens a timely stand by Harvey and Austin stopped the rot when prospects were not bright. This stand enabled us to set Youens a respectable total, which they failed to reach.

Arnison, in the final match, set us quite a formidable total, and at the half-way stage in our innings things looked black until Pilgrim and Olsen came together, when the position changed. Their bright knock inspired Ashby who, following Pilgrim in, proceeded with Olsen to knock off the required runs in no uncertain manner.

Well done, Disraeli ! Here's to another successful year.

B. K. JOHNSON.

## YOUENS HOUSE

We have now come to the end of another School year and the end of the many inter-house competitions. Since the last issue of the *Wycombiensian* we have finished the Rugby, Athletics, Cross-country, Cricket and many other events.

This year we seem to have had a bogey house in Disraeli. They beat us into second place in Rugby and also Hockey. In the Music competition, they gained just a few more points than us to push us down to third place, despite the fact that we had top marks in the solo section of the competition. At Cricket—not one of our strong games this year—they knocked us out in the first round.

However, we have had our successes—two, to be precise. We won the Senior Cross-country championship, having seven of the first thirteen men home. Our captain, A. D. Barrett, ran a fine race to finish first.

It was with special pleasure that we collected the House Athletic Challenge Cup this year. In 1953, we narrowly lost it—the final race, the senior relay, decided the issue. We take this opportunity of congratulating all those athletes who gave of their best on Sports Day.

As usual, at the end of the Summer Term, we are losing many of our seniors, and in them we lose some of our staunchest supporters. We wish them all the best in their careers and express the hope that boys entering Youens at the bottom of the School will be as good as those leaving from the top.

A. J. GORDON.

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### CRICKET CLUB 1954

*Captain* : J. W. Pursey

*Vice-Captain* : F. E. J. Hawkins

The English weather has always been a topic of conversation among cricketers, but this season it has been the main theme in every pavilion throughout the land. This has naturally influenced the individual results as the wickets have been slow and the outfield even slower; twenty runs this season in a game would have been forty in any other year.

In spite of all the natural hazards the School XI has been the best for many years. A well-balanced side containing six useful bowlers of all types, and a batting side that could be relied upon from No. 1 to No. 11, had gone through the season without a defeat until it under-estimated the strength of a combined Staff and Parents XI, all of whom were experienced and wily cricketers even if a few

bald heads were seen. Of the 6 drawn games, 3 ended with 9 of the opposing side's wickets gone and still many runs to go.

The final strength of the side depends upon its captain, and in J. W. Pursey the School had a leader who showed that "vital spark" so often lacking in captains. He handled the side with a vigour and intelligence which always kept them on top. This excellent work of his throughout the season on the field was well supported by his administrative work off the field. The "chores" of a captain are many and varied and if well done do much to help the smooth running of the club. Throughout the season he was well backed up by his vice-captain—F. E. J. Hawkins—who never found his 1953 form with the bat but kept wicket as well as ever.

Each year this report has stressed the importance of fielding, and this year, for the first time since the war, the School XI had a first-class fielding side. The record of 18 run-outs, 47 catches and 21 stumpings speaks for itself; but dull statistics can never take the place of the sight of a really good piece of fielding. The opponents, more than once, were shocked to find themselves run out on the third or fourth run when the ball came in from the boundary like a rocket to the top of the stumps.

Individually all the XI deserve comment. Harvey and Garratt settled down to become a good opening pair—Garratt was always ready to hit the first ball he received for four and Harvey batted throughout the season with an elegance and competence that has not been seen on the School field for many years; his fielding near the wicket was excellent. R. C. Jones, a regular No. 3, was always after runs and this, combined with his amazing fielding, has made him one of the outstanding players of the season. His running between the wickets occasionally appeared suicidal, but only once was he dismissed in this way. The vice-captain came in at No. 4, but, except for his match-winning innings at Newbury, did not show his real form. Sainsbury, at No. 5, often proved a sheet-anchor to the XI and his fielding in the slips was always a pleasure to watch. Squires, the only left-hander, batted at No. 6, and when once settled in he batted well. His bowling was always hostile, and next season he should become a menace with the new ball. The most improved batsman of the year was R. C. Ashby. This was no doubt due to the fact that his back injury, which prevented him from bowling a great deal, gave him the energy to get runs. His accurate attack was greatly missed, but he has profited by the batting experience. Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 11 often were not wanted, but on those occasions that they were needed they gave a good account of themselves. Pilgrim could always be relied upon for double figures, and if he failed to make a catch it was not for want of trying. Olsen bowled well and was an able deputy for Ashby. Nos. 10 and 11 were the two spinners. Saddler, bowling his left-hand tweakers, had

a varied season ranging from two hat-tricks to 0—17. All left-handed slow bowlers have to put up with a certain amount of leg-pulling from other members of the XI, but the final figures tell their own story. The Captain, who nobly put himself in at No. 11, once featured in a last wicket stand of 36 at Amersham. However, his bowling was more important to the side than his batting and he served the School well in this capacity.

Altogether a very enjoyable, satisfying and entertaining season with the quality of the cricket more than making up for the bad weather.

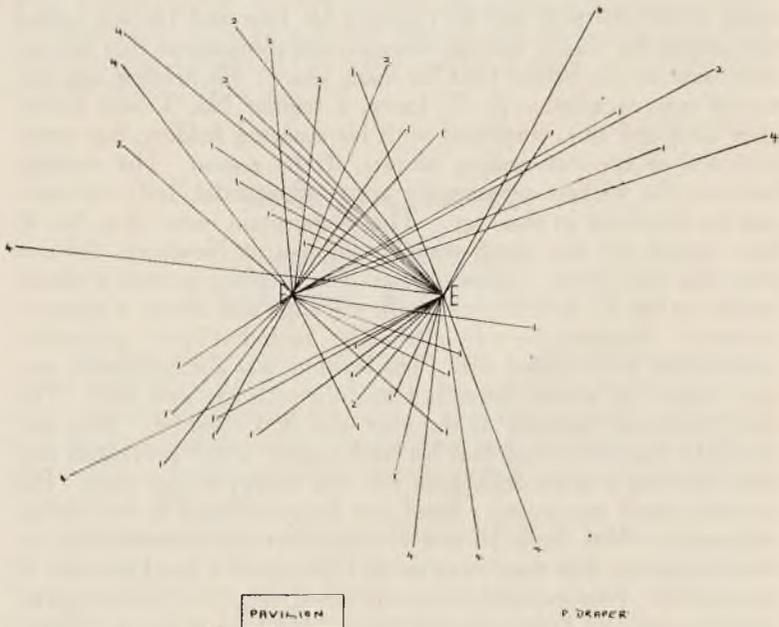
J. W. Pursey has been made vice-captain of the County Colts XI.

A. Harvey was given a full County Trial on Sunday, July 11th, at Slough.

Our thanks as usual to the Canteen Staff for their help with the teas, to Mr. Beeson for his excellent wickets, to Mr. Hills and Mr. Howard for their important help as umpires, and to P. Draper for his usual competent work as scorer and scribe.

1st XI Colours were awarded to R. C. Jones, E. M. Squires, T. C. Olsen, A. J. Saddler, R. G. Pilgrim and M. J. Garratt.

H.W.J.



A. HARVEY, 75 runs, v St. Benedict's, Ealing. Batting time : 1 hr. 59 mins.

## FINAL FIRST XI AVERAGES

### Batting (qualification 100 runs)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Innings</i>	<i>Times Not Out</i>	<i>Highest Score</i>	<i>Average</i>
1. A. Harvey ... ..	446	20	2	75	24.7
2. R. Sainsbury ... ..	256	17	3	46*	18.2
3. R. C. Jones ... ..	304	20	1	39	16.0
4. E. M. Squires ... ..	162	18	5	35	12.4
5. F. Hawkins ... ..	192	19	2	28*	11.3
6. M. Garratt ... ..	110	10	0	27	11.0

\*—not out.

### Bowling

<i>Name</i>	<i>Overs</i>	<i>Maidens</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Average</i>
1. E. M. Squires ... ..	117.3	35	239	32	7.4
2. T. C. Olsen ... ..	128.4	43	267	31	8.6
3. J. W. Pursey ... ..	163.3	45	426	48	8.8
4. A. Saddler ... ..	86.1	21	218	24	9.0
5. R. C. Ashby ... ..	61	22	135	11	12.2
6. R. C. Jones ... ..	40.1	11	104	8	13.0

**Stumpings :** F. Hawkins 21.

**Catches :** A. Harvey 7, R. Sainsbury, J. Pursey, T. Olsen 6 ; R. Jones, E. Squires, R. Pilgrim, R. Ashby 4 ; F. Hawkins 3.

**Scorer :** P. Draper.

## FIRST XI RESULTS

- May 1—*v* Slough Grammar School, at home. Match drawn.  
R.G.S. 94 for 8 wkts. dec. (R. F. Sainsbury 46 not out).  
Slough 69 for 4 wkts.
- .. 8—*v* High Wycombe C.C. "A" XI, at home. R.G.S. won by 3 runs.  
R.G.S. 96 all out (Jones, R. 39, Smithers 21).  
Wycombe "A" 93 all out (J. W. Pursey 4 wkts. for 39 runs).
- .. 12—*v* Amersham Grammar School, away. R.G.S. won by 81 runs.  
R.G.S. 123 for 9 wkts. dec. (R. F. Sainsbury 42 not out, J. W. Pursey 22 not out).  
Amersham 42 all out (J. W. Pursey 4 wkts. for 16 runs).
- .. 14—*v* A Royal Navy XI, home. R.G.S. won by 79 runs.  
R.G.S. 126 for 5 wkts. dec. (A. Harvey 46, R. F. Sainsbury 39).  
Royal Navy XI 47 all out (Saddler, A. 6 wkts. for 4 runs).
- .. 15—*v* Abingdon School, away. Match drawn.  
R.G.S. 106 for 9 wkts. dec. (A. Harvey 36).  
Abingdon 71 for 8 wkts. (J. W. Pursey 4 wkts. for 29 runs).
- .. 19—*v* R.A.F., High Wycombe, at home. R.G.S. won by 13 runs.  
R.G.S. 147 for 7 wkts. dec. (H. Johnson, Esq. 44, Jones, R. 34, F. Hawkins 27).  
R.A.F. 134 all out (Saddler, A. 4 wkts for 28 runs).

- May 22—*v* Slough Grammar School, at home. R.G.S. won by 36 runs.  
 R.G.S. 111 all out (Squires, E. 35).  
 Slough 75 all out (Squires, E. 3 wks. for 16 runs, J. W. Pursey 3 wks.  
 for 16 runs).
- .. 26—*v* Windsor County Boys' School, at home. R.G.S. won by 7 wks.  
 Windsor 70 all out (Squires, E. 7 wks for 21 runs).  
 R.G.S. 71 for 3 wks. (A. Harvey 26, Jones, R. 24).
- June 9—*v* Sir William Borlase' School, Marlow, at home. Match abandoned.  
 R.G.S. 48 for 5 wks. Rain stopped play.
- .. 19—*v* Watford Grammar School, away. Match drawn.  
 R.G.S. 91 all out (R. C. Ashby 27) (Johnson 9 wks. for 42).  
 Watford 84 for 9 wks. (Squires, E. 3 wks. for 11 runs, J. W. Pursey  
 4 wks. for 24 runs).
- .. 26—*v* St. Benedict's School, Ealing, away. Match drawn.  
 R.G.S. 160 for 6 wks. dec. (A. Harvey 75).  
 St. Benedict's 102 for 7 wks. (Olsen, T. 3 wks. for 28 runs).
- .. 30—*v* Culham College, away. R.G.S. won by 28 runs.  
 R.G.S. 120 for 5 wks. dec. (A. Harvey 50 not out, H. Johnson, Esq. 36).  
 Culham 92 all out (Squires, E. 4 wks for 10 runs).
- July 3—*v* St. Bartholomew's Grammar School, Newbury, away. R.G.S. won  
 by 6 wks.  
 Newbury 71 for 8 wks. dec. (J. W. Pursey 4 wks. for 20 runs).  
 R.G.S. 72 for 4 wks. (F. E. J. Hawkins 28 not out).
- .. 6—*v* Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, away. R.G.S. won by 9 wks.  
 J.S.S.C. 42 all out (T. C. Olsen 5 wks. for 12 runs, J. W. Pursey 3 wks.  
 for 4 runs).  
 R.G.S. 45 for 1 wkt. (R. C. Jones 26 not out).
- .. 7—*v* Leighton Park School, Reading, at home. Match drawn.  
 R.G.S. 128 for 7 wks. dec. (A. Harvey 41, R. C. Jones 30, F. E. J.  
 Hawkins 22).  
 Leighton Park 100 for 9 wks. (T. C. Olsen 3 wks for 23 runs).
- .. 10—*v* Harrow County Boys' School, away. R.G.S. won by 67 runs.  
 R.G.S. 103 all out (R. F. Sainsbury 36).  
 Harrow 36 all out (Squires, E. 4 wks. for 11 runs).
- .. 13—*v* Dunstable Grammar School, at home. Match drawn.  
 R.G.S. 134 for 7 wks. dec. (A. Harvey 29, R. F. Sainsbury 24, E. M.  
 Squires 20).  
 Dunstable 90 for 9.
- .. 14—*v* Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, at home. R.G.S. won by 51 runs.  
 R.G.S. 159 for 6 dec. (Garratt, M. 27, R. C. Jones 30, R. F. Sainsbury 22,  
 E. Squires 32).  
 J.S.S.C. 108 all out.
- .. 20—*v* Mr. Johnson's XI, at home. R.G.S. lost by 92 runs.  
 Mr. Johnson's XI 169 (E. M. Squires 4 wks. for 33 runs).  
 R.G.S. 77 (R. C. Jones 21).

July 21—v Bucks Colts Trial XI, at home. R.G.S. won by 6 wkts.  
Bucks Colts 80 all out (T. C. Olsen 3 wkts. for 7 runs).  
R.G.S. 84 for 4 wkts. (A. Harvey 31).

Games played 20, won 12, lost 1, drawn 6, abandoned 1.  
Runs for 2,093, Wickets 136, Average runs per wkt. 15.4.  
Runs against 1,563, Wickets 154, Average runs per wkt. 10.1.

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## SECOND XI REPORT 1954

Before the cricket season began, when the weather was fine, thoughts turned to that mythical being, the 2nd XI on paper. And a sorry object it appeared, for only three of the previous season's team remained, and the 1st XI seemed likely to claim at least one of these; of other talent, apart from certain ex-Colts, there appeared none.

Yet a most successful 2nd XI has appeared, as four victories, five draws and one loss bear witness. If asked to point out the strength of this team, the best reply would seem to be that it has no weaknesses. On only two occasions have batsmen low in the order been asked to make large scores, and once they replied most nobly. Though there are six bowlers in the side, three have carried the team to victory. In other words, we have more of what we lacked last year, consistency.

Wright has been a very steady opener, well supported latterly by Edwards. Stevens has been an outstanding discovery, always looking likely to score plenty of runs, while Garratt gave an air of confidence to proceedings until removed to a higher sphere. Smithers has not had a lucky season, though potentially a fine bat. Bristow has hit sixes and fours, while the Bond firm saved the team at Dunstable.

The brunt of the bowling has fallen on Bond, R., and Stevens. Bond has always been accurate, while Stevens has a fine, open action but is inclined to be inaccurate. Bristow, another opening bowler, seemed to have lost his last season's great accuracy, but even so bowled well. Griffiths and Wright have provided the slower stuff, and well, too, while Vickers improved each game.

But what has been especially pleasing is the fielding and the catching. The keenness of the captain, Griffiths, has kept his team alert in the field, and he has proved a most conscientious and capable captain. Bond (T.) has taken several excellent catches, while Dawe, if not perhaps as brilliant as he would have us think, has been a competent wicket-keeper.

However, the critic would not justify his position if he ended with praise, so a final grumble—the weather. Had it not interfered

the team might well have recorded more successes, and perhaps even avoided that humiliating defeat.

The team for the photograph were : Griffiths, Bristow, Wright, Stevens, Smithers, Bond (R.), Dawe, Bond (T.), Edwards, Caffoor, Vickers, and Freeth, who once again scored most neatly and competently. Colours were awarded to Wright, Stevens, Dawe, Smithers, Bond (R.), Bond (T.) and Edwards (J. P. J.).

J.G.L.

### FINAL SECOND XI AVERAGES

#### Batting (qualification 4 innings)

Name	Runs	Innings	Times Not Out	Highest Score	Average
1. Stevens ... ..	147	7	2	48*	28.4
2. Wright ... ..	177	11	4	59*	25.3
3. Bristow ... ..	59	7	4	18*	19.6
4. Smithers ... ..	38	4	2	23*	19.0
5. Garratt ... ..	51	6	0	23	10.2
6. Edwards ... ..	80	8	0	40	10.0

\*—not out.

#### Bowling

Name	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
1. Bristow ... ..	62.2	24	95	17	5.6
2. Stevens ... ..	51.0	15	98	9	10.9
3. Vickers ... ..	15.0	4	45	4	11.2
4. Griffiths ... ..	28.0	5	94	7	13.4
5. Wright ... ..	17.0	3	66	4	16.0

**Stumpings :** Dawe 1.

**Catches :** Wright, 4 ; Vickers, Griffiths, Bond (T.), 3 ; Smithers, Edwards, 2.

### SECOND XI RESULTS

May 8—*v* Amersham Grammar School, away. R.G.S. won by 34 runs.

R.G.S. 67 all out.

Amersham 33 all out (Bristow 3 wkts. for 4, Deitchman 4 for 10).

.. 15—*v* Abingdon, at home. Match drawn.

R.G.S. 93 for 5 dec. (Deitchman 41, Wright 26 not out).

Abingdon 51 for 2.

.. 22—*v* Slough Grammar School, away. R.G.S. won by 4 wkts.

Slough 28 all out (Bristow 4 for 10. Bond, R. 3 for 7, Stevens 3 for 8).

R.G.S. 32 for 6.

.. 26—*v* Windsor C.S., at home. Match drawn.

R.G.S. 116 for 6 dec. (Stevens 48 not out, Garratt 23).

Windsor 70 for 5.

June 8—*v* Sir William Borlase School, Marlow, away. Match abandoned.

R.G.S. 86 for 2 dec. (Stevens 42, Wright 30 not out).

Marlow 8 for 0.

- June 19—*v* Watford Grammar School, at home. R.G.S. lost by 9 wkts.  
R.G.S. 41 all out (Garratt 22).  
Watford 42 for 1.
- .. 26—*v* St. Benedict's School, Ealing, at home. R.G.S. won by 17 runs.  
R.G.S. 92 all out.  
St. Benedict's 75 all out (Bond, R. 5 for 21).
- July 3—*v* Newbury Grammar School, at home. Match abandoned.  
R.G.S. 34 for 3.
- .. 7—*v* Leighton Park School, Reading, away. R.G.S. won by 24 runs.  
R.G.S. 139 for 2 dec. (Wright 59 not out, Edwards 40).  
Leighton Park 115 all out.
- .. 10—*v* Beaumont College, Windsor, at home. Match drawn.  
Beaumont 121 for 7 dec.  
R.G.S. 51 for 2 (Stevens 22 not out).
- .. 14—*v* Dunstable Grammar School, away. Match drawn.  
R.G.S. 126 for 8 dec. (Bond, T. 51 not out, Bond, R. 23 not out).  
Dunstable 99 for 9 (Griffiths 3 for 16).

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## COLTS CRICKET REPORT 1954

Matches played 8, won 7, lost 1

The Colts XI this season was ably captained by J. Briden, who led his team to win all but one match.

The bowling of the team has been, with the exception of Briden, rather lacking in finesse. The analysis does not indicate this, but bowling has been generally short of a length.

Austin has relied on speed and intimidation rather than accuracy. With practice he should become a useful bowler, but the short ball will be dealt with summarily by older and more experienced batsmen.

The batting was usually quite good, but the main criticisms are that not one boy used his feet to play the slow bowler. Often boys seem unable to distinguish between a defensive and an attacking stroke. An offensive shot is immediately classified as a "slog," and an agricultural shot results.

However, Austin, Edwards, Briden and Sullivan managed to score many useful runs during the season.

The Colts have played well as a team and with plenty of spirit. The fielding has been good and Austin kept wicket very well, and so did Edwards when halfway through the season he relieved Austin behind the stumps to enable the latter to bowl.

Sincere thanks are extended to masters who travelled with the boys and umpired the matches.

D.T.N.

## COLTS XI RESULTS

- May 8—v Amersham Grammar School, away. R.G.S. won by 8 wkts.  
Amersham 21 (Briden 4 for 2).  
R.G.S. 22 for 2 wkts.
- .. 15—v Abingdon School, away. R.G.S. won by 106 runs.  
R.G.S. 125 for 3 wkts. dec. (Austin 64 not out, Edwards 42).  
Abingdon 19 (Briden 6 for 5).
- .. 22—v Slough Grammar School, home. R.G.S. won by 63 runs.  
R.G.S. 115 (Austin 31, Hares 26).  
Slough 42 (Briden 5 for 13).
- June 19—v Watford Grammar School, home. R.G.S. won by 21 runs.  
R.G.S. 42.  
Watford 22 (Pettifer 4 for 7).
- .. 26—v Amersham Grammar School, home. R.G.S. won by 10 runs.  
R.G.S. 47 (Edwards 26).  
Amersham 37 (Briden 5 for 16).
- July 3—v Newbury Grammar School, away. R.G.S. won by 7 wkts.  
Newbury 80 for 6 wkts. dec.  
R.G.S. 83 for 3 wkts. (Edwards 60 not out).
- .. 7—v Leighton Park School, home. R.G.S. won by 8 wkts.  
Leighton Park 27 (Reeves 5 for 9).  
R.G.S. 28 for 2 wkts.
- .. 10—v Beaumont College, away. R.G.S. lost by 8 wkts.  
R.G.S. 34.  
Beaumont College 35 for 2 wkts.
- The matches at Reading School, 29th May, and at Royal Masonic School, 12th June, were cancelled due to rain.

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## JUNIOR COLTS CRICKET REPORT 1954

Owing to rain it was possible to play only four of the ten fixtures. In these circumstances it is very difficult to offer comment or criticism. In addition the vile weather throughout the term often made net practice by no means pleasant. There was, then, little to be observed of that development for which one usually hopes. It is, after all, only match practice which can build a team and give to the players confidence to make full use of their ability. The matches that were played, of which two were won and two lost, served only to emphasise the lack of opportunities. In the last match, when Dunstable were beaten, one really had the impression of an eleven scratching about in the first game of the year, out of touch and frightened to make strokes. In a normal year one felt that Gregory and Cunnold might well have made a lot of runs, while Jones, Miller, Breslin and Bone looked a quite impressive quartet of bowlers. As it was, the most cheering part of the season was the catching, which was well above average under-14 standard.

In the matches played the team was chosen from the following :  
Jones, R. C. (captain), Cunnold, Collett, Gregory, Breslin, Hillyard,  
Hodge, Mann, Miller, Wilson, White, Simpson, Bond, Barnard.  
F.S.E.

## SPORTS DAY

Sports Day this year was the coldest for a long time, but two new records were established. R. C. Jones raised Lomas' javelin record of last year with a fine throw of 154 feet 3 inches, and C. M. Nash won the shot event with a distance of 37 feet 10 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Two more records were set up on a fine afternoon before Sports Day. A. D. Barrett lowered Garratt's time for the Open mile to 4 min. 38.4 sec. In Group 5, K. C. Jones won the 880 Yards final in the record time of 2 min. 8.5 sec.

The House Championship was won by Youens, followed by Arnison, Disraeli and Fraser. In addition to the group winners and runners-up, cups were presented by the late Mayoress of High Wycombe, Mrs. J. Timberlake, to the following : B. K. Johnson (100 Yards), A. J. Gordon (220 Yards and 440 Yards), and A. D. Barrett (One Mile).

### RESULTS

**Group 1** (under 12) : 80 yds.—1 Douglas, 2 Smith, 3 Packman. 150 yds.—1 Douglas, 2 Smith, 3 Packman. High Jump—1 Douglas, 2 Taylor, 3 Yates. Relay—1 Disraeli, 2 Arnison, 3 Youens. Group 1 champion—Douglas ; runner-up—Smith.

**Group 2** (under 13) : 100 yds.—1 Pratley, 2 Currell, 3 Vickers, 12.8 secs. 220 yds.—1 Pratley, 2 King, 3 Currell, 28.8 secs. 440 yds.—1 Pratley, 2 Currell, 3 King, 68 secs. High Jump—1 Robson, 2 Hudson, 3 Currell, 4 ft. Relay—1 Fraser, 2 Youens, 3 Disraeli, 62 secs. Group 2 champion—Pratley ; runner-up—Currell.

**Group 3** (under 14) : 100 yds.—1 Hollomon, 2 Muller, 3 Smith, 12 secs. 220 yds.—1 Hollomon, 2 Muller, 3 Whatley, 28 secs. 440 yds.—1 Hollomon, 2 Gilbertson, 3 Muller. 880 yds.—1 Gilbertson, 2 Clark, 3 Jones, 2 min. 29.4 secs. High Jump—1 Johnson, 2 Dakin, 3 Brown, 4 ft. 1 in. Shot—1 Gilbertson, 2 Breslin, 3 Dakin, 36 ft. 10 ins. Relay—1 Fraser, 2 Youens, 3 Disraeli, 58.4 secs. Group 3 champion—Hollomon ; runner-up—Gilbertson.

**Group 4** (under 15) : 100 yds.—1 Craft, 2 Richardson, 3 Palmer, 11.2 secs. 220 yds.—1 Craft, 2 Richardson, 3 Dawes, 25.4 secs. 440 yds.—1 Craft, 2 Dawes, 3 McIntyre, 58.1 secs. High Jump—1 McIntyre, 2 Austin, 3 Craft, 4 ft. 8 ins. Javelin—1 Austin, 2 McIntyre, 3 Richardson, 103 ft. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. Discus—1 McIntyre, 2 Craft, 3 Dawes, 89 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  ins. Shot—1 Craft, 2 Richardson, 3 McIntyre. Relay—1 Fraser, 2 Arnison, 3 Youens, 55.4 secs. Group 4 champion—Craft ; runner-up—McIntyre.

**Group 5** (under 17) : 100 yds.—1 Jones (K.), 2 Deitchman, 3 Bundy, 10.6 secs. 220 yds.—1 Jones (K.), 2 Squires, 3 Deitchman, 25.2 secs. 440 yds.—1 Jones (K.), 2 Faulkner, 3 Squires, 56.1 secs. 880 yds.—1 Jones (K.), 2 Faulkner, 3 Stack, 2 min. 8.5 secs. (new record). One mile—1 Jones (K.), 2 Faulkner, 3 Bond (T.), 4 min. 59.6 secs. High Jump—1 Jones (M.), 2 Bundy, 3 Faulkner, 5 ft. 2 ins. Javelin—1 Jones (R.), 2 Jones (M.), 3 Lamb, 162 ft. 6 ins. Discus—1 Faulkner, 2 Jones (R.), 3 Stack, 103 ft. 3 ins. Shot—1 Olsen, 2 Deitchman,

3 Jones (R.), 42 ft. 3 ins. Relay—1 Fraser, 2 Youens, 3 Disraeli, 52.4 secs. Group 5 champion—Jones (K.); runner-up—Faulkner.

**Group 6** (open, over 17): 100 yds.—1 Johnson, 2 Gordon, 3 Sherlock, 10.8 secs. 220 yds.—1 Gordon, 2 Johnson, 3 Sherlock, 23.8 secs (equals record). 440 yds.—1 Gordon, 2 Sherlock, 3 Johnson, 55.6 secs. 880 yds.—1 Gordon. One mile—1 Barrett, 2 Fellows, 3 Norrish, 4 min. 38.4 secs. (new record). Javelin—1 Jones (R.), 2 Lomas, 3 Nash, 154 ft. 3 ins. (new record). Discus—1 Olsen, 2 Johnson, 3 Nash, 104 ft. 4½ ins. Shot—1 Nash, 2 Deitchman, 3 Johnson, 37 ft. 10¼ ins. (new record). Throwing the Cricket Ball—1 Bristow, 2 Ashby, 3 Lomas, 88 yds. 1½ ft. Relay—1 Arnison, 2 Youens, 3 Fraser, 49.4 secs. Group 6 champion—Gordon; runner-up—Johnson.

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## LAWN TENNIS CLUB, 1954

*Captain* : J. Deller

*Vice-Captain* : B. K. Johnson

*Hon. Sec.* : G. D. B. Jones

The tennis six this year improved steadily with each match and ended with a decisive victory over the Masters' team. This is the first time in the short history of tennis in the School that this has happened, and the victory was obtained by steady play from all three pairs. The improvement was doubtless due in part to the efforts of our professional coach, whom we engaged this year for the first time. The coaching scheme aims particularly at improving the standard of tennis among the younger boys so that the School First VI may always have able players to step in and fill the gaps as the older boys leave. We have had fixtures for a second team, too, and, as nearly all this year's first team will have left by next summer, the experience gained will be most useful.

Bad weather interfered greatly with play this summer, but the fixture list was a very full one and many matches were played to a finish. As usual we proved too strong for most school teams and we hope to acquit ourselves creditably in the Public Schools Lawn Tennis Association Youll Cup Competition at Wimbledon, which really ends the season for the School team. We are also affiliated this year for the first time to the Bucks Lawn Tennis Association, and during the holidays they have promised to take an interest in some of the most promising younger players at the School.

The interest in tennis is obviously increasing, if the large number of entries for the various School tournaments means anything. The bad weather held up the progress of some events, but we have managed to complete the following finals:—

**Open Singles** : Johnson beat Deller 6—2, 6—3.

**Handicap Doubles** : Sainsbury and Faulkner v Jones and Saddler (to be played).

**Junior Singles** : Aikens beat Bone 8—6, 6—0.

We should like to record our thanks to all boys (particularly those members of the Punishment Drill squad) who gave their services so willingly to excavate the ground in front of the tennis practice wall. The concrete is now laid and all keen players are advised to use the wall at every opportunity.

The School team this year was :—

1st pair : J. Deller and B. K. Johnson.

2nd pair : K. J. Cattermole and R. J. Handscombe.

3rd pair : J. Weaver and G. D. B. Jones.

Woods, Aikens, Rear and Gosling were also selected to play.

Colours have been awarded to Cattermole, Handscombe, Jones and Weaver.

M.M.D.

### FIRST VI RESULTS

- May 22—Courtaulds Research Lab. At home. R.G.S. lost 5 games to 2.  
.. 26—v Windsor G.S. At home. R.G.S. won  $6\frac{1}{2}$  games to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .  
.. 29—v Reading School. At home. R.G.S. lost 5 games to 1.  
June 2—v High Wycombe L.T.C. At home. R.G.S. lost 5 games to 3.  
.. 9—v Abingdon School. At home. R.G.S. lost 5 games to 1.  
.. 16—v Gerrards Cross Aluminium Co. At home. R.G.S. won.  
.. 19—v Watford G.S. Away. R.G.S. won 5 games to 4.  
.. 30—Borlase School. Away. R.G.S. won  $6\frac{1}{2}$  games to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .  
July 1—v High Wycombe L.T.C. Away. R.G.S. lost 7 games to 2.  
.. 7—v Leighton Park School. At home. R.G.S. lost 5 games to 4.  
.. 8—v Wycombe High School. At home. R.G.S. won 7 games to 0.  
.. 14—v Staff. At home. R.G.S. won 6 games to 3.

### MEMORIAL PAVILION

During the winter several meetings have taken place between the Architect, Mr. Eric Janes, and the Committee of the Old Wycombiensians' Club on the subject of the plans for the new Memorial Pavilion. These have now been agreed with the architect, and the Honorary Secretary of the Old Boys' Club was, therefore, instructed to ask the Governors for a meeting between the Governors' Sub-Committee appointed to deal with this matter and the Old Boys' Sub-Committee which had been entrusted with the task of considering and approved the plans. Owing to the Headmaster's absence in Germany and the great pressure of normal work in the summer term it was not possible to arrange this during June or July. The Clerk to the Governors therefore told Mr. Jones that every effort will be made to arrange this meeting during the early part of the Christmas term. There is then every expectation that the next full meeting of the Governors will receive and approve the recommendation of this joint committee and pass on their recommendation to the Education Committee. It would be premature to say anything yet about the financial situation. From the funds already

raised it is clear that a substantial contribution can be made by the Old Boys and the School towards the erection of this Memorial Pavilion. The Foundation Governors will probably be invited to make a contribution from their funds also, and it will then be for the Buckinghamshire Education Committee to approve or disapprove the plan in principle. It may very well be that the actual building of the Pavilion will be commenced in the spring of next year.

E.R.T.

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## OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

### Births

A. N. ABBOTT (1936-39). On March 21st, 1954, at Bradenham, to Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Abbott, a second son.

A. H. BEAL (1921-27). On March 22nd, 1954, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Beal, a son.

R. W. LANCE (1939-46). On May 2nd, 1954, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Lance, a son.

T. F. RAYNER (1934-40). On April 24th, 1954, at Cliveden, to Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Rayner, a second son.

W. E. SILSBY (1919-23). On March 23rd, 1954, at Oxford, to Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Silsby, a son.

### Death

G. F. PEARCE (1910-18). On June 16th, 1954, at Amersham Hospital, G. F. Pearce, aged 53 years.

Known to all his numerous friends only as "Boo" (correct spelling not known), G. F. Pearce was a keen and energetic all-round sportsman, both at School and afterwards. Popular wherever he went, he was recognised in many districts for his expert handling of gun and fishing rod.

### Annual General Meeting

Mr. Tucker, President of the Club, presided at the Annual General Meeting, held in the Art Room at 6.15 p.m. on Saturday, March 20th, 1954. Mr. W. J. Bartle was present, together with about 40 Old Boys. Discussing the proposed Memorial Pavilion, the President said that the Governors of the School have suggested that primarily it was the concern of the Old Boys. Two plans had been submitted by Eric Janes, an O.B. and one with the suggestion that the canopy should extend over the whole front had met with approval and was on view outside the Hall. With good luck it was hoped the building would begin in the Spring of 1955.

Thanks were expressed to the Chairman (S. E. Hands) for his invaluable help in collecting the donations for the Memorial Fund. The Secretary said that the Club was marking time and was making

very little progress. School Magazines were often sent to members whose subscriptions were overdue in the hope that the subscription would be forthcoming, but the results were not encouraging and it was suggested that the practice be stopped.

It was decided to announce at the Reunion that the 1955 Dinner would be held in the School Hall at about the same date. Two or three items discussed were left to be decided by the Committee at their next meeting.

The officers elected for 1954-55 were :—

*President* : E. R. Tucker, Esq.

*Chairman* : S. E. Hands, Esq.

*Vice-Presidents* : Messrs. G. W. Arnison, W. J. Bartle, The Rev. A. M. Berry, H. G. Brand, P. C. Raffety, Col. L. L. C. Reynolds.

*Committee* : Messrs. L. B. Barnes (1924-30), A. G. Duckering (1941-47), H. C. Hickman (1939-46), J. P. Lord (1932-38), J. K. Prior (1934-40), R. W. Bartlett (1900-07), P. H. H. Lee (1929-35), G. C. Rayner (1937-44), J. Read (1942-50), N. H. Theed (1912-19).

*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer* : P. L. Jones, Esq.

*Assistant Hon. Secretary and Treasurer* : H. W. Johnson, Esq.

*Hon. Auditor* : A. E. Franklin Hole, Esq.

#### BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DEC., 1953

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cash at Bank (31/12/52) ...	73	0	9	Dinner ... ..	75	12	0
In Savings Bank ... ..	464	3	3	Supper ... ..	7	8	10
Subscriptions :—				Stamps, etc. ... ..	7	19	3
51 at 5/- ... ..	12	15	0		3	3	0
1 at 10/- ... ..	10	0		Magazines ... ..	29	5	0
14 at £3 3s. ... ..	44	2	0		29	5	0
45 Bankers' Orders at 5/-	11	5	0	Freer & Hayter ... ..	5	7	6
Dinner (148 at 12/6) ... ..	92	4	6	To Memorial Fund ... ..	30	0	6
Supper ... ..	7	19	0	Cash at Bank (31/12/53) ...	95	3	2
3½% War Loan (£325)				Savings Bank ... ..	425	14	9
interest ... ..	11	7	6				
Savings Bank Interest ... ..	11	12	0				
	£728	19	0		£728	19	0

#### Annual Dinner

The experiment of holding the Annual Dinner in the School Hall proved a great success. The President of the Club, Mr. Tucker, was in the Chair, supported at the top table by Mr. Arnison, Mr. Bartle, Governors of the School and senior Old Boys, among whom was G. E. Stevens, who was at the School from 1887 to 1889. The guest of honour was the Rev. A. M. Berry. He was proposed by H. H. Lee (1929-35), who said that to all who knew him the Rev. A. M. Berry was a keen and sincere man without cant or humbug.

and with a pretty sense of humour. Acknowledging his enthusiastic reception, the Rev. A. M. Berry delighted the O.Bs. with amusing reminiscences. He reminded them of the gift of tables and chairs the O.Bs. had given up when he became the Vicar of three Churches in North Bucks. They were still being used and he wondered if he dare ask for support for the purpose of buying a film-strip projector which would cost £25. His daring brought him £20 within five minutes and before he left the building that had been increased to the full amount.

Proposing the toast "The School and Club," S. E. Hands (1915-20) spoke of the presence of Mr. Arnison, who had come from Dorset, of Mr. Bartle from Norfolk, and of Victor Bennett who the day before was in America. With the help of J. W. K. Taylor, who met him at the airport, he arrived in good time for the Reunion. Replying, H. C. Hickman (1939-46) appealed to Old Boys to join and support the Club in greater numbers and so maintain their connections with the School. The Headmaster in his reply said that the Governors realised that the present buildings were unable to cope with present numbers and were holding serious consultations about the future of the School. The form rooms were actually "bulging" with classes of nearly 40 in the junior forms and with the Sixth Form of 171 boys.

About £1,500 had been collected for the Memorial Pavilion and more was to come from other sources. The plans had been approved and now awaited only the Governors' final approval. If the proposition of those present at the Reunion is carried out, next year's Annual Dinner should see the School Hall "bulging" with Old Boys.

### OLD BOYS' NOTES AND NEWS

H. BARRELL (1913-18), according to the *Daily Mail*, together with Dr. J. C. Evans, discovered that differences in the force of gravity in various places can affect athletic achievements although conditions and the amount of physical effort may remain the same. They were called to give advice after it had been found that the weight used by the British putting-the-weight record holder in creating an apparent record was  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. under the stipulated 16 lb. Working out a complicated equation, they found that the force of gravity in Helsinki, where the last Olympic Games were held, and that in Melbourne, where the next Games will take place, could vary by one part in five hundred, which means that given the same conditions of wind, humidity and temperature athletes may improve on their records even if they make no greater physical effort.

VICTOR A. BENNETT (1919-23). In the early part of July, 1954, a luncheon was given at the Claridge Hotel, London, announcing the

formation of Pemberton, Freeman, Bennett & Milne Ltd. in Toronto. The first three are the principal partners and the firm has a London—New York—Toronto axis. Bennett, who is President of the advertising agency of that name in New York, will deal with the many marketing problems which are common to both Canada and the United States, and should prove a great help to British manufacturers. Bennett plans to visit England in the autumn.

M. A. BIRD (1944-50) hopes to be in England this summer. He says he noticed in the School Magazine that the choir sang well even when standing on one leg and suggests that the abdominal and throat muscles are more relaxed in that position.

G. D. BURCH (1911-15), of national fame as a rosarian and an active member of the National Rose Society, won for the sixth time the Osborne Cup for nine scented blooms at the Golden Jubilee show of the Royal Windsor Rose and Horticultural Society. He also won the Legge trophy for six distinct blooms.

B. C. BURROWS (1947-52) on leaving School went as an apprentice (Aero Division) at the Rolls Royce Company, Derby. To give an idea of what a five-year apprenticeship means in the world's leading engine designers, his letter is published more or less in full :

“ The first year was spent in the Technical College Apprentice Training School where Rolls-Royce send their engineering and technical apprentices for the basic training. I believe the company has its own school for future intakes.

“ The basic training consisted of learning the use of milling machines, grinding machines and lathes, and also fitting, sheet-metalwork and workshop theory. Half a day per week was devoted to General Education, which consisted of lectures on such topics as development, administration, testing and the various departments of the factory. These lectures were given by the firm's own specialists.

“ The second year was split up into eight six-week courses spent in the various departments and shops and the research laboratories, and at the sheet-metalwork factory at Leicester. The third year of the course will consist of four three-month courses in a production and a non-production machine shop, final fitting and assembly department and the drawing school. The fourth and fifth years are devoted to specialization in the particular work that the apprentice intends to follow.

“ One day a week is devoted to study at Derby Technical College at the Company's expense. I joined Rolls-Royce as an Engineering Apprentice, but owing to a change in the training scheme I am now a Technical Apprentice. Engineering Apprentices are mainly students taking a B.Sc. course, whilst Technical Apprentices are doing the National Certificate course, although we are told that this is not the distinction.

“ My ultimate aim is to become a qualified Service Engineer. To do this I must start my specialized training as an engine tester-fitter on the test-beds, and later get posted to an airfield.”

P. P. CROWTHER (1947-53), now at Cranwell, mentioned to his tutor that he came from the R.G.S. and was immediately asked for the address and whereabouts of Keith Oakeshott. His tutor, Flight-Lieutenant Quick, and Oakeshott trained together in Canada during the last war.

R. C. ELLIS (1918-26), at present in England visiting an invalid sister, owns a large farm in Rhodesia. He sells corn by the trainload, has a large dairy herd, and while away his 31 natives are looked after by a young assistant from Northampton. He weighs a healthy 17 stone and his two daughters consider themselves Rhodesians. His mother has joined him out there. While in England he has been asked by the firm of David Brown to call on them for consultation on improvements to the tractors they supply to that part of the world.

F. R. FISHER (1924-29) is now teaching at Westcoats Secondary Boys School, Bognor Regis, where he will specialise in mathematics. He has to do 15 days' training with the A.E.R. from August 7th to 21st, and hopes he will have found a house in Bognor by then.

R. F. EMERY (1927-33), within a week of deciding to stage a “ come-back ” to cricket, bowled his way back into High Wycombe's premier team. He puts his success down to “ low cunning ” and bowling in necessary short spells (3 or 4 overs at a time) proved almost unplayable against South Hampstead (7 for 21).

R. G. C. GILES (1939-41), writing from Christchurch, New Zealand, says that although there are many O.Ws. in the two islands he is in direct contact only with K. Surridge, who is in the Radio Section of the Post and Telegraph Department in Wellington. D. G. Surridge works in the Government Tourist Department at the Mount Cook winter sports resort known as “ The Hermitage.” Giles hopes to make a visit there before the ski-ing season closes in spite of the cancellation of leave in his department owing to the pressure of work. Visits to Mount Cook, the Tasman Glacier and the bigger Fox and Franz Josef glaciers are considered as “ musts.” There is great rivalry between the two islands as to which is the mainland of the country—not to mention Stewart Island and the relative importance of Auckland Harbour Bridge (North Island) and Lyttleton Tunnel (South Island) always brings on a violent argument almost up to Parliamentary level. In his tiny flat Giles endeavours to fend for himself and has daily feuds with his ancient and explosive gas stove.

J. H. GROOM (1940-46) and R. C. FILE (1945-53) were among the cadets passing out at a parade of officer cadets at the Royal Air

Force Officer Cadet Training Unit, Jurby, Isle of Man. File holds a commission in the secretarial, and Groom in the physical fitness branch.

F. HALLASEY (1913-19) is another O.B. who has just visited his old School. He was on a business trip to Europe from Jackson, Michigan, for his own firm of Foreign Patents and Trade Marks. He was amazed at the size of the School and regretted that he had not absorbed more knowledge when he had the chance. He hopes to make another visit shortly.

J. HILL (1907-14), answering Mr. Arnison's letter of sympathy on the death of his wife, Mrs. W. G. Hill, gave a little of his family history. The younger son Joe L. (1939-43) is married and a partner with his father at Ellwood House, Crowell, Chinnor; the elder son John farms on his own at Aston Rowant, while his daughter Pauline married with three children, lives in Solihull, Birmingham. Her husband, an American, is second in command of Bird's Custard, and Mr. and Mrs. Hill stayed with them in New York for nine weeks before they came back to Birmingham.

H. E. JOHNS (1919-22) took the notice of his promotion in the April number of the Magazine as an implied rebuke for his lack of touch with the School; a lack which is more than explained by his activities since 1951, when he was posted as Second in Command to forty Commando Royal Marines serving in Malaya with the 3rd Commando Brigade R.M. In mid-1952, after three years in the jungle, the Brigade was concentrated in Malta, where it started to train in its proper role of amphibious assault. In February, 1953, his Command was moved to the Canal Zone and then back again to Malta, making an attack on Cyprus as part of their training and taking part in a full-scale exercise with the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade. After a short stay in Malta they went back to the Canal Zone, by air this time. In June the Commanding Officer returned to England and Johns took over, and his promotion was made permanent in December. His son, 15 years of age and 5 feet 11 inches tall, is at Portsmouth Grammar School. He hopes the Naval Section of the C.C.F. will go to camp in Portsmouth, where he will be able to pay them a visit.

B. LANCE (1935-40) has been taken into partnership by Messrs. Allan Janes and Co., Solicitors, with whom he has been associated for the last twelve years. He is the third O.B. in the firm, the others being Allan Janes and R. V. Britnell.

H. H. LEE (1929-35), now commanding Q Battery, 645 L.A.A. Regt., R.A.T.A., has been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration. During the war he served with the Wiltshire Regt.

B. SINNATT (1946-54) is doing his basic training in North Wales, but has no idea to what part of the world he will be posted.

R. E. SYRETT (1944-48) and J. E. WOODWARD (1944-49) had the time of their lives in their flying trip to Italy with the London Counties rugby side. They stayed at a grand hotel in Milan, made a trip by Viscount turbo-prop over the Alps, bathed in Lake Como, attended numerous banquets and feasts, and beat Italy by 15 points to 12. They are now both as active as ever playing cricket and will doubtless gain more athletic honours.

The following news was received too late for inclusion in the last issue :—

The Old Wycombiensians were well represented at a dinner given by R.A.F., Sopley, at the " King's Arms " Hotel, Christchurch, Hampshire, on 12th February. R. G. CLAPTON (1946-52), P. SALTER (1947-49), C. G. EMMINS (1945-52) and P. CARPENTER (1946-52) would like their old School friends to know that the " old school tie " is fluttering bravely at Sopley.

### **Correction**

In the last Magazine the Liverpool Manager of Waring and Gillows was put down as L. F. Walters (1908-14). This should read L. F. Watkins (1908-14).

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5. The crater of Vesuvius. (*M. F. Caffoor*)
6. A group at the Prefects' Dance. (*Putnam*)



1. 1st XI v St. Benedict's School. (*Mr. Ashby*)
2. A. D. Barrett winning the cross-country championship. (*Mr. R. Howard*)
3. Gliding at Booker. (*P. J. Woods*)
4. College Stanislas, Paris. (*D. G. F. Kay*)
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