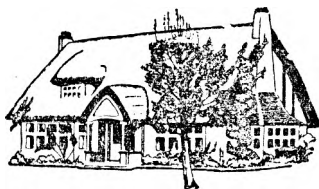


THE
WYCOMBIENSIAN



Vol. XII. No. 5

APRIL, 1956



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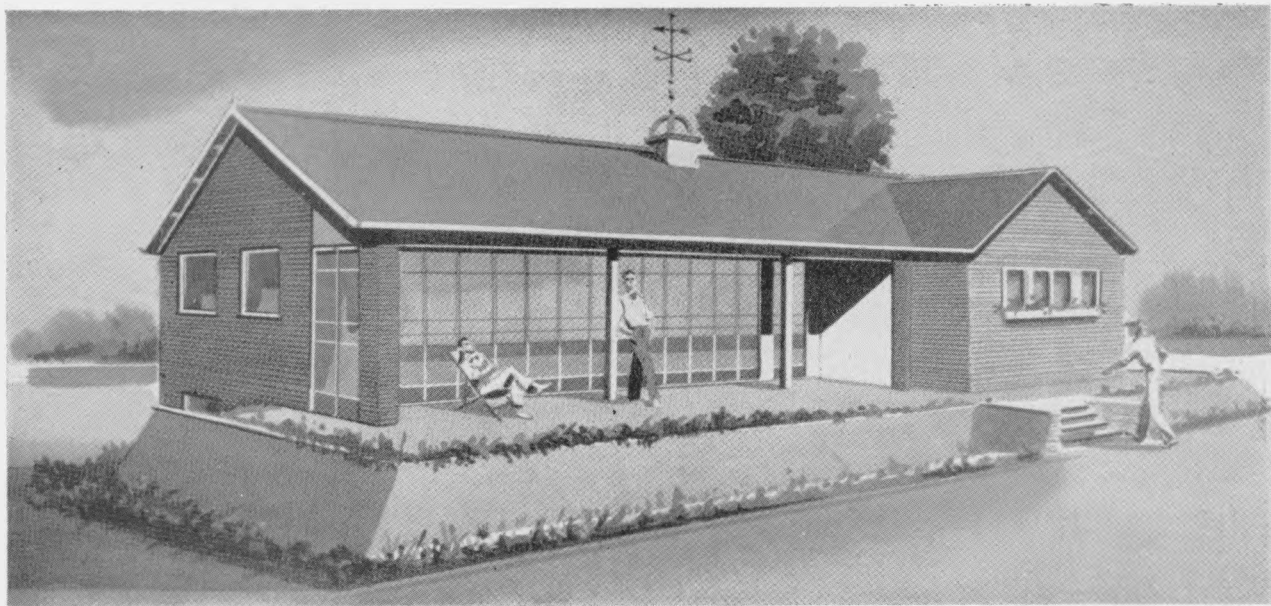
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SCHOOL MEMORIAL PAVILION



FIRST XV

Standing (left to right) : J. T. GILDER, J. A. COX, C. R. RAKE, J. SMITHERS, M. J. RICHARDSON, P. L. READ, N. E. J. CRAFT,
D. W. HOLLOMON, A. H. G. WHITEHEAD

Seated : G. L. S. HICKEY, J. H. RICHARDSON, F. E. J. HAWKINS, J. S. KELLY (Capt.), B. E. DEVLIN, A. HARVEY, A. J. C. WRIGHT

THE WYCOMBIENSIAN

(THE WYCOMBE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL MAGAZINE)

This issue is edited by A. J. MACTAVISH, assisted by P. CHAMBERLIN

EDITORIAL

It is a significant fact to note that in the Dramatic Society's forthcoming play six out of the ten characters will be portrayed by boarders. Half of the shooting eight, too, come from the boarding houses, to quote another example. Why is this? Bearing in mind that the proportion of day boys to boarders is 7 to 1, there must be some reason behind it.

In spite of what the boarders may say, they are not any more intelligent or athletic than their counterparts. The point is that the boarders are on the premises all the time, whereas many of the day boys seem to think that once the bell rings at four, the School has nothing more to offer them. Those who do join in the out of school activities will agree that there is nothing more erroneous than that view. The after school debates and society meetings, which are usually poorly attended, have much to offer; and to get the full benefit of a Grammar School education, every boy should take a part in these. The enthusiasm shown in these matters, too, is the true measure of the spirit of the School.

MEMORIAL PAVILION APPEAL

It will be fairly well known among Old Boys and parents that the contract for the building of the Memorial Pavilion was signed in November last and the work commenced in December. The builders are Messrs. J. Hopkins, of Hughenden, and their work is, of course, being directed by our Honorary Architect, Mr. Eric Janes, who has now two boys at the School. The original contract was for over £5,000 and as the various appeals and efforts had by the end of last year produced only just over £3,000 it was felt by the special Committee that this large amount must be reduced as far as it was possible to reduce it without in any way impairing the basic structure or the amenities of the Pavilion. Each item was carefully scrutinised and finally the amount in the contract was put at £4,900.

This meant, of course, that the Committee was faced with the rather formidable task of raising an additional £1,800. A special Appeals Committee was formed which has been and still is issuing

personal letters to many of the more prominent citizens of the town and also to the big firms and industrial bodies with whom the School has dealings. Money is slowly coming in to the Fund in response to this Appeal. The School at the same time undertook to put into effect the suggestion made by the then Chairman of the Governors, Mr. P. C. Raffety, J.P., at last summer's Speech Day, and accordingly in February of this year the Headmaster issued an appeal to the parents of every boy at present in the School, asking whether they could as a special effort contribute £1 each towards this new Pavilion.

The answer to this Appeal has been most heartening and indeed exciting. The number of parents who have ignored it has been incredibly small. The parents of those who have just entered the School have been as generous and kind as those who have been here for a long time, and while one suspects that one or two of the senior boys may have been a bit cynical about it and may have felt "Why should I contribute when I am not a cricketer?" the great majority of boys and parents have regarded this as an opportunity to show to the School both their affection and regard for the Old Boys who gave their lives in the War and also their appreciation of what the School is doing and will do for its present and future pupils. A considerable number of parents have sent cheques for amounts well over £1. One very large sum has been received with gratitude. I must say too that I have deeply appreciated the letters I have received from parents who say that at the moment they are unable to answer the Appeal, much as they would like to, but express the hope that when times are easier for them they will be able to make their contribution. The amount received from this Appeal a fortnight before the end of term was just over £600 and money is still coming in, especially from parents of boarders to whom the appeals had to be sent by post, but also from others who have not wanted to be left out even though they had not answered the Appeal in the first few weeks. May I offer to all parents who have contributed my warmest thanks for their many kind letters and innumerable generous contributions. I know that the Governors will be very gratified when they hear the result of the Appeal. The Annual General Meeting of the Old Wycombiensians' Club, which will have been held before the end of term, will have to face the problem of indicating where the last few hundred pounds is to come from.

E.R.T.

The final position on the last day of term was that the Appeal had brought in the sum of £718 16s. 6d., a magnificent total.

SCHOOL NOTES

The first two terms of this school year have seen the customary ebb and flow of staff.

With the deepest regret we said goodbye to Mr. W. A. Rees, sports master since 1949, who was a mountain of inspiration to the rugby-playing community of the School, and whose forming hand contributed greatly to the present high standard of the teams, from the under 13's to the 1st XV. With characteristic versatility he has translated himself from school-master into business tycoon in his native Wales.

Our other loss was Mr. D. W. G. Ingate, who for three years played a very lively part in the School's musical life, shouldering the burden of the opera during Mr. Piner's illness. His wit and verve will be much missed by all our music students, and we wish him every happiness and good fortune in his new post at Chichester Cathedral.

We were glad to welcome five new members of the staff :—

A. Davies, Esq., B.A., of Corpus Christi, Oxford, fills the gap in the English staff left by Mr. Howard.

M. J. Booth, Esq., M.A. (Oxon.) has come to teach Science.

A. P. Bur, Esq., L-ès-L. (Paris and Lille), comes from Queen Elizabeth's School, Blackburn, to teach French.

G. Morgan, Esq., M.A. (Oxon.), fresh from research in Greece, joins the Classical staff.

D. R. Pelmore, Esq., M.A. (Cantab.), from the Sudan, is teaching Science.

We also welcomed three student teachers, and hope their stay with us will be happy and memorable : J. Blagden, Esq., B.Sc. (Capetown) and B.A. (Cantab.), for Maths and Physics ; R. A. Jarvis, Esq., B.A. (Reading), teaches Classics, and B. W. Paynes, Esq., B.A. (Reading), on the Music staff.

Of the large number of boys who invaded Cambridge before Christmas, and Oxford after, only D. Jago was successful in winning an award, an Open Scholarship in English at Jesus College, Cambridge. We warmly congratulate him on this excellent achievement. However, six boys gained places at Cambridge : D. N. Crowther, J. M. Chinery, J. H. Speight, G. E. Bates, and P. Chamberlin at Jesus College ; A. J. MacTavish at Downing College.

In January we had a return visit from Ystalyfera School (Wales) rugby team, and a fine game resulted in a draw.

IOLANTHE

Christmas 1955

It is always a little disillusioning to have to live with something that is growing. What can they do with that? Why isn't there more rehearsal? Why all this practice? Make boys walk round the stage in circles?—What for? And so while the thing itself grows to a whole the looker-on is too much intent on its separate parts to believe the whole will ever be. How much more reassuring, how much easier to keep the illusion than if we go off to see somebody else put on a Gilbert and Sullivan—anybody else so long as we have not been in on it, been part of, as it were, its birth. This is even more applicable to the newcomer, for he has no standard of previous years to guide him, no previous opera to which he can look back and say, "Ah! yes, all these bits lead to that whole."

The school-audience then has its own difficulties when it comes along in Opera Week. Because of what it has seen (and heard) it cannot come with an open mind. The producer and conductor and the cast have their difficulties, too, of course. And this year they were even more burdened by the change of conductor after rehearsals had started. Mr. Ingate willingly stood in for Mr. Piner for yet another year, even though he would be leaving the School at Christmas, after Mr. Piner had become severely ill. This was not all! The chosen opera "Iolanthe" had been done by the School once before, six years previously. There would be the inevitable comparisons.

And so there were. It seemed well agreed that there were not the fine voices that the School had possessed for its first "Iolanthe" (or even for last year's "Ruddigore"), but the frequent repetition of "Not as good as last year" and "Not as good as last time," became rather boring and appeared even unreal. Still, it is true that good voices were lacking. C. R. S. Wood as Iolanthe, D. B. Neesol as Mountarat, W. P. Hodge (Phyllis) and G. R. Williams as the Lord Chancellor (occasionally) sang pleasingly enough and the other principals were adequate. With so much formalised movement and such little opportunity to show personality this is a serious blemish in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. Nash well deserved his popularity as the soldier, but how much that madrigal in Act 2 needs a really strong bass! Even more important than quality of voice is the need to hear all the words. Gilbert means every one to count and if we do not hear them we are left looking at what amount to painted dolls on a cardboard set. Phyllis and the Lord Chancellor were praiseworthy here; Strephon (D. R. A. Friend) and the Queen of Fairies (G. H. Duffell) were not always incisive enough.

But, of course, it is the whole that matters. As long as we hear the well-loved music and see the wit, the nonsense and the pathos re-enact themselves on the stage, that is all we ask. There is

so much colour in "Iolanthe"; it is so gay. And though there were some rough edges in the chorus of Fairies, yet the boy-girls were so happy about it all, so splendidly mischievous in their wings that they made us happy too. The Peers, again perhaps a little unsure of themselves on the stage, sang their booms so pompously, so lustily that we were willing to accept them in their pretence. Chief praise must go to Williams' Lord Chancellor. He made special use of his height in cavorting about the stage. The opera does need a Chancellor who will demand our attention and this Williams certainly did do. It was a pity the business in his encores was not more varied.

But the whole thing sparkled so joyously. Mr. Grant's set gave the proper feeling of depth and enchantment, helped considerably by the lighting. Mr. Ingate conducted eloquently a hard-working orchestra, and to Mr. Hills it was sufficient praise that it worked, that it was a whole.

A.D.

SCHOOL HOUSE

At the end of the Summer term Mr. Howard left us for Istanbul and Mr. Runswick took over as Housemaster. He has proved very popular, especially since he brightened one small corner of the boarding house with some rather daring coats of paint, and we hope his stay will be an enjoyable one. Sainsbury and Draper also left in July, Sainsbury to go to Cambridge and Draper to become an industrial geographer.

In the sporting field, Smithers and Wright have played regularly for the 1st XV, while Todd and Jones have been regular members of the 2nd XV. Cross-Country has been unusually popular in the House, with Hall, new to us from Truro, at the beginning of the school year, and S. Williams running for the School 1st team, and Tettmar and G. Williams in the 2nd team. Owen and Clark have played occasionally for the Colts Rugby team, while amongst the new boys, Rugsley and Smyth have run for the Junior Cross-Country team.

The Scouts, although without an official scoutmaster, have continued to hold regular meetings and have again done well in District competitions by retaining the Graeffe Cup and only losing the Hughes Trophy by 1 point, after holding it for four years.

Most of the more senior members of the House have recently completed their mock exams. We wish them luck for the actual thing in the Summer.

R. C. TODD.

UPLYME HOUSE

Milton's "heavenly Muse" must have read the last report as the results of the G.C.E. at both levels surpassed even our wild optimism, so much so that Speight was awarded a State Scholarship and Volkonsky achieved the highly creditable total of ten subjects at "O" level. These are just two outstanding examples. While on the subject of accomplishments we must congratulate Thorne on gaining a scholarship to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

We also congratulate Bill North on gaining his 2nd XV colours and playing a game for the 1st XV. Hackett played regularly for the 2nd XV, but Thorne, unfortunately, missed most of the season, owing to a series of minor injuries. This was most disappointing as he is obviously destined for great things on the Rugby field.

In the inter-boarding house competitions, we proved that we can still hold our own against the other houses, particularly in basketball. Our prospects for the annual Soccer match against School House are distinctly bright.

Of the Old Boys, Harcourt is now married and is suitably depilated. We were, also, actually honoured by a visit from 2nd Lieutenant P. S. Reader—Sir! now stationed in Germany. He prepared us for a prospective visit there during our National Service with a lesson in the basic essentials of the language. "Nobby" Hall plays regularly for the Wasps and recently merited a mention of his performance in some of the more civilized Sunday papers.

R. D. MITCHELL.

TYLERS WOOD

During the last six months we, at Tylers Wood, have had an enterprising and successful period concerning both our academic and sporting activities. The latter includes a well-fought game of table-tennis against Uplyme, whom we thoroughly defeated. We offer our congratulations to G. L. S. Hickey, who gained his 1st XV colours early in the season.

Our Juniors played their usual games of Soccer with Hazlemere Choir and though not Soccer players gave a fine display and upheld the House tradition by winning.

On the academic side we congratulate all those who successfully passed their summer examinations.

We were sorry to lose three of our senior members, especially A. J. Gordon, who was a great strength to the School, and we wish them all the best in their future years. Several Old Boys have visited us, including B. Edwards, P. Groom, A. Robertson, M. Lacey and C. Minter.

P. S. MATTHEWS.

C. C. F.

ARMY NOTES

The school year began with an excellent Field Day in combination with the local Home Guard Battalion, the Army Cadet Force Platoon and a section of Armoured Cars of the American Air Force.

The operation started with a daylight attack by the C.C.F. on Booker Aerodrome. A counter-attack by the armoured cars supported by the Home Guard forced the C.C.F. to retire, but a secret weapon designed and equipped to fire sixpenny rockets halted the advance of the armoured cars in the woods and provided a suitable opportunity for the "Tea Break." Night operations started quietly with reconnaissance by small desperate parties all determined to capture the wireless station on the aerodrome. The final assault by several of the raiding parties was witnessed by Major General Lord Burnham and was accompanied by a firework display which must have given the local inhabitants an unpleasant reminder of days gone by.

With the departure of Lieut. G. E. Morgan the work of the Signals Platoon has been directed by C.S.M. A. J. Mactavish. The Platoon is to be congratulated on an excellent performance in the competition organised in connection with the Public Schools Wireless Net. The School established contact with schools as far afield as Victoria College, Jersey, Fettes School, Edinburgh, and the Royal School in Armagh, Northern Ireland, and was placed sixth among fifty-five other schools taking part in this competition.

As a result of the shortage of Officers in the Army Section much work has fallen on the Senior Cadet N.C.O.'s. Without exception they have risen to the occasion and all the W.O.'s—R.S.M. Mitchell, C.S.M.'s Cox, North and Thomson—have worked conscientiously and hard, and have shown themselves to be potential leaders of the highest class.

The main events next term will be the Shooting Championship, the Annual Inspection and Annual Camp at Pirbright.

R.P.

R.A.F. SECTION

During the present session the strength of the unit has been maintained at about 130 cadets. In the Proficiency examinations, held in July 1955, 29 candidates were successful, 11 of these gaining Advanced Proficiency. In December 8 cadets passed Ordinary Proficiency, and 12 cadets gained Advanced Proficiency. A marked and very pleasing feature of the present training position is the very

large proportion of Proficient cadets who successfully proceed to the Advanced Level. Of 27 cadets who will take the examination in March 1956, 9 will take the Advanced Examination.

The Summer camp (1955), mention of which was made in the last report, exceeded even the optimistic expectations therein expressed. There was an average flying time of 5 hours 20 minutes per cadet, most of this being in Hastings aircraft of Transport Command. About 50 cadets are to attend an Easter Camp at R.A.F. Station, South Cerney, near Cirencester, where we hope, again, to be fortunate in the matter of flying experience gained by cadets.

It is gratifying to be able to report a further distinction gained by the R.A.F. Section in the success of Sgt. J. G. Ticehurst, who entered the R.A.F. College at Cranwell in January of this year. The warm congratulations of all in the unit are accorded to Sgt. Ticehurst, and sincere good wishes are expressed for the success of his future career in the Royal Air Force.

E.M.

NAVAL SECTION

The Naval Section suffers from the disadvantage that the training given in the School has to be almost wholly theoretical, as we are such a long way from the sea. The highlight of the Naval Section year then is the time when what has been talked about and read about can be seen and handled—sea training.

Last Summer the contingent was divided into three, each group going to a Royal Naval ship for a week.

Cadet P.O. Kelly was in charge of a party of eight who joined H.M.S. *Tumult*, an A/S frigate, at Rothesay, where they were well looked after and had an interesting time. For the first few days *Tumult* put to sea each morning for anti-submarine exercises and the cadets were allowed to take the wheel and use the Asdic. Gunnery drill, anchor work and fire-fighting exercises were all in a day's work.

Sub. Lt. J. Benson took twelve cadets to H.M.S. *Loch Ruthven*, another A/S frigate at Rosyth, where they found her in dry dock. Although when out of the water a ship is completely "dead," it is nevertheless interesting to the uninitiated, and many things can be seen and studied which are impossible when the vessel is afloat.

It was not long, however, before the *Loch Ruthven* was on her way round the north of Scotland to Londonderry, in Northern Ireland *via* the Outer Isles. A very interesting and lovely trip. The boys were kept occupied in "working ship" and instruction. Once in port, sailing in the ship's whaler was popular and a day on the range proved most enjoyable.

Lieutenant D. Nightingale, with a party of seven, travelled to Holyhead, where H.M.S. *Romola*, a fleet minesweeper, was expecting them. *Romola*, although classified as a minesweeper, was in commission as a fishery protection cruiser, and she had just returned from eight weeks of fog and cold in the Arctic. Despite this, the party were received very well indeed and a comprehensive programme of instruction had been prepared.

On the trip from Holyhead to Plymouth the boys were allowed to take the wheel and perform other similar duties. Also for their benefit the sweep was streamed and depth charges fired. The boys fired the Oerlikon and formed the crew of the four-inch gun. With this they tried to hit a parachute flare, noisily but with no effect.

Navy Day was almost on the ship on her arrival at Plymouth and the boys spent the last two days covering a hull red with Arctic rust with battleship grey.

Our warmest congratulations to John Kelly, who was awarded a cadetship at Dartmouth last Christmas.

Congratulations also to Timothy Gowan, who gained a technical scholarship in electrical engineering and who will study at Cambridge under the auspices of the Navy.

Lieut. Cdr. Moore, our new liaison officer from H.M.S. *Dryad*, visited us this term and passed cadets Harding, Green, Rogers and Hunt in their Cadet Petty Officer's Exam.

D.N.

SHOOTING NOTES

The last two terms have seen considerable activity on the Miniature Range.

The institution of a Recruits Competition aroused considerable enthusiasm in "C" Company and a keenly contested competition resulted as follows :—

1. M. J. Payne.
2. M. R. Pattinson.
3. B. J. Bull.

The Seniors, under the guidance of Flying Officer J. G. Lloyd have fired several practices in preparation of the Country Life Competition and the following team has been selected to take part :— P. D. Mitchell (Captain), P. Aikens, J. Beckford, J. Bone, L. S. Hickey, A. J. Mactavish, P. S. Matthews, C. J. Melsom, R. W. Thorne, S. C. Mardell (Reserve).

Next term a keen competition is anticipated for the School Championship on the 303 Range at Bisley, and with most of last year's VIII available, the team should give a good account of itself in the Salisbury Plain District Rifle Meeting at Bulford.

R.P.

ARNISON HOUSE

It is with hopeful expectancy that Arnison look forward to the forthcoming House Competitions. For the first time for many years the House has managed to win the Senior Rugby Tournament, with convincing victories over Disraeli and Youens. The forwards, magnificently led by Devlin, laid the foundations for this success, but the whole team rose to the occasion and each man did his part—the defence was excellent. The Colts also gave us hope for the future by easily winning their tournament. Outstanding in a particularly strong side were Eales, Miller, Rally, Patterson and Whatley ; it is not too much to hope, therefore, that next year Arnison will retain the Senior Rugby title. Unfortunately the Junior Colts competition had to be cancelled owing to the weather. The Cross-Country Championship is the next House activity, and Greenwood is busy training his teams. For the Cross-Country especially, it is amazing what a little training and preparation can do to the final House placings ; just a little true House spirit can ensure success !

The Boxing Competition is also held this term and, as stated in the previous magazine, it can be won by sheer force of numbers. This year the House has made a slightly better effort ; but still far too many people are leaving House representation to the next man. As a result it is the same small group of people who are relied on for all the competitions. Fortunately for Arnison, this lack of spirit is not peculiar to us, but it is up to somebody to lead the way in a revival ! Early next term we have the Music Competition. Team-work, especially in the House choir, contributes largely to the destination of the House Music Shield, and it is hoped that “ Arnisonians ” will co-operate over the matter of rehearsals and practices.

At this stage, then, it is too early to judge the success of Arnison in House activities generally, but perhaps after reading this disguised appeal for more support from all parts of the School, there may be a resurgence of the once obvious House spirit !

F. E. J. HAWKINS.

DISRAELI HOUSE

At the beginning of the new school year the House was pleased to welcome several new faces among the junior members. Their importance must not be underestimated, and it is hoped that they will participate in all functions with the same fervour displayed by the rest of the House. Since a good section of the more talented members of Disraeli left at the end of the Summer Term, it will be realized, that if the House is to enjoy another successful year, the spirit of Disraeli must be dominant in all activities.

The House Rugby side, although fielding few recognized players, rallied well in the second half against Arnison, but could not make up the deficit. Captained by Harvey, the side went on to beat Fraser in particularly pleasing fashion. The Colts played hard, but their enthusiasm did not enable them to avoid defeat.

The Boxing Competition is now in full swing, and with the reasonable number of entries, it is hoped that Disraeli will again distinguish themselves.

The Cross-Country Championships will soon be taking place and we hope that the Juniors, who have shown so much promise in the past, will surpass their last year's performance.

With the majority of the House competitions to come and only the Rugby decided, Disraeli still have plenty of time to prove themselves.

J. SMITHERS.

FRASER HOUSE

We were very unfortunate at Christmas to lose the House Captain, J. Kelly, to R.N.C., Dartmouth. This passing of the School Rugby Captain naturally weakened our House Rugby team considerably and although we did not win any matches our young team played with great spirit and we can look forward to winning again in future years.

In the Sports, which are coming off soon, we have great hopes in Holloman and Bunday, who represented the County in the All-England Sports, and in several other promising athletes who did well in the School Sports last year. We hope for a very large entry in the athletics this year, especially from the more senior members of the House. We have very high hopes of winning the Cricket again, as eight of last year's victorious team are still available. The Music Shield has occupied a regular place above our notice board for several years, and our Music Captain, Hemuss, is working hard to ensure that it remains there for another one. It is hoped that everybody will make a specific contribution to the House effort this year, as it is not just sufficient to rest on our laurels.

A. J. C. WRIGHT.

YOUENS HOUSE

This year has shown a lack of House spirit in the middle school. The Cross-Country in particular was poorly supported by this class although the seniors entered in force.

We did quite well in the Rugby, being ably led by J. H. Richardson, and lost to Arnison only in the closing stages of the game. The

Colts managed to come third and the Junior matches, unfortunately, had to be cancelled after we had strong hopes of winning.

The Summer term will bring the House Music Competition and the Athletic Championship. We hope to see a good entry from the House and we look forward eagerly to the Cricket Championship.

J. R. MORGANS.

CHILTERN STREAMS

To the small child there is a fascination in small streams : this fascination can range from paddling to stone throwing. The child brought up in the Chiltern Hills, however, is largely starved of these delights. How he must envy the countryside he sees from the coach window on his outing to the sea, for even the slightest dip in the road heralds some kind of brook rippling under the road. In the Chiltern Hills, on the other hand, a "dip in the road" has to be a valley of some 200 feet in depth if even the smallest stream is to be found.

Many, many Chiltern villages are picturesque, but many lack that added charm, a quieter charm, a restful charm, that a stream will bring to a village. Few Chiltern villages have a stream. In the whole expanse of the Chiltern Hills there are only six tiny streams that boast the title "river," all flowing south-eastward towards the Thames Basin. In the north-east there is the River Ver ; south-west of this river are two wind gaps in which rise the River Gode and River Bullbourne. These two streams are diverted southward by the River Colne, but before they reach the River Thames near Staines they are joined by the waters of first the River Chess, rising near Chesham, then by the River Misbourne, rising near Great Missenden. The other two Chiltern streams flow directly into the Thames ; they are the River Wye, joining the Thames at Bourne End, and a nameless stream flowing down the valley from Fingest to the mill on the Thames at Hambleton.

To the villages built on their banks they bring a quality and charm that is difficult to define—indeed its value may not be fully appreciated until that "charm" is taken away, which has become rather a frequent happening in recent years, especially with the River Misbourne. For several years it will cease to flow except for short stretches downstream from each spring centre. The stretch of the Misbourne between the old mill at Little Missenden and Shardeloes Lake, for instance, has never been known to dry up. This has resulted in there always being a limited amount of water in Shardeloes Lake even in the driest years, and this has given weeds and even small bushes a chance to grow with vigour. In Banks

Pond, on the other hand—a lake between Great and Little Missenden—when the river dries up it dries up completely, with the result that the floor of the pond reverts to meadow grass and on the return of the river there is a pleasing expanse of clear water.

The other Chiltern streams are more constant in their flow, possibly because their valleys are deeper than that of the Misbourne, and thus they are last to be affected by any drop in the level of the water table in the chalk. The Fingest stream is an exception to this, and its irregularity is difficult to explain. All the other streams tend to run dry in their upper courses during dry years. The Wye, for example, seems frequently to run dry above West Wycombe and in its Hughenden Valley branch. What appears to be an old river bed can be seen in the valley which extends from West Wycombe towards Dashwood Hill, and this suggests that there has been a permanent lowering of the water table in the chalk, which has thus deprived the River Wye of some of its length. In other Chiltern valleys old dry river beds are discernible in places (near Little Missenden Church, for example), so it would appear that water has been more abundant in the past.

The history of the Chiltern streams is mysterious, in spite of various theories. Yet it remains that the valleys of the Chilterns could not have been carved to their present depth by the small streams of today. In the case of the Gode, Bullbourne, Misbourne and Wye, all flow in valleys that continue northwards above the streams' headwaters to form "wind gaps" in the escarpment. Perhaps at one time the present Chiltern streams were much larger and flowed right through the Chiltern Range from the Vale of Aylesbury to the London basin. Today our Chiltern streams may be but shadows of their former selves, robbed by a "river capture" by the headwaters of the River Ouse, and perhaps, the River Thames. Then there is the mystery of why the level of the water table in the chalk has been lowered; is it because of the ever-increasing water consumption of London—some 38 gallons per day per person—tapping the water at a greater rate than it is replenished? is it because of the gradual erosion of the escarpment? Yet whatever the reason, it remains that the disappearance of Chiltern streams takes something from the fields and villages of the Chiltern valleys; it detracts from the very character of a village. The old men no longer lean on the old stone bridge and watch the rippling water and polished pebbles; only waving grass and stones thrown in by the small child greet their gaze.

Yet is this the only reason that we should mourn the sleep—or death—of a Chiltern stream? For the saying goes . . .

“When Misbourne flows
Bad luck goes.”

R. PUTNAM, VIM.

THE GERMAN UNDERGROUND HOSPITAL, GUERNSEY

The German underground hospital is undoubtedly an extraordinary feat of engineering. It was built by forced labour during the German occupation of Guernsey.

Work on it began in 1941, and it was in use after three years. It is claimed to be the largest German structure in the Channel Islands, though it was never finished.

From the outside one sees the entrance to a tunnel, nothing more, which was the desired effect, but in the hill there is a mile of corridors bored through the granite and lined with concrete, having a total floor space area of 75,000 square feet.

The hospital is believed capable of holding a thousand persons ; much of it, though, was used for storing ammunition, but the remainder contained every essential for a hospital. There is a dispensary, operating theatre, and even a mortuary. There were also kitchens, a well, and three escape shafts. A generator supplied electricity. The wards were air-conditioned and centrally heated.

The wards were air-conditioned and centrally heated.

The whole hospital is a maze of tunnels. One passes from the hot summer sun (when I visited it, it was over 80 degrees) into a chilly, gloomy, damp and eerie atmosphere, with wet walls and muddy floors.

Unfortunately the place is now almost empty. In one ward there are a few iron beds left. There are a few "souvenirs" on view in the entrance. These include a large flag, a black swastika in a white circle on a red background, parts of a German soldier's uniform, and old, rusty weapons.

I think a visit is worth-while, because it is one of man's remarkable achievements.

D. J. THOMPSON, 5s.

EIGHTH WORLD BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE

Last summer I was one of the nine hundred and ninety-seven lucky Scouts who represented Great Britain at the Eighth World Boy Scout Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada.

After much careful planning and preparation during the week-ends of the summer months, Troop Eight, which consisted of Scouts from Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Norfolk, congregated at London Airport early one Monday evening in August. Everybody was very excited and tense because they did not know quite what to expect during the next three weeks. It was also the first time the majority of us had ever been inside an aircraft.

We took off some two hours late in a "Transocean" Skymaster, the fourth airplane of the fourteen used for the airlift, expecting to land at Shannon airport in two hours' time, but for reasons unknown to us it eventually landed in the Azores for refuelling and breakfast in the middle of the night, seven hours after take-off. We left the aircraft in our shirt-sleeves owing to the mild night air, and at the airport buildings we had a wash and brush up and ate a very pleasant breakfast served by trim little Portuguese waiters. Back in the aircraft, we settled down to grab a few more hours' sleep, which was very difficult to get, as in some parts of the 'plane the leg room was very scarce and many of us slept with our legs coiled round the neck of the person in front. Nine hours later we landed at Gander, Newfoundland, and stepped down for the first time on Canadian soil. Our first sight of Canada had been about an hour earlier, when we had looked down from a cloudless sky upon seemingly endless coniferous forests and clear orange-coloured lakes. After a meal we were on our way again, and after another seven hours' flying we eventually touched down at Malton Airport, Toronto, in drenching rain, where we were given a royal welcome by everyone.

We were seven hours late arriving at Malton and had been away from London for the past twenty-seven and a half hours. On arrival at the airport we were given fifteen dollars of our pocket money and many pamphlets intended to help us find our way about Toronto, and then we were driven thirty miles to Scarborough in metropolitan Toronto. Here we were welcomed again by the Reeve and his Council and introduced to the families who were to entertain us so hospitably during the following week. We were taken to their homes for a meal which had been prepared eight hours earlier, owing to our late arrival, and introduced to the rest of the family.

During the week spent in Toronto, we were looked after magnificently. Many were taken up North to the smaller lakes for a week-end at a cottage, a modern type of log cabin built for summer use situated on the side of a lake amongst coniferous and silver birch trees. We were shown around many of the large industries of Toronto and given souvenirs everywhere we went. We also visited the Canadian Bank of Commerce, which is the tallest building in the British Empire, the Bell telephone headquarters, and the Union Railway Station, which differs very much from a main London railway station. Free tickets were presented to us by the local swimming baths and the Maple Leaf Stadium, where we were given the honour of parading in the middle of the stadium before the baseball match between Toronto Maple Leaves and the winners, who were from Montreal.

At the end of the week our hosts took us to the Cayuga Docks, on the shore of Lake Ontario, for our two-hour trip across the lake to the small township of Niagara-on-the-Lake, where eleven thousand

Scouts from sixty-two different nations were gathering for the Eighth World Jamboree.

We marched up the straight road from the lake shore to the strains of the Toronto Boy Scout Band, which was an exceptionally good band, and would give a professional band stiff competition if the need arose.

At the Jamboree we settled down under the boiling sun to make the best of our small square of parkland beside the Niagara river which was to be our home for the next ten days. The first two days were spent erecting the camp site under the leadership of our Scoutmaster, who was described in a Toronto daily paper as "A Professor of Mathematics at Eton College," and getting to know our immediate neighbours.

Then came Saturday, when His Excellency the Chief Scout for Canada, Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, Governor-General, broadcast to the world and declared the Jamboree open. In the arena eleven thousand boys stood packed like sardines under the boiling sun, soaked to the skin owing to the humidity of the atmosphere and unable to move an inch. The shade temperature that day was reputed to be one hundred and three degrees Fahrenheit. The column then took forty-five minutes to march past His Excellency under their national flags in a manner which would be a credit to any cadet force.

Now with the scouting of the free world working so unitedly in one big brotherhood the week seemed to pass with terrific speed. Visits were made to the Niagara Falls and to the United States, which was just across the Niagara river. With the help of the S.S. *Cayuga* travelling backwards and forwards across Lake Ontario, five trains, on loan from the Canadian National Railways, transported ten thousand of us between four and seven o'clock in the morning, eighty miles round the side of the lake to Toronto, where we marched in the opening day parade of the Canadian National Exhibition, the largest annual exhibition of its kind in the world. We arrived back at the Jamboree the same night at two o'clock in the morning.

Time was spent at the Jamboree visiting and being visited by Scouts of other countries, talking, swapping, eating and observing. If we could not speak the other fellow's language, we would try to convey what we wanted to say by signs, and at the last resort, if this was not effective, we would use a word or two of French, which always did the trick. The thing which seemed to stand out the most was the friendly atmosphere in which all this took place.

Then came the closing ceremony when each Scout grabbed another Scout from a different nationality and noisily paraded into the arena where the Jamboree was finally brought to a close with the simultaneous chanting of the Scout promise in the different languages and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

M. E. LEDGER, VIs.

OUR ESCAPING PAST

In this modern age, when the plane which was built yesterday is considered obsolete today and progress in all fields of the sciences is reported regularly, it is vital for us not to lose our connections with our great past, which seems to be slipping behind us more and more rapidly. Ancient buildings, folk dancing and songs are with us today as links and reminders of our country's colourful past. Fortunately these are not allowed to crumble into oblivion readily, for preservation societies and clubs watch over them ; they are a pleasure to eye and ear, these mature walls and plaintive notes, and people will not let them die.

Traditions, though, are another matter. Often known to a comparative few, they are too readily attacked as being out of date and useless. Nevertheless, it is these which make our lives so colourful in many respects. They range from the Coronation Service to obscure customs of a small community, and it is the latter which are endangered today. Too many people, who rush about in the maelstrom of life, have no time for them and the tradition of centuries disappears.

The historians at school feel keenly about this and urge everyone to do all they can to combat this loss to our nation. We must remember our debt to posterity. The traditions which we have must be deferred to ; those which have fallen must be resurrected.

In connection with this, the prefects note with concern the lapse of the old R.C.S. custom of allowing the prefects one day's holiday every year, record of which may be found in the old copies of *The Wycombiensian* in the library. They, therefore, wish to remind the Headmaster and Governors that 42 days are now owing due to this lapse and they will be pleased to accept these as soon as possible.

A. J. MAC TAVISH.

EXILE

Virgin snow-flakes shaken
From their dazzling cumulus cushion
Seep through the filter of soot
And settle on the city—
No longer white—
For the anonymous grey of the metropolis
Has cast its shadow on them,
Made a travesty of innocence.

The carbon pencil fingers of factory chimneys
Scribble grey smoke on the canvas of our sense
Surrounding us in a twilit half-world of ghosts,
A winding-sheet we cannot touch, a senseless illusion,
Where jaundiced smog swirls fingers into our brains
Until reality dissolves in vapour,
Which blackens and blankets all in oblivion ;
And even the summer-struck butterflies
Turn evasively dark—
Indistinguishable from the breeze-blown starts
Of dead, burned leaves. Nature acknowledges defeat.

Where is the Sun ? The Sun enlightens still
The innocent, but mists of guilt blind us,
The long black-out makes men forget
That light is life,
And cower beneath the sinister shadow
Of the nuclear mushroom.

From the pit
The mind seeks escape, and spins itself
On ever faster wheels in order to be flung
Centrifugally away from the black core—
The fair-ground roundabout blares madly round,
Giddyng, he lose himself in the record-disc's dizzying ;
Cinema reels, motor-bike wheels . . .
And he swoons away from reality.

What is this reality ? What do the painted gauds
Of advertisement hoardings hide ? What
Is the nation's face like with her make-up off ?
—Scabs of rubbish dumps and bombed basements
—White blight of prefabs ? concrete, corrugated
Iron of rusty Army Nissen huts,
The insipid suburb of the city worker—
Uninterrupted ugliness,
And escape into flashier ugliness,
The dull duality of modern life.

And the snow falls black on our lost sense of Beauty,
And settles on the metropolis, where blind men lose
themselves.

Can the gaunt pylon's wires sing a new song ?
Can we see that the oil which has dripped down from our car
Has formed on the puddle a fine, filmy rainbow ?

P. A. CHAMBERLIN, VI M.

ARMCHAIR MERCURY

Wireless has become so much a background, an inevitable piece of furniture, that we tend not to realise that we can span the globe with a twist of the fingers. It is possible to pick up a vast number of programmes with the ordinary mains radio, tuning from 15 to about 2,000 metres.

The short wave is most fruitful, and is divided into "bands" of sixteen, nineteen, twenty-five, thirty-one, forty-one and forty-nine metres. Most stations broadcast in the bands, which makes them easy to find. Between the bands there is a lot of Morse Code, and call-signs from lightships. At certain times one can pick up the radio amateurs, chatting amiably, or going into great technical detail about some new piece of equipment. It is necessary to tune very carefully on the short wave, as most sets have a rather coarse adjustment. Turn the knob very slowly, with the volume fairly loud. When a "blip" is heard, turn back to it very gently. At times one can almost change the station by breathing on the control. The meteorological reports are rather difficult to tune to, and consist mostly of rows of figures. One can also get aeroplanes, giving track, heading, wind velocity and ground speed to their ground control.

These are all additional to the regular programmes, many of which are in foreign languages. The Indian programmes of music are very good. There is usually a band, no doubt made up of rather strange instruments, accompanied by a man or woman singing in a sort of rising and falling moan. This station can nearly always be found, and another persistent one is a Roman Catholic service in Latin, which I have not been able to trace. In case one wishes to understand things more perfectly, there are numerous broadcasts in English. The B.B.C. has an overseas service, giving news summaries, documentaries, and rather amusing English lessons, in very slow tempo. There is an American station on 19 metres, which usually covers basket-ball or baseball games—"The Chicago White Sox have this ball game all tied up against the Manhattan Tigers this afternoon," says the announcer, who usually sounds less excited than English commentators. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation produces a programme for Europe at about nine in the evening, and usually has a good documentary on Canadian life. A recent example dealt with the changing conditions of the Esquimaux. There is also a programme from Palestine, describing the achievements of the Israelis. It usually puts in a bit of propaganda aimed at Egypt, as a make-weight.

Radio Moscow is perhaps the most interesting, as it gives one a (distorted) peep through the Iron Curtain. It is quite easy to find, on 49 metres, and can soon be recognized by the Cambridge accent of the lady announcer. The programme consists of a little

music, some opera, a few recordings of English-speaking visitors praising Russian progress, several criticisms of articles in *The Times*, frequent reports and adulation of Communist speeches, and constant assurances that the East wants nothing but peace. The nicest part of the programme is at the end : the Kremlin clock strikes midnight over Red Square and the Lenin mausoleum. One can just hear the muffled notes of motor-horns, and it is easy to image the scene, with the temperature below zero and snow on the oriental domes ; even the bell itself has a mysterious Eastern note. The time here may be about 10 p.m. Radio Sofia has a similar programme, telling of the great improvements in Bulgaria, all due to Communism. Listening to such programmes gives us a slightly more balanced view of the world than that obtained from British newspapers.

On the medium band tuning is less delicate. The programmes are mostly continental, but the music is often very good. Details of some of these are given in the *Radio Times*. One very clear station is the American Forces Network (A.F.N.), which transmits on 550 metres. It provides numerous variety shows, and also sports reports with news summaries and music (lots of Jazz).

The long wave stations are not so frequent, but the French programmes on 1600 and 1800 metres are of very high quality. The programmes I have mentioned are those I have heard recently. I have never been able to get any Australian broadcasts. This may be because I do not listen at the right times, or because the aerial, threaded over the rafters in the roof, is not good enough.

I hope this brief summary will have whetted your appetite to explore the captive world of ether some dull evening.

G. A. CULLEN (VIs).

A VISIT TO EGYPT

One day in January 1945 my mother was asked if she would like to bring me over and spend an eight-month holiday with relations in Egypt.

Thus a few weeks later, after speedy preparations, we went to London and boarded the "Golden Arrow," bound for Dover. A rough Channel crossing (during which I was violently sick) was followed by a train journey from Calais to Marseilles *via* Paris. As it was war-time, the food was very bad. We boarded a ship at Marseilles, which took us along the coast of Italy, past the volcano Stromboli, which we saw at night. It had a red, lurid glow coming from its mouth. We stopped outside the harbour at Sicily, fearing to go in, in case of sabotage. Then we went across the Mediterranean, passing shoals of dolphins, to the harbour of Piraeus at

Athens. We stayed there for a few days, during which we walked to the renowned Greek temple, the Parthenon. From there we went to Cyprus, to take on board some passengers, and finally reached Alexandria.

My uncle, aunt and cousin were there to meet us in a car and took us to Mahagaga *via* Cairo, across the desert. As it was a small town, 180 miles from Cairo, it took us over a day to get there. The house was near a railway, along which a diesel car ran once a week. The Nile was the other side of the railway with a large island in the middle. There was a maze of streets in the village with bazaars in them. A small police station was near the park at the end of the main street. The policemen were dressed in khaki with red fezzes and bandoliers and rifles. There was also a small cinema with wooden benches. Our house had stairs going round the outside of it. There were four storeys to it and we lived in the top one. There was a large sitting room in the middle and from that led off all the doors to the kitchen, bedroom, etc. There was a flat roof on top on which one could sun-bathe. There was a maze of allotments behind the house, irrigated by channels from the Nile. The house, of course, was made of dried mud.

I distinctly remember looking out from the doctor's surgery (my uncle was the town's only doctor) and seeing hordes of yelling Egyptians surrounding the village police who were carrying, shoulder-high, a stretcher bearing a dead man with one of his legs shot off. I heard that he had been terrorising the local Egyptians on the island where he lived, and, being mad, had shot twenty of them with a rifle, which he illegally possessed. Another incident which occurred was V.E. day. I went to the top of the house and saw Egyptians playing weird music and banging on doors, at 2 o'clock in the morning. Soon after that the annual rains came. When it came the streets were instantly deserted, and shutters were pulled over the windows. A howling wind came streaking over the desert, whipping up sand and causing a sandstorm. I peeped cautiously out of the window, but everything was obliterated. The sand sounded like hail on the shutters. Then the heavens split open and torrents of rain poured down, followed by lightning and thunder, which rarely occurs there. It ceased after a few hours, but everything was covered with sand, although the sun was shining. Unfortunately I caught pneumonia after being there a few months, by falling into the park fishpond, and was surrounded by mosquito nets, on a couch, for three weeks.

Soon after I recovered, I went to Cairo by the local diesel to have my adenoids out. While I was there I went to the Cairo Zoo, in which I had a large portion of my finger nipped off by an unfriendly monkey. The Zoo is rather like England's Whipsnade.

The next day I went to see the famous pyramids of Gizeh, a few miles out of Cairo. My mother was precariously perched on top of a camel. Soon after that I walked across the delta barrage, a long barrage which goes over the Nile at the mouth of its delta. When I got back, my mother remarked on what seemed a pretty flower, touched it, and injured her hand on a cactus.

On the return journey I went to Port Said *via* Cairo on the diesel. I stayed in Port Said for a week before setting off for England. The route home was shorter, going through the Straits of Gibraltar and passing underneath the "Rock." We ran into a storm in the Bay of Biscay, but arrived safely at Liverpool after a very interesting time.

M. BOIREAU, 3Y.

HISTORY SOCIETY

The activities of the society began this year with a lecture on "The Popish Plot" of 1678, by Mr. Chaplin, of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. His enthusiasm opened the eyes of many to the fascination of this period of British history.

At the end of January, the society travelled to London to visit the Royal Academy Winter Exhibitions of "Portuguese Art," and "English Taste in the Eighteenth Century." The former provided a unique opportunity to study the treasures of a people whose art is little known in this country, and it is a great pity that only an afternoon could be spared at these two excellent exhibitions.

Work is proceeding on the proposed History Society exhibition of objects contributed by members, and it is hoped that it will be expanded by loans of coins and ancient weapons from benevolent Sixth-formers.

P. J. B. HAMES.

SPANISH SOCIETY

We have continued holding film shows about the Spanish countryside and people, which have been very well supported. These will carry on, and I hope that we shall soon begin to get some Newsreels covering fairly recent events, as well as the usual Documentaries.

If anyone has a suggestion for some other suitable activity I shall be pleased to discuss it with him. We hope to hold a debate in the near future, which will be on a subject of general interest, applicable to Spain, such as the merits and demerits of a dictatorship.

G. A. CULLEN.

CLASSICAL SOCIETY

Last term's activities, though perhaps few, were extremely successful. The first of the two activities took place on November 8th, when Mr. J. G. Griffiths, the Vice-Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, gave a highly entertaining and informative lecture on "Latin Manuscripts" to members of the Society. Shortly afterwards, on November 18th, about twenty boys visited the British Museum for a conducted tour of the Elgin Marbles; after this several boys wandered round the Inscription Room.

To sum up, a successful term, though an influx of new blood from the middle school is badly needed. Perhaps the coming term, during which a Latin Reading competition is to be held, will rectify this matter.

A. HARVEY.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

As usual, the opera curtailed the activities of the Society during the Christmas Term. There was only one meeting, the Annual General Meeting, when election of officers was made.

The Spring Term has seen work starting on this year's play, Dorothy L. Sayers' "Busman's Honeymoon." It is a detective comedy, has a large cast and should be well worth seeing at the beginning of next term.

G. R. WILLIAMS.

JAZZ CLUB

As we had feared, interest in the Club waned when it was found impossible to revive the School Jazz Band. However, tentative proposals have been voiced concerning the formation of a "skiffle" group, and we must hope that the remaining jazz musicians, by means of willing co-operation and much hard work will be able to form a group worthy of playing before an audience. The cornerstone of the Jazz Club, record-programmes, have continued, largely organized by D. J. Bloxham, and here we must thank Knowles and Hunt for their gramophones, and Mr. Ashford and Mr. Mewse for lending their rooms. The visit to the Royal Festival Hall looks like becoming annual, and this year was made outstanding by a legendary figure of Jazz, Big Bill Broonzy. We sincerely thank Mr. A. Davies, who, although having little previous knowledge of our suspiciously regarded world, supervised the trip, and, we trust, was displeased by neither the music nor the ultra-enthusiastic audience. Finally, thanks are due to our Chairman, Mr. Runswick, for his continued support.

P. E. REAR.

THE STAMP SOCIETY

The Society is now more than one year old, and is increasing in activity and numbers.

During the Christmas Term, meetings were severely curtailed owing to the fact that many Senior members were involved in the opera.

This term, however, has seen a great increase in activities, and at the time of writing a visit is planned to the Stanley Gibbons Centenary Exhibition in London. Attendances at the twice-weekly exchange meetings have been good, and membership is over fifty.

Great interest has been shown in the proceedings of the Society, and we hope that we shall be able to keep it so.

D. R. A. FRIEND.

SCIENCE SOCIETY

This Society has been continuing steadily during the year. Activity has not been as high as previously but a few outings have taken place. The visit to Vickers Armstrong at Weybridge was a great success at the end of July, and it is hoped to arrange a visit to another aircraft factory this summer. Morris Motors and the Guinness Brewery were also visited. A very profitable outing to Horlicks Ltd. took place in February and was one of the most entertaining we have had. A few lectures are now being arranged on such subjects as Bird Migration, and Printing Inks. This latter lecture will act as an introduction to the factory which is to be visited later.

J. M. CHINERY.

TWENTIETH CENTURY OPINION SOCIETY

Last term saw the Society take the plunge and arrange an internal debate with a truly revolutionary motion, "The the C.C.F. is an undesirable institution." This motion was decisively defeated, owing perhaps to the predominance of N.C.O.'s and potential N.C.O.'s in the house.

More recently the Society journeyed to Piper's Corner School, Great Kingshill, where the motion was "That the importance of sport is over-emphasized today." Speakers from the R.G.S. were J. T. Moore and G. A. Cullen; some forceful speaking by G. E. Bates from the floor probably added to the margin by which the motion was defeated.

R. T. PUTNAM.

MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

The formation of this new society at the beginning of the school year fills a glaring deficiency, namely a means of active expression for the now very large number of modern linguists.

Still in its infancy, the society's activities have not as yet been very ambitious, but the response from the Sixth Form has been encouraging.

On December 7th, in collaboration with the sister society of Wycombe High School, a party saw a performance of Molière's "L'Avare" at Watford. Two fine films, lent by the French Tourist Agency, were shown this term, and it is intended to get films regularly.

The idea of a French-speaking social, with the High School, twice planned and twice cancelled, has not left the tenacious minds of the committee; it is on the agenda for the Summer term, to which we look forward.

P. A. CHAMBERLIN.

MUSIC SOCIETY

The Music Society has been very active throughout the past six months. The Autumn Term opened with the Annual General Meeting, which resulted in the election of officers. From September onwards the Thursday Lunch-hour Concerts have been held in the Lecture Room.

The Spring Term has seen the resumption of the Thursday concerts, "Iolanthe" attracting a great number of people. Concerts have been given by the Secretary on Wednesdays in the Uplyme Music Room. D. R. A. Friend gave one memorable concert of Gilbert and Sullivan extracts.

At the time of going to press, a large outing to a D'Oyly Carte performance of "Trial by Jury" and "The Pirates of Penzance" is being arranged.

G. R. WILLIAMS.

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club has continued to hold daily meetings in Uplyme during the Autumn and Spring terms. Although, as a rule, few boys in the Senior School are present, apart from members of the Senior team, the keenness shown by the Second and Third Formers is very encouraging. The Chess competition was started this term, and, because of the unusually large number of entries, a separate Junior competition was arranged for the first time.

The Chess team has had quite a successful season so far. In the competition for the Bucks and Berks Schools' Shield we had a bye into the second round, in which we defeated Slough Grammar School. Our opponents in the semi-final will probably be Eton College.

The Junior team, meeting under 15½ teams, has lost three matches out of three. With an average age of 12, however, they are at a disadvantage at present.

The results of our matches so far are 8 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw.

D. S. SUTTON.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

During the Autumn Term, with the help and encouragement of Mr. Browning, a Christian Fellowship was formed in the School, and soon attracted keen support.

We were privileged by a visit, soon after our formation, of Dr. Allsop, who gave a very stimulating talk on prophecy. We are also grateful to certain members of the Staff, who spoke to us during the Spring Term: the Rev. A. J. Skipp showed us a film-strip about Wells Theological College, and he explained how men are trained for the ministry. Many of us were considerably enlightened by Mr. A. Davies' talk on the Society of Friends. Towards the end of term we enjoyed a very interesting talk by Mr. Hills about the light which is now being shed on the Bible by archaeology.

Other talks have been given by members of the committee.

At the time of going to print, we are eagerly anticipating the Student Christian Movement conference to be held at School at the end of term.

CRICKET CLUB 1956

Captain : F. E. J. Hawkins.

Vice-Captain : A. Harvey.

Old Colours returning : F. E. J. Hawkins, A. Harvey, E. M. Squires, J. C. Briden, A. J. Wright, J. Smithers.

As a new season approaches a report for this magazine is one of the first of the many duties to be done and it is always difficult to prepare a pre-view of a cricket season. This year the task is much easier because the steady growth of the new Memorial Pavilion on its most attractive site must take up a lot of our thoughts.

It is difficult to realise that soon the School will have a Pavilion that will be the pride of the whole area and a most fitting tribute to the memory of all the Old Boys who were killed in the last war. The fact that the Memorial will take the form of a Pavilion is incidental. While the Old Boys would have wished for a larger

Memorial, such as a swimming pool, the Committee were bound to be governed by the financial success of the various appeals. A Pavilion was within the scope of the funds and it was fitting that the final building should be of the finest construction and design. To this end the Committee and the Hon. Architect, Mr. Eric Janes, applied their minds and have produced what will be a most delightful building. The Cricket Club are proud that they will be responsible for this Memorial and will do their utmost to see that it is kept as it should be.

The season should produce some fine cricket. The match of the season will naturally be the game *v* The Old Boys' XI on Saturday, June 16th, when it is hoped that the Pavilion will be dedicated. This is one of five all-day games. New fixtures include Queen Elizabeth's, Barnet (11.30) and Emanuel School (11.30). The full Halton Apprentices XI wish to avenge their defeat of last season and will be visiting the School again.

The Captain and Vice-Captain in their second term of office are well supported by the Old Colours returning this year. A fit Squires should make a deal of difference to the speed attack. All that is needed is a fine summer and a display of fighting spirit by all members of the XI to produce a season in keeping with the Memorial Year.

The Club will be sorry to lose Mr. Lloyd, who has worked so nobly with his 2nd XI, but new domestic duties will be taking up most of his time this summer! Mr. Barnes has offered to take over the 2nd XI and will no doubt infuse the team with Yorkshire determination.

Our congratulations must go to Mr. Jack Theed, who captained the School XI in olden days, on his appointment as President of the Club Cricket Conference—the most important body in amateur cricket.

H.W.J.

ROWING

The newest addition to the School's sporting activities, rowing, has been continued throughout the year with the greatest enthusiasm. Unfortunately everything seems to affect us: preparation for exams., C.C.F. exercises and shooting practices, and other immovable engagements all take their toll of numbers from time to time. Nevertheless, when we have a clear day, we do not allow the weather to stop us. We have rowed in every condition imaginable, from heat-wave, dressed in extra-shorts, to rain and flurries of snow, mummified in layers of rugger shirts and sweaters. The result is that we have progressed from being a ragged crowd who slink into the boat, over-conscious of the curious stares of the passers-by on the bridge, to a

crew who can pull confidently away from the landing stage without having the experienced members of Marlow Rowing Club casting eyes towards the lifebelts. No longer do we roll and pitch our way along like a Kon-Tiki raft in a Pacific hurricane. No longer do we cause great excitement in the garden of a riverside hotel when we turn round within twenty feet of the weir. Most important of all, we have not come into violent collision with any other craft recently, although our young cox, who was sculling upstream in December, was struck bow-on by the club eight on a blind bend. Although he was capsized before he knew what was happening, and suffered a nasty shock, he was completely exonerated, as the eight should have been further out.

This year we hope to make our *début* in river races. Last summer, what was to have been our first appearance, was postponed, as the regatta in question fell during C.C.F. camp and four members of the crew were involved. We hope nothing will stop us this year and we are practising hard to that end.

In closing, we should like to extend an invitation to any other hefty, eleven-stone-ish characters who are interested, to join us one Sunday morning at Marlow, and if any master could spare time to look after us we should be very grateful.

A. J. MACTAVISH.

RUGBY RETROSPECT

1st XV

School Matches : Won 12, Drawn 1, Lost 1

The School team had a most successful Christmas Term, winning all but one of its matches, most of them by a wide margin. The team was well balanced ; both backs and forwards liked to throw the ball about, and they gave themselves and the spectators plenty of entertainment. J. S. Kelly, hooking for his third season, made an excellent captain : among the old colours available, he had B. E. Devlin, a front-row forward of exceptional ability and determination, and F. E. J. Hawkins, who at stand-off half played brilliantly at times and always aggressively. It was unfortunate that E. M. Squires, whose play on the wing last season was so dashing and successful, was unable to play this year because of a knee injury ; it has now, we hope, been put right by an operation.

The first match, against St. Marylebone G.S. at Sudbury, set the pattern for many of the rest. Hawkins, though rather too fond of "mixing it" with the opposition forwards, was hard to stop, and A. Harvey twice sent his wing, N. E. J. Craft, in on the right. When the backs were making less progress in the second half, the forwards took a share in the handling and scored two good tries. A new

fixture was played at home against Emanuel School and won with much more difficulty. Hawkins scored twice himself, but our threequarters did not handle cleanly and were generally well stopped, although Emanuel had an injured player off for most of the game. G. L. S. Hickey and J. H. Richardson, the two loose forwards, were vigorous in attack and defence, and Harvey's tackling was exemplary. At Watford a large score was run up partly by P. L. Read's good place-kicking ; but the scrum half, A. J. C. Wright, and the backs penetrated freely until they resorted to kicking in the second half. St. Benedict's were completely overwhelmed at Wycombe, a game in which the general backing up was excellent.

At Oxford the City of Oxford School gave us a very close game : and had not Read converted both our tries from well wide of the posts, we should not have won ; although, except for a very bad patch in the second half, we seemed to be more or less on top. This was the last time in the season that our place-kicking was good. Hawkins was well marked, and it was some time before M. J. Richardson broke through at left centre for a good try ; Harvey in the second half scored an even better one. C. R. Rake, a prop forward, was off, injured, for the second half of the game. We had another easy victory over Stowe 2nd XV ; J. Smithers played well as usual, especially in the line-out, and so did R. C. Todd, deputising for Rake. T. J. Gilder gave a fine display of fielding and kicking at full-back.

After Half-Term, Reading proved difficult to beat. For the first quarter of an hour move after move was stopped just short of their line, until at last a clever pick-up and pass by Kelly brought a try. Strong running by the threequarters and good backing up brought further scores, but towards the end of the game the light Reading forwards were getting very much on top. On a wet and windy day we beat Tiffin School by a narrow margin ; their good corner-flagging was very noticeable. There were many penalties and even moderate kicking would have brought about our defeat. But this was a grand tussle. For the return match Watford had tightened up their defence and Wright had to do much on his own because of the close marking. The School scored only three tries, but they took a lot of making, and it was pleasant to see the side stick to handling despite difficulties. Abingdon were overwhelmed, but only in the closing minutes of the game, when four tries came quickly. St. Edward's 2nd XV were also easily beaten.

After all this, the team visited Leighton Park and were soundly beaten. Close marking made it difficult to develop an attack ; then in the latter part of the game the careless positioning of our three-quarters (lying far too deep and ambling up in defence), as well as some weak tackling on the wings, let in the Leighton Park wing threequarters, who took full advantage with some splendid running.

Nor were our forwards guiltless, the covering across being too slow. A valuable lesson to a team which until this match had had too little determined running by opposing threequarters to deal with.

That the lesson was in fact learned was shown in the only match of an ice-bound Spring Term, when we drew three points all with a smaller but cleverer side from Ystalyfera in South Wales. We started slowly with a very strong wind behind us, and the Welsh boys were all over us for some time. They rightly used spoiling tactics, and as our threequarters found handling difficult and kicks could not be controlled, we failed to score against determined tackling and good full-back play. The Welsh backs looked very lively in attack, but the School defence was much tighter than at Leighton Park. Ystalyfera scored a penalty goal from close range. Splendidly led by Devlin, the forwards gradually obtained the mastery when we turned to play against the wind, and they were very quick indeed in following up and smothering any chance of a counter attack ; while the backs were now finding it easier to hold their passes. Gilder was steady and calm at full-back. A score came at last when Craft forced his way over near the corner flag in grand style. Ystalyfera all but scored in the last minute of the game : so a draw seemed a very satisfactory result for both sides. Our visitors, who had been some six or seven hours on the road, are to be congratulated on their fine play. It was a great pleasure to be able to return in some measure the hospitality extended to our boys four years ago. We have to thank many of our parents for their kind and generous co-operation.

The rest of the Spring Term matches were cancelled, so that F. E. J. Hawkins and B. E. Devlin, elected Captain and Vice-Captain for the Spring Term, had a most disappointing term of office. Of those of the side not mentioned, D. W. Hollomon ran fast on the left wing and learned a lot for future seasons, while J. A. Cox was a steady "No. 8" who would have shone more on heavier pitches. The pack as a whole was a good one, and with Kelly's experienced hooking and their good discipline, they usually gave their backs more than their fair share of the ball. The whole side played well together, and apart from the match won against Marlow, when some of the team were away at Oxford and Cambridge, played almost without change through the season.

All the members of the team have been given their 1st XV colours ; they were :—T. J. Gilder ; N. E. J. Craft, A. Harvey, M. J. Richardson, D. W. Hollomon ; F. E. J. Hawkins (Vice-Captain), A. J. C. Wright ; C. R. Rake, J. S. Kelly (Captain), B. E. Devlin, P. L. Read, J. Smithers, J. H. Richardson, J. A. Cox, G. L. S. Hickey.

Others who played for the team were : J. M. Chinery, R. C. Todd, R. C. Jones, P. J. Muller, R. J. Austin, J. W. Harding, R. T. Tate.

1st XV

Oct.	1	St. Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Away	Won	26	6
"	8	Emanuel School	...	...	Home	Won	9	0
"	12	Watford G.S.	...	...	Away	Won	29	0
"	15	St. Benedict's School	...	...	Home	Won	47	0
"	22	City of Oxford School	...	...	Away	Won	10	8
"	26	Stowe School 2nd XV	...	...	Away	Won	32	3
Nov.	5	Reading School	...	...	Home	Won	14	3
"	9	Tiffin School	...	...	Home	Won	6	3
"	12	Watford G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	14	0
"	19	Abingdon School	...	...	Home	Won	23	5
"	23	St. Edward's School 2nd XV	...	...	Home	Won	29	3
Dec.	3	Leighton Park School	...	...	Away	Lost	6	19
"	7	Borlase School, Marlow	...	...	Home	Won	37	0
Jan.	20	Ystalyfera G.S.	...	...	Home	Drawn	3	3

2nd XV

Won 7, Drawn 1, Lost 5.

The Second Fifteen were disturbed by injuries, and missed some of their strongest fixtures owing to the bad weather in the Spring Term. The forward play was until late in the season rather individual, and the backs more aggressive than skilful; but on the whole the team at full strength was well up to standard and played very hard.

R. C. Todd, who led the second team forwards extremely well, J. M. Chinery and R. C. Jones all played one or two good games for the School team. J. W. Harding was an enthusiastic captain.

The 2nd XV, as they appeared in the team photograph (2nd XV colours shown by *), were :—A. C. G. Edwards*, R. F. Palmer, R. J. Austin*, J. M. Chinery*, R. J. Ferguson*, Chandrubeksa, D. Fone, J. W. Harding* (Captain), R. C. Jones*, R. C. Todd*, C. J. Melsom, J. R. Bone, P. W. H. North*, A. A. Gosling*, R. T. Tate*, R. C. Hackett*, R. E. Lamb*.

The following also played :—R. W. Thorne, P. A. Chamberlin*, P. D. Hares, C. J. Cunningham, P. Aikens, J. R. Morgans, R. J. Dawe, P. J. Muller, R. D. Mitchell, R. J. Collett.

2nd XV

Oct.	1	St. Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	19	6
"	8	Aylesbury G.S. 1st XV	...	...	Away	Drawn	14	14
"	12	Watford G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	17	8
"	15	St. Benedict's School	...	...	Home	Won	23	5
"	22	City of Oxford School	...	...	Away	Won	11	6
"	26	Stowe School 3rd XV	...	...	Away	Lost	3	13
Nov.	5	Reading School	...	...	Away	Lost	0	8
"	9	Tiffin School	...	...	Away	Lost	3	6
"	12	Watford G.S.	...	...	Away	Lost	6	9
"	19	Abingdon School	...	...	Home	Won	14	5
"	23	St. Edward's School 3rd XV	...	...	Home	Won	10	3
"	26	Southfield School "A"	...	...	Home	Won	14	3
Dec.	3	Leighton Park School	...	...	Home	Lost	3	5

3rd XV

Won 2, Lost 7.

The Third Fifteen won only two of their matches, but always gave a good account of themselves and tried to play good rugger. J. R. Morgans was a good captain and there are many players in this side who seem capable of playing in a future First Fifteen.

The 3rd XV, as they appeared in the team photograph, were :—
R. J. Collett, C. J. Cunningham, R. J. Dawe, J. A. Dawes, O. Volkonsky, P. D. Hares, C. J. Large, R. D. Mitchell, A. J. Mac-tavish, H. L. Barrow, S. C. J. Mardell, D. A. Scott-Kiddie, J. P. Quick, J. R. Morgans (Captain), P. Aikens.

The following also played :—R. H. Ragg, K. F. Biggs, I. R. Bunday, P. J. Muller, J. C. Briden, R. Rolfe, D. J. Maurice, M. D. Ridley, R. B. Humphries.

3rd XV

Oct.	8	Borlase School, Marlow, 2nd XV ...	Home	Lost	3	12
..	12	Watford G.S.	Home	Lost	6	18
..	22	Stoneham School	Away	Lost	12	17
Nov.	5	Reading School	Home	Lost	6	15
..	9	Tiffin School	Away	Won	9	3
..	12	Watford G.S.	Away	Lost	3	19
..	26	Wycombiensians "B"	Home	Lost	6	10
Dec.	3	Leighton Park School	Home	Lost	11	16
..	7	Borlase School, Marlow, 2nd XV ...	Home	Won	16	0

4th XV

Won 1.

The Fourth Fifteen, who beat a redoubtable team at Watford, were :—D. J. Maurice, J. A. Barwell, J. V. Sullivan, M. F. Turner, E. C. Franks, P. A. Sim, M. A. Broadley, K. F. Biggs, N. H. A. Macwhinnie, J. H. Weston, P. Kennard, J. A. Bedford-James, R. E. Elias (Captain), R. Rolfe, D. N. Crowther.

4th XV

Oct.	12	Watford G.S.	Away	Won	12	11
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COLTS (under 15)

Won 5, Lost 2.

The Colts Fifteen had as usual a good season. As the season advanced their big strong forwards made themselves into a powerful pack, and behind them were some good individual performers. R. Pratley, when he learns to combine with the other players, will be a formidable half or threequarter ; P. J. Muller, the Captain, has already shown how well he can play in occasional games for the senior teams. R. A. Patterson's tackling deserves special mention.

The following played for the Colts :—J. P. Blokland, D. E. Breslin (Vice-Captain), E. R. Carter, C. A. W. Dobson, A. G. Eales, G. Gilbertson, D. J. Higgins, P. J. Holthorp, S. A. Leader, C. C. Marsden, K. R. Miller, P. J. Muller (Captain), R. P. G. Owen, R. A. Patterson, R. Pratley, J. A. Vickers, A. S. Whatley, C. M. Wilkins.

COLTS (under 15)

Oct.	1	St. Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Away	Lost	6	16
..	8	Watford G.S.	...	...	Away	Lost	8	9
..	22	Henley G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	6	3
Nov.	5	Reading School	...	...	Home	Won	15	0
..	12	Watford G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	9	6
..	19	St. Benedict's School	...	...	Home	Won	15	0
Dec.	3	Leighton Park School	...	...	Away	Won	38	0

JUNIOR COLTS (under 14)

Won 5, Lost 2.

Although this team lost two of the seven matches played, it produced among the forwards and backs some of the most promising players seen for several seasons. When some of them grow older and stronger, they will find their lack of inches rather less of a handicap than at present. It was unfortunate that the weather interfered with the fixture list, for the keenness which was shown in the evening and lunch time training deserved a better reward.

The following played :—W. E. Shackell, D. H. Bond, E. J. Belcher, K. R. Puddephatt, L. J. Scrivener, G. R. Packman, B. K. Mearne, F. G. Marsh, A. J. Styles, I. J. King, A. W. Ralley, R. G. Hollingworth, B. A. J. Quirke, R. F. Quirke, J. S. Cockburn, M. W. Moore, C. J. Russell, J. R. Ward, P. L. Chandler, J. S. Simpson, P. M. Dronfield, D. H. Nicholls, J. O. Smith, D. J. Darvill, D. J. H. Munro, J. A. N. Priestley, A. R. Watters, T. Montague, C. R. S. Wood, P. J. Sheridan.

JUNIOR COLTS (under 14)

Oct.	1	St. Marylebone G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	15	6
..	8	Watford G.S.	...	...	Away	Lost	0	14
..	22	Borlase School, Marlow	...	...	Home	Won	15	11
..	22	Henley G.S.	...	...	Home	Won	6	0
Nov.	5	Reading School	...	...	Away	Won	6	3
..	12	Stoneham School	...	...	Home	Won	14	3
..	19	St. Benedict's School	...	...	Away	Lost	0	3

JUNIOR TEAM (under 13)

Won 1, Lost 1.

The following played :—J. H. Dawes, A. A. Perfect, P. J. Yates, A. R. Watters, P. M. Dronfield, D. M. Wilcox, B. A. Torrens-Burton, G. D. Nash, E. Holdship, T. E. Dedman, M. H. Clarke, M. F. Turner, M. F. Gillett, R. D. Hall, J. S. Simpson, G. F. Smith, M. G. Smith, G. F. Smith, J. A. Johnson.

JUNIOR XV (under 13)

Nov. 5	Reading School	...	...	...	Away	Won	11	0
.. 19	St. Benedict's School	...	...	...	Away	Lost	3	14

HOUSE MATCHES

Seniors

The hard weather almost caused the cancellation of the senior competition, but by running it on a knock-out basis, with matches played at a long interval, Arnison's well-balanced team triumphed. The combination of B. E. Devlin's inspiring leadership of the pack and F. E. J. Hawkins' elusiveness and control of the backs enabled them to defeat a Youens team strong behind the scrum, but deficient in the basic arts of good forward play. The general standard of play in the competition was, in the circumstances, pleasingly high.

First Round : Youens beat Fraser 6—3 Arnison beat Disraeli 12—3

Final Round : ARNISON beat Youens 6—0 (Disraeli beat Fraser 18—6)

Colts (under 15)

First Round : Arnison beat Youens 15—0 Fraser beat Disraeli 9—0

Final Round : ARNISON beat Fraser 25—0 (Youens beat Disraeli 11—3)

Juniors (under 13)

The junior competition had unfortunately to be abandoned because of the bad weather.

CROSS-COUNTRY

At the beginning of the Autumn Term, there did not seem to be much hope for a strong Cross-country team for this season, but after a few trial runs, it appeared that we had some new talent and, as a result, the team has had a far more successful season than any for many years, in spite of the fact that all but three of the matches were away. This is the first season that the new course has been used in matches and it has been declared by all the visiting teams to be far harder than our old course. There are signs that next season's team will be nearing the strength of the team of about six or seven years ago, when not one match was lost.

Results

v Bishopshalt School	Away	Won
v Vale of Aylesbury A.C.	Away	Lost
v Harrow County School	Away	Won
v Army Apprentices, Arborfield	Away	Lost
v William Ellis School	Away	Won
v R.A.F., Halton	Away	Lost
v Nautical College, Pangbourne	Away	Won
v Keble College, Oxford	Home	Won
v Wycombe Phoenix Harriers and Vale of Aylesbury A.C.	Home	Won
v Jesus College, Oxford	Away	Drawn
v Culham College	Away	Cancelled
v Watford Grammar School and St. Albans Grammar School	Away	Second
v Keble College, Oxford	Away	Won
v Emanuel School and Haberdasher's Academy	Away	Second
v Newlands Park Training College and R.A.F. Halton	Away	Second

Cross-country Colours were awarded to the following during the season : P. J. Dean, C. Hall, C. L. Westcott.

The results of the Cross-country Championships are as follow :

Senior Race

Individuals : 1st Slatter, 19 min. 23 2/5 secs. (new record)

2nd Westcott

3rd Hall

House Positions : 1st, Arnison 76 pts. ; 2nd, Fraser 135 pts. ; 3rd, Disraeli, 175 pts. ; 4th, Youens 179 pts.

Colts' Race

Winner : Bristow, 18 min. 49 secs.

House Positions : 1st, Fraser 92 pts. ; 2nd, Disraeli 138 pts. ; 3rd Arnison 156 pts. ; 4th, Youens 185 pts.

Junior Colts' Race

Winner : Cocking, 14 min. 41 secs.

House Positions : 1st Disraeli 81 pts. ; 2nd, Youens 106 pts. ; 3rd, Arnison, 177 pts. ; 4th, Fraser 203 pts.

Final House Positions :

1st	Disraeli	394 pts.
2nd	Arnison	409 pts.
3rd	Fraser	430 pts.
4th	Youens	470 pts.

OLD WYCOMBIENSIANS' CLUB

Births

- ABBOTT, M. J. (1938-43). On April 29th, 1955, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Abbott, a son.
- ALDRIDGE, R. A. (1929-34). On November 12th, 1955, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Aldridge, a son.
- BARNES, L. B. (1924-30). On March 11th, 1955, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Barnes, a son.
- BECKET, G. A. (1936-40). On March 19th, 1955, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Becket, a second son.
- BERNARD, R. (1925-31). On October 17th, 1955, at Watlington, to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bernard, a son.
- CLARK, R. W. (1942-47). On December 1st, 1955, to Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Clark, a son.
- CUBBAGE, L. A. (1927-33). On September 26th, 1955, at Beaconsfield, to Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Cubbage, a daughter.
- G. E. GREEN (1940-46). On September 6th, 1955, at Beaconsfield, to Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Green, a daughter.
- M. J. HARRIS (1942-47). On February 17th, 1956, at St. John's Wood, to Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Harris, a son.
- R. P. JEMMETT (1942-46). On May 23rd, 1953, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Jemmett, a daughter.
- K. J. PEATEY (1934-39). On January 2nd, 1956, at Amersham, to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Peatey, a daughter.
- J. RICH (1919-25). On December 11th, 1955, at High Wycombe, to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rich, a son.
- D. SYRED (1925-29). On October, 1955, at Northampton, to Dr. and Mrs. Deryk Syred, a daughter.
- F. E. TIMPSON (1932-39). On August 31st, 1955, at Emma Green, Reading, to Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Timpson, a daughter.
- H. YOUENS (1940-45). On February 8th, 1956, at 11 Hungerford Road, N.7, to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Youens, a daughter.

Marriages

- ASHFORD—BRINK. On October 22nd, 1955, at St. Saviour's, Cape Town, M. F. J. Ashford (1939-42) to Miss Mary E. A. Brink.
- CLARK—COULSON. On December 23rd, 1953, at Cookham, Berks, R. W. Clark (1942-47) to Miss M. G. Coulson.
- COWLETT—WILLIAMS. On July 23rd, 1955, at Oxford, T. A. Cowlett (1943-50) to Miss Brenda Williams.
- FREWIN—FRENCH. On September 5th, 1953, at Monks Risborough, C. G. Frewin (1939-44) to Miss Iris French.
- FRY—ROBERTS. On February 20th, 1956, at High Wycombe, P. D. Fry (1941-49) to Miss E. M. Roberts.
- FRYER—RUDKIN. On August 22nd, 1953, at Stoke Newington, J. Fryer (1942-45) to Miss J. E. Rudkin.
- HARCOURT—CLARKE. On October 15th, 1955, at Pinner, A. Harcourt (1943-51) to Miss R. Clarke.
- JEMMETT—TUCKER. On July 14th, 1951, at Hughenden, R. P. Jemmett (1942-46) to Miss Edwina M. Tucker.
- SHERRIFF—SMITH. On March 12th, 1955, at High Wycombe, M. J. Sherriff (1941-47) to Miss M. Smith.

Death

- P. J. BIRCH (1895-1903). On March 4th, 1956, while playing golf at Flackwell Heath, P. J. Birch, aged 68.

Birch was a founder member of the Old Wycombiensians' Club. He joined the family business in 1911, enlisted as dispatch rider in 1914, achieved the rank of major in the R.E.'s, and was twice severely wounded. He steadily developed the business of William Birch Ltd., and was appointed chairman and managing director in 1950. He was former president of the Wycombe and District Furniture Manufacturers' Society, and a member of important committees of the British Federation of Furniture Manufacturers' Association, and was one of those responsible for the complete re-organisation of what is now known as the B.F.M., and served on many J.I.C. panels. He was an accomplished golfer and had been captain and president of the Flackwell Heath Golf Club. His grandson entered the R.G.S. in 1955.

OLD BOYS' NOTES AND NEWS

S. E. ABBOTT (1930-35) has been with the Oxford and Bucks Regiment for 16 years, serving in Cyprus and Egypt. As one of the C.S.M.'s he was very proud of the Divisional Commander's remark on their recent bicentenary celebration parade, "I have never seen a higher standard attained anywhere."

M. A. BIRD (1946-51) would be grateful if any member of the O.W.'s Masonic Lodge, preferably of his own years at the R.G.S., would correspond with him at W.A.I.T.R. Field Station, c/o P.O. Ekpoma, Berai Province, Nigeria.

J. A. BLAND (1939-46) has been granted a Senior (Research) Award by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in recognition of original work on the atomic structure of alloys at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge.

E. C. BOND (1949-53) gained his Rugby Colours at Britannia College, Dartmouth.

H. S. BROOM (1913-17), joint managing director of Broom and Wade, as president of the British Engineering Association, opened their exhibition at Olympia in September, 1955.

N. BRUDNEY (1942-47) has been awarded the degree of Ph.D. of the University of London, where he held a Research Fellowship. He has joined the staff of Burroughs, Wellcome and Co.

J. R. BUNCE (1927-33), after two years abroad for his firm, is as keen as ever on helping the Wycombiensian R.F.C., of which he was once captain.

W. CHINN (1939-44) has passed his finals at Trinity College, Dublin, and obtained a B.A. in natural science. He is going to take up a post in Canada as a geologist. During his boxing career he was Army Cadet welter-weight champion in 1946-7, winning 104 of his 133 fights; he had the unique experience of boxing against his own country when representing Ireland at middle-weight against the A.B.A. in 1953.

R. W. CLARK (1942-47) gained a Ministry of Agriculture Scholarship in 1950 and attended the Berkshire Institute of Agriculture, where he met A. W. Jelly—"Caesar" Harris had been there the year before. Clark is at present working for the Bucks Education Committee at the County Farm, Stoke Mandeville.

J. A. COLLAR (1948-55) is safely and comfortably installed at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. His division hopes, with lots of good luck, to pass out at the Sovereign's Parade on December 20th, 1956. Collar holds his own in a class working for army interpretership examinations.

A. DODGSON (1913-18) in a letter to Mr. Arnison writes that after the worries of a headmaster of a school in industrial surroundings, he found a holiday in Sweden most refreshing. His daughter is engaged to a Swede with whose family the Dodgsons stayed, and all will be at the wedding next May at the church where Dodgson often worships with Mr. and Mrs. J. Theed.

IAN FRASER, V.C. (1933-35) was in charge of six frogmen ordered to see that none of the slipway was attached to the tanker *Spyros* (47,750 tons) when she was launched at Barrow-in-Furness last December.

W. O. HAINES (1913-18) will maintain the long tradition of his family with Wycombe Town Council, as he headed the poll in his first election contest; his father, the later Alderman Owen Haines, was a Councillor continually for 47 years, and Mayor for three years 1917-19, as well as a Governor of the R.G.S.

F. HALLASEY (1913-18) called at the School whilst on an important business trip in England and Northern Europe in the Autumn. He gave a substantial contribution in dollars to the War Memorial Fund, and was sorry there was no Old Boys' function at which he could meet some of his former school-friends. He expects to be here again in 1956.

A. M. HART (1921-26) has been appointed manager of the Green Street branch of Barclays Bank on its severance from the control of the High Street branch.

M. C. HICKMAN (1939-46) is at last installed with his wife in his permanent home in Guildford, and would be pleased to hear of any O.B. in the Guildford area.

F. J. R. HOBSON (1947-55), at present taking a four years' course in forestry at Bangor University, won the class for bass solo at the University Eisteddfod.

R. V. P. HUDSON (1943-48) has taken up duties with the Overseas Audit Service in Northern Nigeria, after graduating from Reading University.

R. H. J. JENNINGS (1932-37) is manager of the Beaconsfield branch of the Trustee Savings Bank.

J. S. KELLY (1949-55) was successful in the entrance examination for Naval Cadets in the executive branch of the Royal Navy, and is now at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

R. E. LOMAS (1947-55) gained second place in the javelin event at the Cambridge University Freshmen's sports meeting.

M. J. R. MACKRILL (1938-45), after being an assistant in Dorking, is now a G.P. in Barking and lives at 167 Ripple Road, Barking, Essex. He would like to know if there are any O.B.'s in his area—not from a business point of view.

C. MINTER (1949-54), on his return to England, visited the School, but saw very few masters he had hoped to waylay ; he is now stationed at the School of Military Survey near Newbury.

E. L. RIPLEY (1930-36), as promised, has sent a short account of his activities since leaving school. (It is hoped very many O.B.'s will do likewise.) After ending his Physics and Maths. course at the Imperial College with a B.Sc. and A.R.C.S., he did post-graduate work in aeronautics, was given the D.I.C., and until 1948 was in the design office at Miles Aircraft, Reading. He then entered the Structure Department of the R.A.E., and is now head of their Accident Investigation Section, hence his successful findings concerning the "Comet" crash, for which he was awarded the O.B.E.

P. W. REDWAY (1930-35) has been sworn in as a Justice of the Peace at the North Riding Quarter Session of Northallerton. He is director and sales manager of the Skinningrove Iron Company. Commissioned in the Territorial Army before the War, he served with the K.R.R.'s, and as major commanded a company in Normandy. He was wounded, and later awarded the Territorial Decoration.

A. R. RICHARDSON (1922-25) called on Mr. Arnison last Summer. He is married, has a son recently commissioned in the Royal Marines, and one daughter. He is a director of a large building firm in the Midlands.

A. J. SALLOWS (1950-52) is studying hard for the Intermediate Exam. of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and helps his friends with their tax worries. M. J. NICHOLLS (1950-54) called on him the other day, after visiting four continents. He has been promoted from Apprentice to Third Officer, a rare distinction in so short a period of training.

J. R. SAUNDERS (1943-50), after graduating at Sheffield University, completed two years' post-graduate Training with Richard Thomas and Baldwin Ltd., the famous steel sheet and tinplate manufacturers, with a view to becoming eventually a works manager. He will be pleased to see any O.B. at "Fair Acres," Shatterford Bewdley.

L. S. STALLWOOD (1924-28) has been appointed by Messrs. Waring and Gillow Ltd. as manager of their newly-opened branch at Kensington, the first in the London area.

G. E. STEVENS (1887-89). On September 20th, 1955, Stevens, at the age of 81, sat with his wife with water up to their shoulders, after their car had plunged twelve feet off a ferry jetty into the Severn River at Beachley, Gloucestershire, while they were on a holiday tour of the West Country. Reversing off the ferry, the car plunged over the pier, floated a few seconds, and settled upright

in over four feet of water. The rescuers found Mr. and Mrs. Stevens calm in the flooded front seat. They dared not open the doors, so the car was lashed with ropes until the tide had gone, when the occupants climbed out perfectly safe.

J. P. STEVENS (1947-55) is doing his national service in Cyprus. He went there on an aircraft carrier.

R. N. STONE (1938-42), after two operations due to throat trouble, has had to give up teaching, and is happy in his new post with the General Electric Company at Wembley. He was very sorry to leave Mr. Bicknell, his headmaster at Tadcaster Grammar School.

R. SYRETT (1942-47), disappointed in the England trial, re-affirmed his reputation as one of the most consistent forwards in the game, when he played for the combined England and Wales rugby team which defeated Ireland and Scotland 18-15 in Dublin.

L. J. THOMPSON (1912-17), on a visit from Burma with his wife, was able to take his mother, who is 80 years old, to the Wycombe Yorkshire Society's annual Christmas party in the Oak Room, High Wycombe.

M. T. TURNBULL (1919-26) as managing director of Linta-foam Industries Ltd. visits many parts of the world. He was recently in Africa at the same time as his globe-trotting father. They did not expect to meet each other.

JACK THEED (1914-19), a stalwart supporter of cricket ever since he was captain of the R.G.S. 1st XI, is the new president of the Club Cricket Conference, governing body of British Club Cricket.

B. G. WALKER (1947-51) has gained with distinction his M.Sc. in mathematics at London University ; he is now employed by Decca Radar Ltd.

P. J. WOODS (1949-54) keeps up regular correspondence with R. LACEY and has met C. FRYER, who is with the R.A.F. at Halton. Woods has just finished the first part of his apprenticeship with De Havilland's at Aswick Manor. He hopes to take the examinations for the Ordinary National Certificate in March, when he will return to the main factory at Hatfield for work on aeronautics.

F. WOOSTER (1919-25), after an operation on his lung, is now out of hospital and living for health purposes in the upper flat of 26 Downland Road, Brighton, where he will be convalescing for six months. He sends his best wishes to the R.G.S.

Old Boys are strong supporters of the Wycombe Phoenix Harriers, and hold important positions in the club. R. BUZZARD is captain, and R. LORD Hon. Treasurer ; Buzzard, though not really a cross-country runner (he was an A.A.A. quarter-mile finalist last year), sets an example to the rest of the team, and has the

following O.B.'s to support him : A. REDRUP, the new senior county cross-country champion, with brilliant prospects ; K. CATTERMOLLE and A. DALE, second and third respectively in the junior race ; A. BARRETT, R. GARRATT, B. HALL, N. PERFECT, D. WILTSHIRE, P. THOMPSON and R. POTTS. The Club extends a warm welcome to past and present members of the R.G.S.

P. S. GROOM (1942-49), as a trainee with Aspro Ltd., of Slough, wishes to recommend their products.

The following were sorry they could not attend the Annual Dinner :—

MR. ARNISON hopes that his Old Boys will forgive him for not being able to greet them this year and thus spoiling his record for the second time. Shortly before the Dinner Mr. Arnison and his daughter, Mrs. Ardron, had to undergo minor operations and were in hospitals over eight miles apart. Mr. Arnison, who had just recovered from an attack of 'flu was kept busy chasing from one to the other. He was very sorry he would not be able to hear all the well-earned tributes that would be paid to Mr. Grant.

J. E. BATT (1950-53) has just been called up for national service, and is stationed in Norfolk. He sends his best wishes to his old friends in 5U Shell.

B. C. BURROWS (1947-52) has finished his three years' general training at the Rolls Royce works, and is now specialising with the post of Aero Service representative in view. This training consists of three months in the experimental component test and courses on engines at the Aero Engine School, Derby.

K. J. CATTERMOLLE (1948-53) has to be present at the R.A.'s annual administrative inspection.

J. A. COLLAR (1948-55) was company orderly corporal for that week-end.

T. A. COWLETT (1943-50) is still at Oxford, where he has completed his Music Schools. He finds preparing for the Diploma of Education, enchanting but harassing work

T. J. GOWAN (1950-55) could not get leave from the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He has passed the qualifying examination for the Mechanical Sciences Tripos, which he took at Cambridge, and will enter Jesus College next October. Next term he will be on cruise in H.M.S. *Venus*, an anti-submarine frigate.

A. HARCOURT (1945-51) was already booked to attend a dinner of old college friends. He still works in the Kodak Research Laboratories, and his wife is in the bursar's office at Harrow School.

R. F. JONES (1948-55) is studying Russian with the R.A.F. at the Joint Services School for Linguists at Bodmin. M. F. SNAPES (1948-55) has just started on the same course.

I. J. MCCREEY (1946-53) is holiday sailing on the Norfolk Broads before beginning to worry about his Finals.

P. L. ROSE (1952-55) had an appointment in London on that day ; he is a trainee with the John Lewis Partnership.

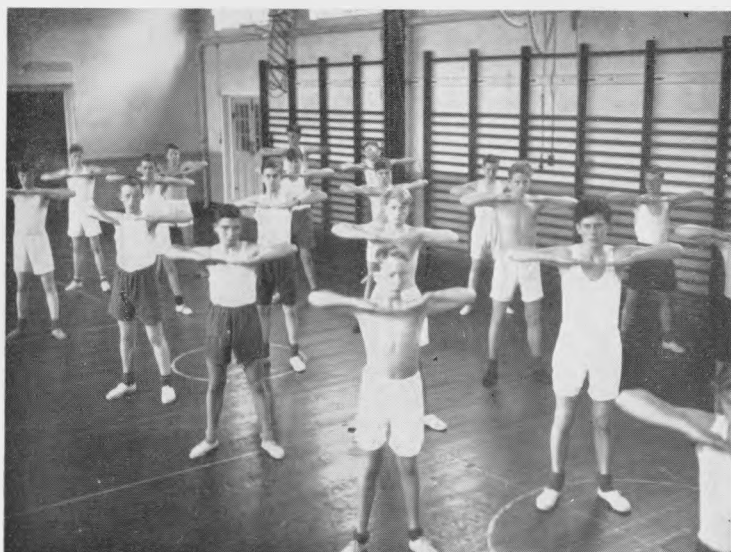
D. G. SAINSBURY (1945-51), now articled to the Town Clerk, Aylesbury, was working hard for an important examination on March 23rd.

B. SINNATT (1946-54), now with the R.A. in Germany, hopes to be a civilian on May 6th, 1956.

R. N. THIRLWAY (1945-50), a 2nd Lieutenant in the R.E., has been posted to Tripoli in Libya, and will not be demobilized till March, 1957.

P. J. AGAR (1948-53) is doing his national service with the Royal Navy at Valetta, Malta.

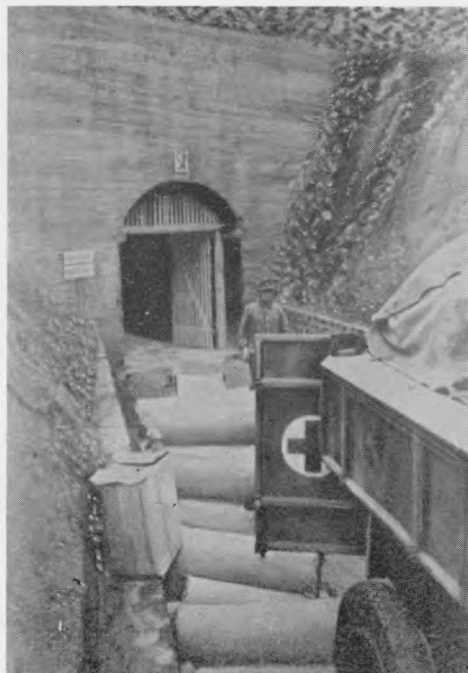




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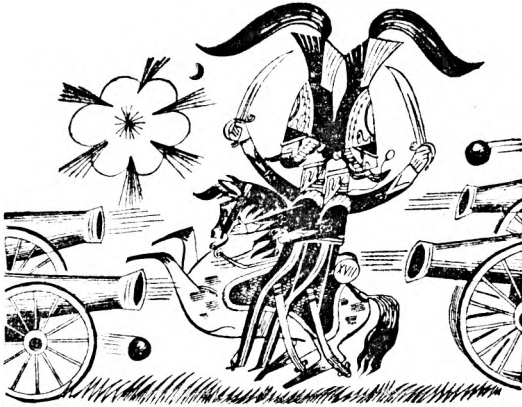


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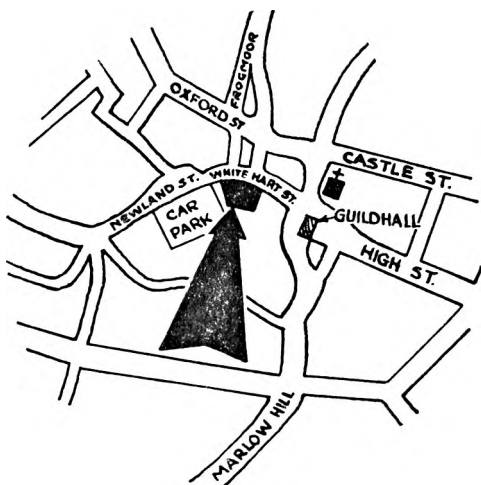
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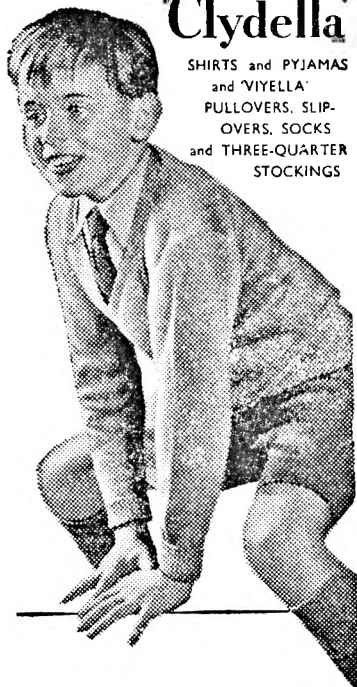


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